

**Vice-présidence (Vie étudiante) de l'AÉUM**  
**SSMU Vice-President (Student Life)**

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.*  
*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

[studentlife@ssmu.ca](mailto:studentlife@ssmu.ca) | (514) 398-6800 | [ssmu.ca](http://ssmu.ca) | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



## **SSMU WALKSAFE Overview**

SSMU WALKSAFE is a student-run volunteer, non-judgmental and inclusive service that aims to provide security and safety services to the students of McGill University and the Montreal community through empowerment and the promotion of a culture of safety. We are strongly devoted to the promotion of students' safety and well-being above all else.

Our regular nightly operations aim to establish a student patrol service throughout the neighborhoods surrounding McGill University, escorting students and Montrealers alike to and from their desired destinations. We will make full use of the Student Safety Network (including DriveSafe and M-SERT) in fulfilling the needs of our clientele.

Daycare WALKSAFE, hereafter referred to as WALKBuddies, is an official part of SSMU WALKSAFE's mandate as of September 2018. This is an extension of our services to include the project as part of our regular operations. WALKBuddies will involve SSMU WALKSAFE making its best efforts to provide volunteer students on a daily basis to complement the staff of the Service d'Accueil in accompanying children aged 5-13 years old from Pied-de-la-Montagne Elementary School - Jean-Jacques-Olier Pavilion to the Recreation Association of Milton Parc on Saint Urbain Street.

SSMU WALKSAFE is also committed to close communication with other groups in the McGill Student Safety Network (M-SERT, DriveSafe) in order to improve the overall network of safety at our university.

We will continue to abide by the "safer space" principle, taking a strict stance against discrimination in any form against our clients and our volunteers.

## **Contact Info**

- Mathieu Pestel (President) - [president@walksafe.ca](mailto:president@walksafe.ca)
- Luc Wilson (VP Finance) - [finance@walksafe.ca](mailto:finance@walksafe.ca)
- Isabelle Cote (VP WALKBuddies) - [daycare@walksafe.ca](mailto:daycare@walksafe.ca)
- General Executive Contact - [executive@walksafe.ca](mailto:executive@walksafe.ca)

# Activities & Operations

## WALKSAFE

This semester, WalkSafe has continued working towards its goal of minimizing shift closures due to volunteer shortage at the start of the school year, when retention is typically at its lowest after the summer break. Our priority is keeping the service as available to students as possible. During Frosh, we were present every day across multiple faculty events, operating up to 4 teams, something we had not achieved before. Throughout the semester, we have been present at 29 different events, including Frosh and Hype Week/Night.

In our regular operations, the usage levels have remained consistent with last fall semester, though increasing it is something we would like to prioritise moving forward. From a volunteer standpoint, we have had a strong staffing record, as we have only had one early shift closed during November and 2 during October, resulting in a 95% staffing rate. Due to the STM strike, we had trouble staffing the late night shifts as some of our volunteers couldn't make it to campus in the evenings.

## WALKBuddies

WALKBuddies continues to provide fulfilling opportunities for student volunteers while serving the needs of the community. Over the summer of 2025, Ecole FACE received news of its closure which resulted in the relocation of its students. We responded quickly and have secured a new partner in Ecole Au-Pied-de-la-Montagne. This allowed over 30 of our McGill student volunteers to remain engaged without interruption, furthermore we are actively seeking new partnerships with local elementary schools to grow over time.

## Finances

- Our budget allocations total is \$12 530.
- Our previous year (2024-2025) surplus is \$3 889.71.
- Expense types associated with account numbers not included below(e.g., repairs and maintenance) have no allocated budget (\$0).
- Current balances, expense and reimbursement histories, and all pertinent finance details can be found in our [budget spreadsheet](#). If not accessible by the interested party, it can be rendered accessible upon reasonable request.

## WalkSafe Budget 2025-2026

### Yearly operating budget

Account Number	Account Name	Amount Budgeted	Comments
6100	Materials & Supplies	\$2,000.00	Furniture for the office (repairs, upgrades, ...) Office Supplies (paper, stationary, power banks) Snack Box Equipment: - Bags contain: vomit bags, tissues, water bottles, masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, lysol wipes - Additional equipment: umbrellas, jackets
6111	Food & Beverages – N / S	\$4,410.00	Giftcards: - Volunteers get a \$10 giftcard to Gerts for working a event shift Covers 14 shifts with 3 volunteers per shift 21 x \$10 cards for \$155 total (partnership with Gerts) x2 semesters - Alternative giftcards if volunteers do not want Gerts (10 x \$10) GA: - 1 WalkSafe General Assembly per semester, catered for every volunteer \$1000 catering+booking fee x2 semesters Exec Bonding Event (\$250 per event x2 semesters) Formal event: - Collab event with other safety services DriveSafe and MSERT for volunteers to socialize. \$1500 Catering + booking fee budget
6131	Miscellaneous	\$120.00	Charges (Credit Card charges)
6306	Conferences & Travel	\$1,000.00	Taxi/uber reimbursement: - Reimbursement of volunteers who had to take an uber/taxi to go/get back from an event or a long walk Metro passes
6320	Advertising & Promotion	\$800.00	Promotional material: - Advertise recruitment of volunteers on campus and at events such as Activities Nights, and advertise the use of WalkSafe to the community. - Stickers, flashlights, whistles, card holders, keyrings, bottle openers Raffle (free entry, giving away harm-reduction tools such as whistles, flashlights)
6340	Entertainment	\$4,000.00	Volunteer social events Various social events to increase volunteer morale and create a sense of community, to increase volunteer retention (ex. escape room, botanical garden, ice-skating,...)
6610	Telephones	\$200.00	Telephone bill (WalkSafe dispatcher phone)
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,530.00</b>	

## **Future Plans/Projects**

As mentioned above, our primary priority for this academic year is to increase our on-campus presence and overall service usage. We have observed that many students, while aware of our service, are unsure about how we operate or express hesitation when requesting accompaniment. Common concerns include feeling like they might be wasting our time and resources, taking the service away from someone who needs it more, or that their situation doesn't justify using our service.

We plan to increase our outreach to the general student body to help address some of these misconceptions and concerns, with the goal of increasing our service usage. One of our immediate initiatives is the reintroduction of tabling shifts once or twice a week, during which we will operate from one of the campus residences or libraries to better engage with students and promote our service.

With the closure of Ecole FACE, we have experienced a decrease in the number of available WALKBuddies shifts, despite having a record number of volunteers. As a result, individual volunteering commitments have decreased from four shifts a month to one. To better utilise our volunteer capacity, we are exploring new partnership opportunities with nearby schools or daycares to expand our reach.

In terms of long term goals, we aim to establish more structured protocols for knowledge transfers among executive positions. Certain positions, such as VP External or VP Finance, often begin their roles with limited preparation, since some of their responsibilities, like making the preliminary budget or Frosh, require planning before our first meeting of the year. To address this, we hope to develop detailed position-specific manuals that are reviewed annually and kept up to date, as well as a proper onboarding process at the end of each semester.