

MOTION REGARDING CKUT EXISTENCE

REFERENDUM 2026-10-08

Submitted for: 2026-10-08

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-10-08-001 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Maggie Tang <i>VP Internal Affairs</i>	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Jane-Andréa Kwa Mbette <i>Arts Representative</i>		

Issue

This motion requests approval to bring the question of CKUT 90.3 FM's continued existence and recognition as an Independent Student Group under SSMU with the ability to levy a student fee.

Background and Rationale

McGill University's campus and community radio station, CKUT, has been broadcasting on the FM dial at 90.3 FM since receiving its CRTC license in 1987. CKUT serves as a vital resource for the McGill community, providing 24/7 news, arts, and music programming, hands-on radio and podcasting training, journalism experience, internships, and employment opportunities for undergraduate students. Additionally, the station serves as a bridge between the McGill campus and the broader Montreal community, amplifying student research and supporting local initiatives.

The issue affects all full-time and part-time SSMU Members across all faculties and professional programs who contribute to and benefit from CKUT's services and programming. CKUT is supported through an opt-outable student fee set at the following: \$7.00/semester for full-time and \$5.50/semester for part-time members in professional programs

Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM
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(Dentistry, MDCM and Law); \$8.00/semester for full-time and \$6.00/semester for part-time members in all other programs.

Independent Student Groups (ISGs) must periodically be reviewed to see if their continued existence is supported by the student body, as stipulated by CKUT's Memorandum of Agreement with McGill. Per the Internal Regulations of Student Groups, ISGs can lose accreditation should there be a lack of interest or participation by Members of the Society. If an ISG loses accreditation, it would also no longer be able to receive student fees.

This referendum question seeks to ask the student body about their opinion on the continued existence of CKUT as an Independent Student Group. A majority "no" vote would result in the termination of undergraduate student fee collection for CKUT, creating a critical loss in operating revenue that would render its services, training, facilities, and existence on the FM dial impossible.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns directly with SSMU's commitment on Representation and Service to its members. It empowers students to democratically decide on fee-funded activities while supporting an organization that provides valuable experiential learning, media platforms, and skills training to the student body.

Consultations Completed

- Governance Affairs Coordinator
- VP Clubs and Services
- Chief Returning Officer of Elections SSMU
- CKUT Volunteer Coordinator
- Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Financial & Operational Risk to CKUT: Should the referendum fail, CKUT faces the immediate loss of undergraduate fee revenues, which would severely compromise its ability to maintain operations, purchase equipment, and offer student employment and internship programs. Furthermore, renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement with McGill is subject to a passed referendum question showing continued student support.

Resource & Financial Impact on SSMU: Operating the referendum question carries no extra direct cost outside standard Elections SSMU procedures. The fee collection is opt-outable, protecting individual student finances.

Social & Community Impact: Losing CKUT would diminish student journalism opportunities, alternative media coverage, and campus-community engagement.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved by the Legislative Council, the referendum question will be forwarded to Elections SSMU to be placed on the Fall 2026 Referendum ballot.

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.

Upon successful ratification, the student body will vote during the referendum period. If the referendum passes, CKUT will continue to operate as a recognized, student-fee-supported Independent Student Group under its current opt-outable fee structure.

Should the referendum vote be successful, CKUT will continue as an Independent Student Group of the SSMU and their Memorandum of Agreement with McGill can be renewed.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following referendum question for the Fall 2026 Referendum period:

"Do you support CKUT continuing as an Independent Student Group supported by student fees with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote will result in the termination of CKUT's status as an Independent Student Group and the removal of its student fee?"

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.

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Results of the Vote	☐ In favour	()
	☐ Opposed	()
	☐ Abstain	()

APPROVED

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Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

APPROVED