



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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MOTION REGARDING THE REFERENDUM QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF RADIO CKUT'S FEE

Submitted for: 2024-10-24

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-10-24-011

Moved by: Zeena Zahidah
Vice-President (Internal)

**Current
Status:**

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

Seconded by: Hamza Abu-Alkhair
Services Representative

Issue

Radio CKUT's fee, an opt-outable fee at \$4-5 per undergraduate student per term (see Appendix A for breakdown), has not increased since 2012. This motion will propose a fee increase of \$3 to be submitted as a Referendum question.

Background and Rationale

Radio CKUT is a nonprofit campus-community radio station that was built by McGill students out of the club Radio McGill in 1987. The station broadcasts 24/7 music, news, and arts and culture programming on 90.3 FM as well as online at ckut.ca. It is run by volunteers from the McGill and greater Montreal communities who work together to power a diverse grid of programming that spans many languages, genres, and perspectives.

McGill has no journalism program, and technical skills like audio recording and production have historically had barriers to access. CKUT is a training ground for McGill students to shape audio production and podcasting skills, with no prior experience necessary. Members have access to the station's fully equipped broadcast studio, podcasting room, and mobile audio kits, as well as hands-on training provided by a small core team of CKUT staff. The cost of maintaining these resources has steeply increased in recent years,



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but CKUT's fee levy has not been adjusted in over a decade. A raise in CKUT's fee levy is necessary for the station to continue serving the McGill community. The increased money will go directly towards the projected deficit that CKUT is facing due to over a decade of inflation and rising costs.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU's mission to improve the quality and accessibility of education and promote social, cultural, and personal opportunities for the SSMU Membership. It does so by ensuring the continued existence of CKUT, a campus media organization founded and powered by students using the airwaves to gain journalism skills, and contribute to cultural and social conversations on campus and across Montreal.

Consultations Completed

Consultation with the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator assisted us in the structure and drafting of the motion to ensure its appropriate format. Consultation with the student membership of CKUT Radio informed us of the value the station provides via hands-on technical training and opportunities that are lacking elsewhere at McGill, underlying the importance of CKUT's financial sustainability.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the increase of this fee not pass, CKUT Radio will be hindered from operating its services at full capacity and will be facing a financial deficit that threatens its long-term existence. A possible perceived risk of the fee passing could be an increased financial strain on students, however, students would still only be paying \$3 extra, which is a fraction of the cost of audio production courses and equipment/studio rentals virtually anywhere else in the city. It is also opt-outable.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion considers the economic sustainability of Radio CKUT's operations, which influences social sustainability on campus. CKUT's mandate and history of keeping McGill students informed and involved with discussions happening on and off-campus is essential to a vibrant campus and community and a healthy student democracy.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the renewal of this fee pass, Members will be charged an additional \$3.00 per term. This will allow CKUT Radio to counter its deficit in order to robustly continue operations.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2024 referendum period:

Whereas, CKUT is a 24/7 campus-community radio station based out of McGill University that broadcasts at 90.3 on the FM dial since 1987, and streams online for listeners across the globe,

Whereas, CKUT provides experiential learning opportunities to undergraduate students who are interested in gaining hands-on skills in podcasting, journalism, and audio production, and connects students to the local music scene,

Whereas, CKUT produces content by and for McGill students on news, music, arts and culture, and other topics both within and outside of the McGill context,

Whereas, CKUT listeners recognize its value to the McGill and Montreal communities by consistently voting it among the top radio stations in Best of Montreal polls,

Whereas, the costs associated with operating a campus-community radio station increase on an annual basis, especially with the extreme inflation of recent years,

Whereas, had CKUT's original 1988 fee levy of \$4 a semester been tied to inflation, it would be \$8.97 today,

Whereas, CKUT's fee has not been increased in 12 years,

Whereas, CKUT's fee is entirely opt-outable, and is detailed in Appendix A,

Do you agree to increase the (opt-outable) Radio CKUT Fee by \$3.00 per semester for a total of:



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- **\$7.00/semester for full-time and \$5.50/semester for part-time undergraduate students in professional programs (Dentistry, MDCM, Law) and,**
- **\$8.00/semester for full-time and \$6.00/semester for part-time undergraduate students in all other programs,**

starting in Winter 2025 to Winter 2027 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will keep the fee at its current rate?

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



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Appendix A: (from CKUT's MOA with McGill University)

APPENDIX A

CKUT Fee Schedule in accordance with Article 1 of this Agreement

As of winter 2022			
Description	Part-time ($9 \leq$ credits/semester)	Full-time (≥ 9 credits/semester)	End date as specified in latest referendum
	Fee/semester		
Undergraduate students in professional programs (Dentistry, Medicine, Law)	\$2.50	\$4.00	fall 2027
Undergraduate students in all other faculties.	\$3.00	\$5.00	fall 2027



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Appendix B:

Whereas, CKUT is a 24/7 campus-community radio station based out of McGill University that broadcasts at 90.3 on the FM dial since 1987, and streams online for listeners across the globe,
Whereas, CKUT provides experiential learning opportunities to undergraduate students who are interested in gaining hands-on skills in podcasting, journalism, and audio production, and connects students to the local music scene,
Whereas, CKUT produces content by and for McGill students on news, music, arts and culture, and other topics both within and outside of the McGill context,
Whereas, CKUT listeners recognize its value to the McGill and Montreal communities by consistently voting it among the top radio stations in Best of Montreal polls,
Whereas, the costs associated with operating a campus-community radio station increase on an annual basis, especially with the extreme inflation of recent years,
Whereas, had CKUT's original 1988 fee levy of \$4 a semester been tied to inflation, it would be \$8.83 today,
Whereas, CKUT's fee has not been increased in over a decade,
Whereas, CKUT's fee is entirely opt-outable, and is detailed by faculty in Appendix A,

Do you agree to increase the (opt-outable) Radio CKUT Fee by \$3.00 per semester for a total of:

- **\$7.00/semester for full-time and \$5.50/semester for part-time undergraduate students in professional programs (Dentistry, MDCM, Law) and,**
- **\$8.00/semester for full-time and \$6.00/semester for part-time undergraduate students in all other programs,**

starting in Winter 2025 to Winter 2027 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will keep the fee at its current rate?