

MOTION REGARDING QPIRG-MCGILL EXISTENCE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2026-09-29

Submitted for: 2026-10-08

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-10-08-002
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Harry Wang Current Status: ☐ FOR APPROVAL
Vice President (External Affairs) ☒ **APPROVED**
☐ POSTPONED
Seconded by: Hector Giraud ☐ COMMITTED
Engineering Representative ☐ NOT APPROVED

Issue QPIRG-McGill is seeking to affirm its existence as an Independent Student Group (ISG) under SSMU.

Background and Rationale The Quebec Public Interest Research Group - McGill (QPIRG-McGill) is a student-initiated, student-run organization and Independent Student Group with the mandate to engage McGill students in the Montreal community and to commit to social and environmental issues.

According to the existing MoA between QPIRG and McGill University, under sections 15.1 and 15.3, QPIRG must submit a referendum question to the students every 5 years regarding its existence and continued student support for paying the QPIRG fee.

The SSMU Internal Regulations of Student Groups section 6.5.2.d also states that the ISG status can be revoked by the Legislative Council if there is a lack

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of interest or participation by Members of the Society. If ISG status is revoked, the group would no longer run at McGill or be able to receive fees.

For context, QPIRG-McGill's services include over 30 events per year in collaboration with the SSMU External Portfolio under SSMU's MoA with QPIRG, and the maintenance of a collection of over 8,000 books, zines, and periodicals in the alternative library.

Alignment with Mission

The core of QPIRG-McGill's mandate is to support social and environmental justice initiatives on campus. QPIRG-McGill provides accessible alternative education workshops, funding, and resources for students interested in environmental and social justice and community research. This aligns with SSMU's commitment to providing services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political, and social conditions of our Members, in addition to SSMU's positions on Education, Environment and Environmental Sustainability, Ethics, Equity and Social Sustainability, Research, Gender Equality, Indigenous Equity, and Student Life.

Consultations Completed

This motion is written in consultation with the Vice-President of External Affairs. The motion was consulted with the Vice-President Clubs and Services, Governance Affairs Coordinator and the Chief Returning Officer of Elections SSMU.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion does not pass the Legislative Council, QPIRG-McGill will not be able to run a referendum question during the Fall Referendum period and subsequently will cease to exist as an Independent Student Group. Their MoA with McGill will expire, and they will no longer be able to collect students' fees to support their regular functions.

If the students vote against this Referendum motion, QPIRG-McGill will lose its status as an Independent Student Group and will cease to run at McGill or be able to receive student fees.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If this motion is approved by the Legislative Council, the question included below would be included in the Fall 2026 Referendum Period by Elections SSMU and sent to the Membership for approval.

All main motions passed by the Legislative Council are non-binding until ratified by the Board of Directors. Following the approval of the motion at the Legislative Council, motions will be added to the agenda for ratification at the following Board of Directors meeting or, exceptionally, by email.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Whereas, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group - McGill (QPIRG) is a student-initiated, student-run, non-profit organization whose mandate is to conduct research, education, and action at McGill University and in the Montreal community on environmental and social justice issues;

Whereas, McGill students have been supporting QPIRG through a student fee-levy since 1988, and has been incorporated as a not-for-profit organization since 1989;

Whereas, QPIRG connects campus and community through free programming and workshops for McGill students (e.g. [Rad Frosh](#), [Culture Shock](#), [Spring into Action](#)) and through [numerous working groups](#) (e.g. Climate Justice Montreal, Prisoner Correspondence Project, the Trans Patient Union);

Whereas, QPIRG provides on-campus jobs and vital resources including funding, meeting space, a photocopier, a [Free Textbook Loan Program](#), and a library with alternative books, movies, and zines to students and community groups;

Whereas, any SSMU member who pays the opt-outable QPIRG fee is a member of QPIRG, with all the rights and privileges pursuant thereto;

Whereas since Fall 2025, the opt-outable QPIRG fee is charged at a rate of \$6.75/semester to all SSMU undergraduates;

Whereas, a “yes” vote to the following question shall mean that QPIRG will continue as an Independent Student Group capable of receiving the undergraduate fee-levy;

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Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approves the following question
for the Fall 2026 Referendum period:

*“Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized Independent Student
Group supported by student fees, with the understanding that a majority
“no” vote will result in the termination of QPIRG’s operations on campus?”*

Results of the
Vote

- ☐ In favour ()
 - ☐ Opposed ()
 - ☐ Abstain ()
-

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Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

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