



NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A MASTERPLAN FOR ADDRESSING RACIST SURVEILLANCE AND DOXXING WITHIN SSMU AND MCGILL UNIVERSITY 2022-04-07

Submitted for: 2022-04-07

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-04-07-004

Moved by: Sarah Paulin
Vice-President (Internal Affairs)

Current Status:

- FOR APPROVAL
- APPROVED
- POSTPONED
- COMMITTED
- NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Yara Coussa
Arts Representative

Issue

Many students have been blacklisted, surveilled, doxed or otherwise intimidated by formal and informal groups such as Canary Mission and CampusWatch for engaging in anti-colonial activism or discourse. The existence of these surveillance groups and their targeting of students ultimately suppresses free speech on this campus. Indeed, many students fear that speaking publicly about their political beliefs, or even about their cultural background and ethnic heritage, might result in them being attacked online or in person.

To address this problem and promote a campus where freedom of speech and opinion is valued, this motion mandates the internal portfolio to publish a Master Plan that commits SSMU to a comprehensive strategy aiming to combat and ultimately end racist surveillance and doxxing at McGill. Further, it commits the SSMU to demand that McGill University condemn blacklist organisations like [Canary Mission](#) and [Campus Watch](#) for undermining the physical safety, freedom of speech and academic freedom of McGill students, faculty and staff, by deploying racist strategies of surveillance and intimidation. McGill University has yet to publicly condemn this disturbing phenomenon, or offer support to targeted community members.



Background and Rationale

On June 30 2021, the SSMU released a [statement](#), which underlined the fact that “many McGill students and faculty have been doxxed in the past few years on public websites like Canary Mission, in an effort to ‘punish’ them for pro-Palestine activism.” Furthermore, the SSMU Executive Committee pledged to “stand against such abhorrent profiling, repression, surveillance and harassment of our fellow students.”

Further, students involved in Uyghur or Tibetan liberation advocacy, as well as Hong Kong-related activism have faced [online intimidation and death threats](#). These forms of intimidation and attacks impact students' mental and physical health, discourage their involvement on campus, and [prevent them from obtaining student union roles](#).

Additionally, since the implementation of Bill 21, Muslim students and [student teachers](#) have been the [target of harassment and bullying](#). Many Muslim students including MSA executives have reported surveillance and intimidation when advocating for local change such as the reversal of Bill 21 and they have also been the targets of [CSIS intimidation](#).

As such, it is the SSMU’s duty to protect undergraduate students who have been doxxed and targeted by public websites such as Canary Mission, Campus Watch, or online. It is also its duty to advocate for McGill University to take action and condemn these harmful organisations.

Alignment with Mission

This motion would align with the SSMU’s Mission to provide service to its students, by protecting them from the harms of racist surveillance, blacklisting and doxxing. It would also align with the SSMU’s constitutional commitment to leadership in matters of social justice, environmental protection and human rights.

Consultations Completed

Consultations have been done with the Vice-President (Internal Affairs), the Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (External Affairs), McGill SPHR, the Equity Commissioners, WIMESSA, MSA, Divest for Human Rights coalition, and Divest McGill.



Risk Factors and Resource Implications Adopting this motion would promote the safety of students on campus, showing the SSMU’s dedication to fostering a safe environment for their student body, particularly marginalized people of the student body. If this motion were not to pass, the SSMU would not be upholding its mandate to the student body.
Resource implications include the salary for the new position of the Anti-Surveillance Commissioner under the VP Internal Portfolio.

Sustainability Considerations By upholding their mandate to support marginalized students on campus, the SSMU would be fostering a campus where free speech and assembly and liberty of thought are valued and where students are safe regardless of their beliefs or their ethnic background.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps Were this motion to be adopted, the Plan would be properly formatted by the Governance team and uploaded to the SSMU website by the Communications team.
The University Affairs and Presidential portfolio will begin their advocacy and the Anti-Surveillance Commissioner’s job will begin to be assembled by the Internal portfolio. The steps of the Plan will be followed for the next three years, with the possibility of expansion and edits.

Motion or Resolution for Approval Be it resolved that the Legislative Council adopt the Masterplan For Addressing Racist Surveillance and Doxxing within SSMU and McGill University in Appendix A.

Results of the Vote

In favour	()
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A : Master Plan for addressing racist surveillance and doxxing within SSMU and McGill University

The issue:

[Doxxing](#) is when someone is targeted using the internet usually by sharing someone's private information e.g., their phone number, home address, email address etc. It can be used as a form of harassment, revenge, or intimidation. A [blacklist](#) is a "list of persons who are disapproved of or are to be punished or boycotted."

