Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM
SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING NATIONAL FOOD INSECURITY CAMPAIGN 2026-10-28

Submitted for: 2026-11-05

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-11-05-002 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Harry Wang *Vice-President (external affairs)*	Current Status:	☐ **FOR APPROVAL** ☐ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Mack Faulkner *Science Councillor*		

Issue

The SSMU External Affairs is launching a national food-insecurity campaign with an open letter.

Background and Rationale

The food pantry and food services have been running very smoothly in the last few months. Since September, it has become apparent that there is a significant rise in demand for these services. Last year, the SSMU served 14,000 meals throughout the year; we are projecting to reach twice that number this year. The weekly visits have also doubled at the food pantry

Since the departmental reform, the External Affairs portfolio is becoming the advocacy arm of our food services; this includes advertising and informing members about the services, as well as seeking external funding to alleviate the stress on the Food and Hospitality Department. This letter advocates for increased federal funding for food insecurity initiatives in the higher education context. There is a significant gap in federal programs addressing this issue in higher education institutions. The precedent set by the National Food Program means the federal government can explore this.

FOR APPROVAL

	The other part of this campaign is also to rally the institutions across Canada behind a common cause. Given the disbandment of UCRU and SSMU's complete independence, this is a good starting point for SSMU to retake the lead in advocating nationally. This will help both with our national strategy planning and with bringing together all the universities across Canada.
Alignment with Mission	This aligns with the position book 9.1 and 9.2 9.1. That access to nutritious food that accounts for dietary restrictions is a fundamental human right. 9.2. That SSMU should seek and promote methods of reducing food insecurity on campus. *(25-50 words)*
Consultations Completed	This motion is written in consultation with the Vice-President (External Affairs) and the government relationship coordinator. Other consultations have also been held with Internal Counsel in her capacity as acting Governance Affairs Coordinator and IC/CS, the Food and Hospitality Manager, and the President.
Risk Factors and Resource Implications	There is no risk factor. Should the motion fail to pass, it will hinder our efforts to advocate at the national level.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	Should the motion pass, External Affairs will begin executing a 2-step plan. 1) Sending an email to all major educational institutions, including Cégeps, Colleges, and universities' student associations, and asking them to co-sign the letter. 2) The letter, along with all the signatures, will then be sent to their local MPs in each region. The email will ask them to present this as an SO31.

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Motion or Resolution for Approval	Be it resolved that the Legislative Council mandate the External Affairs Portfolio to begin distributing this letter to other universities and advocate it to government officials once the signatures are collected.
Results of the Vote	☐ In favour () ☐ Opposed () ☐ Abstain ()

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Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

Federal letter:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iAPTRlHzv3V70eHMp0eYTMTY2YCQ5Hin/view?usp=sharing

(Please note that there will be some minor adjustment/grammar checks before this goes out officially, the content of such will remain exactly the same)

FOR APPROVAL