



# MOTION REGARDING REGARDING THE REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY FEE

2023-02-09

Submitted for 2023-02-09

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-02-09-013
<b>Moved by:</b>	Marco Pizarro <i>Vice-President Finance</i>	<b>Current Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Julia Nam <i>Education Representative</i>		

**Issue** The Daily Publications Society fee, a non-opt-outable fee at \$6.00 per undergraduate student per term, has not increased since 2008.

**Background and Rationale** The Daily Publications Society (DPS) publishes Le Délit and The McGill Daily, two independent, student-run, non-profit newspapers both in print and online.

For more than 100 years, both newspapers have been critical sources of news and investigative journalism on campus, as well as platforms for commentary and creative work, welcoming contributions from the entire McGill community.

Le Délit is McGill’s only francophone student newspaper, and The Daily is among Canada’s oldest independent student papers.

McGill has no journalism program. Through the DPS, students interested in journalism acquire hands-on experience in researching and reporting stories in a journalistic learning environment, exposure and training for



design and publishing software that can lead – and has led – to future employment.

The Daily Publications Society fee provides necessary funding for the DPS to continue their operations in service of the McGill community and its student body.

---

### Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU’s mission to improve the quality and accessibility of education and promote social and personal opportunities for the SSMU Membership.

---

### Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the SSMU Vice-President (Finance) and the student newspapers supported by the Daily Publications Society (DPS) (The McGill Daily and Le Délit).

---

### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the increase of this fee not pass, the Daily Publications Society will be hindered from operating its services to its full capacity.

---

### Sustainability Considerations

This motion considers the economic sustainability of the Daily Publications Society, social sustainability by providing a forum for McGill students to express their opinions, and social sustainability by keeping informed McGill students of important campus events and providing an independent and critical press, all essential to a vibrant campus and community and a healthy student democracy.

---

### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the renewal of this fee pass, Members will be charged an additional \$1.50 per term, excluding summer. This will allow the Daily Publications Society to robustly continue their operations.

---

### Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2023 referendum period:



WHEREAS Le Délit and The McGill Daily are two of McGill's independent, student-run, non-profit newspapers;

WHEREAS Le Délit is McGill's only French-language student newspaper;

WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, the newspapers have provided a forum for students to express their opinions and keep informed of important campus events;

WHEREAS all downtown campus undergraduate students are members of the Daily Publications Society;

WHEREAS the Daily Publications Society hosts annual general meetings every Fall, in which any and all DPS members can propose changes to the society or constitution, as well as raise questions about both publications;

WHEREAS both newspapers welcome writing and artistic contributions from the entire McGill community;

WHEREAS participation in either newspaper requires no previous experience;

WHEREAS McGill does not have a journalism program and Le Délit and The McGill Daily provide a journalistic learning environment, exposure and training for design and publishing software, and an annual journalism week, that can lead – and has led – to future employment;

WHEREAS a free and critical press is essential to a vibrant campus society and a healthy democracy;

WHEREAS the DPS has not asked for a fee increase in the last 15 years, since 2008, and a fee increase would reflect inflation and the rising cost of operations for publishing two newspapers and their respective websites;

*Do you support a \$1.50 per semester increase in non-opt-outable fees collected by the DPS, starting Fall 2023, payable by all SSMU Members, totaling \$7.50, ending Winter 2028 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?*

Be it further resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Be it further resolved, that the DPS provide a financial budget on the referendum question to inform voters on the usage of the fee.



---

**Results of the  
Vote**

In favour	(15)
Opposed	(1)
Abstain	(1)

---

APPROVED