[Dozens](#) of students, professors, and faculty members of McGill University have been doxxed online for their pro-Palestine views by blacklist organizations such as the [Canary Mission](#) and [CampusWatch](#). These kinds of organizations target politically vocal individuals and seek to suppress their free speech. Due to the risks of doxxing, many students fear that speaking publicly about their political beliefs, or even about their cultural background and ethnic heritage, may result in them being attacked online or in person.

Furthermore, students involved in Uyghur or Tibetan liberation advocacy, as well as Hong Kong-related activism have faced [online intimidation and death threats](#). These attacks impact students' mental and physical health, discourage their involvement on campus, and [prevent them from obtaining student union roles](#).

Since Bill 21's implementation in Quebec, Muslim students and [student teachers](#) have also been the [target of harrasment and bullying](#). Many Muslim students including Muslim Student Association executives have reported being surveilled when advocating for local change such as the reversal of Bill 21 and have also been the targets of [CSIS intimidation](#).

McGill University has yet to publicly condemn this disturbing phenomenon, or offer support to targeted community members. However, it is imperative that college and university administrators step up and take the lead in [responding](#) to this threat to their students and their educational communities. Deans and other college administrators need to understand what Canary Mission is and act with due diligence to support students and faculty under attack from outside the college or university community.

As such, a working group was [mandated](#) by SSMU's legislative council to come up with a masterplan to address the doxxing and blacklisting of students.



The Plan:

What SSMU has already done:

On June 30 2021, the SSMU published a [statement](#) condemning Canary Mission and similar blacklist organizations.

Action Items:

The SSMU shall take the following steps to combat and racist surveillance and doxxing on campus:

1. The creation of an *Anti-Surveillance Commissioner* to be created under the Equity portfolio of Human Resources Department (deadline: October 31 2022);

- a. The mandate of the commissioner will be to advocate to the McGill community on:
 - i. What doxxing / online harassment looks like;
 - ii. The next steps to take if you have been doxxed;
 - iii. The rights of students who have been doxxed;
 - iv. A guide for executives on helping students that have been doxxed;
 - v. A guide to UA advocacy in regards to McGill Administration;
 - vi. Advocacy on internet safety in general, and;
 - vii. Chair an anti-surveillance committee.

2. The creation of an *Anti-Surveillance Committee*, chaired by the aforementioned commissioner (deadline: October 31 2022);

- a. The committee will be composed of:
 - i. The anti-surveillance commissioner (chair)
 - ii. The VP Internal
 - iii. The VP University Affairs
 - iv. Systems Administrator
 - v. 1 Legislative Councilor
 - vi. 1 Representative of the Divest for Human Rights (DHR) coalition
 - vii. At least one Political Campaign Coordinator
 - viii. 2 members at large

3. The creation of an *anti-surveillance peer support group*; (deadline: December 31 2022);

- a. In addition to emotional support being indispensable for students, this group seeks to support students in managing their doxxed email or social media accounts. Based on the needs and desires of the student, the group may help with:
 - i. Reading through and deleting threatening messages as well as blocking corresponding users;
 - ii. Documenting any harassment to support legal action;



- iii. Assist with removing personal information off the internet through [data broker opt-outs](#).
- 4. The creation of an *anti-doxxing and online security toolkit* (see Appendix) (deadline: December 31 2022);**
 - a. The public-facing document will list all doxxing resources and preventive security measures in an easily accessible manner that are available to students, staff, and faculty.
- 5. Make legal support available to all doxxed individuals or groups (deadline: December 31 2022);**
 - a. This plan mandates the Internal Portfolio to bring forth the Legal Protection Plan (available through Studentcare) at the Fall 2022 referendum, which would give all students access to legal advice and lawyers as well as a hotline should they ever need time-sensitive help.
- 6. The University Affairs and President portfolios shall lobby the McGill University administration to take an explicit, public stand against blacklisting organizations targeting their students, faculty, and staff. This stand by the McGill administration must include:**
 - a. A public condemnation of doxxing and surveillance of students and faculty, including condemnation of the blacklisting of over 20 students and faculty on Canary Mission.
 - b. A public pledge to support students, faculty and staff who are targeted in these ways.
 - c. Announce concrete measures to provide legal and other assistance to blacklisted or cyberbullied students, faculty and staff.
 - d. The Vice-President (University Affairs) and President shall present a report on their respective progress with this action item to the Legislative Council (**deadline: February 28 2023**).

Appendix: **Anti-Doxxing Toolkit**

You have been doxxed, now what?

Take a deep breath. We know this is scary. Blacklisting is a way to silence people and for the oppressive status quo to prevail. We are sorry you are experiencing this and we will do our best to support you during this.

Here are some mental health resources to help support you in these trying times:

- [Keep.meSAFE](#), 24/7 access to licensed counsellors available to all McGill students
- [Peer Support Center](#) at McGill
- [McGill Students' Nightline](#)
- [Tel-Aide](#): 514-935-1101



Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil

Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

- [Crisis Text Line](#): Text 'CONNECT' to 686-868
- [Suicide Action Montreal](#): 1-866-277-3553

Step 1: Reaching out to the equity commissioners

Reach out to the equity commissioners so that they may assist you and guide you through this process. If you are not comfortable reaching out to the equity commissioners, reach out to the Vice President Internal, the Vice President University Affairs, or any member of the SSMU Executive Committee. You can also contact your representative to SSMU, you can find their contact information on SSMU's [website](#). We also invite you to reach out to advocacy groups on campus such as SPHR that can advocate on your behalf in symbiosis with SSMU.

To contact the equity commissioners, you may reach them at the following email address: equity@ssmu.ca

To contact the Vice President Internal, you may reach them at the following email address: internal@ssmu.ca

To contact the Vice President University Affairs, you may reach them at the following email address: ua@ssmu.ca

To contact SPHR, you may reach them at the following email address: mcgillsphr@gmail.com

Step 2: Exploring your options

OPTION 1: On-campus advocacy

The Office of the Dean of Students (DoS) and the McGill Ombudsperson are mandated to advocate for students and will help provide resources to you. If you wish for us to do so, the SSMU (either the equity commissioners or SSMU execs, whichever option you are most comfortable with) will accompany you in your meetings with them.

To contact the DoS and Ombudsperson:

Office of the Dean of Students | 514-398-4990, deanofstudents@mcgill.ca

McGill Ombudsperson | 514-398-7059, ombudsperson@mcgill.ca

OPTION 2: MACES Legal Protection Program

The Legal Protection Program “[MACES Legal Protection Program](#)” offers unlimited access to a legal consultation service to consult a duly certified lawyer in your province of study regarding any legal question via a toll-free legal assistance helpline. It will also include further counsel should you qualify



Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

for legal representation. Program services will be provided by members in good standing of the Barreau du Québec.

OPTION 3: Access to Justice Resources in Quebec

We have gathered a non-exhaustive list of free justice organizations found in the *Barreau du Québec* website. For an exhaustive list of free or low cost legal services, visit [Boussole juridique](#).

For all of these justice centers, we will accompany you through the whole process of reaching out and contacting them, if you wish for us to do so.

Community Justice Centres

Community justice centres promote access to justice by fostering citizen participation through information, support and referral services provided as a complement to existing resources.

[Access their website](#)

Clinique Droit de cité

The mission of the *Clinique Droit de cité* is to provide support to marginalized individuals to help them rectify their legal situation or defend their rights.

[Access their website](#)

Mile End Legal Clinic

Through its three service points located in three community organizations in three different neighbourhoods (Mile End, Little Burgundy and Park Extension), the Clinic offers weekly free walk-in consultation sessions to individuals from the greater Montreal region. The law students and lawyers who volunteer at the MELC provide legal information, advice and support in various legal fields.

[Access their website](#)

Mobile Legal Clinic

The Mobile Legal Clinic's mission is to promote access to justice for the homeless, the impoverished and the marginalized members of our society.

[Access their website](#)

Éducaloi



Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Éducaloi is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inform Quebecers of their rights and obligations by providing access to high quality legal information presented in plain and accessible language.

[Access their website](#)

Young Bar of Montreal

The Young Bar of Montreal offers free legal services to the public: hearing preparation assistance, call-in legal clinic, on-site small claims mediation, legal information service at the Montreal Municipal Court and *LET'S TALK LAW* service for 12- to 20-year-olds.

[Access their website](#)

Option 4: Palestine Legal

[Palestine Legal](#) is an organization that provides legal advice, Know Your Rights trainings, advocacy and litigation support to college students, grassroots activists and affected communities who stand for justice in Palestine. Palestine Legal also monitors incidents of suppression to expose trends in tactics to silence Palestine activism. You can contact them through their contact form if you fear that you have been doxxed by an organization like Canary Mission. The equity commissioners or the executive member of your choice will accompany you through the process.

OPTION 5: Reclaiming your voice and name

Many people who have been formally doxxed by Canary Mission have reclaimed their voice and name by adding themselves to the [Against Canary Mission](#) list that celebrates the courage and resilience of organizers for Palestinian freedom. The site enables people who have been doxxed and who have been vilified by Canary Mission to publicly showcase their activism and achievements. Because of their social justice work, they have been the targets of smear campaigns by Canary Mission, the anonymous blacklist site which has published false and defamatory accusations against them. If you wish to contact the website to highlight your accomplishments, we will also accompany you in this process.