McGill Law Students Association

Association des étudiant.e.s en droit de McGill

MCGILL LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION ("LSA") REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Presented by:
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Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Section 20, 1948)

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1. SITUATION REGARDING THE CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Ongoing lawsuits and dispute

Superior Court of Québec Proceedings (Two Ongoing Cases) & SSMU judicial board case:

- **First Proceeding (Initiated March 23, 2026):** Involves an ongoing underlying lawsuit following the dismissal of an initial application for a provisional injunction. A decision has been rendered by the superior court at the provisional injunction stage[1]. The case has moved to the interlocutory injunction stage, out-of-court examinations have occurred, and the LSA has filed an application to dismiss the proceeding while declaring it a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP).
- **Second Proceeding (Initiated June 29, 2026):** Seeks a declaratory judgment regarding the validity and legal effect of the referendum-related provisions, alongside a permanent injunction to prevent the LSA from implementing or enforcing them.
- **SSMU Judicial Board Proceeding:** A separate proceeding before the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) Judicial Board concerning the referendum.

Legal Representation and Financial Impact:

- **Counsel:** The LSA is represented by Me Alexandre B. Romano and Me Julianna Duholke from the firm Melançon Marceau Grenier Cohen.
- **Financial Burden:** As of August 14, 2026, the LSA estimates it has incurred approximately **$20,000** in legal fees.

Dispute with McGill University

- Following the March 2026 referendum, McGill University issued a **Notice of Default** to the LSA on March 31, 2026, alleging that the referendum provisions violated the terms of their Memorandum of agreement.
- The MOA is a contract that governs the relationship between McGill and the LSA
- Following the LSA Executive Council's decision to repeal the contested referendum provisions in August 2026, the LSA formally called on McGill University to **withdraw the Notice of Default**.

[1] Harroche c. Law Students' Association of McGill University, 2026 QCCS 1058 (CanLII). Available online:https://www.canlii.org/en/qc/qccs/doc/2026/2026qccs1058/2026qccs1058.html?resultId=ddee54ced5274c7a976540f3c6df522e&searchId=2026-10-31T15:04:32:112/2981b28d72c8473db5bf93b7a4a04940&searchUrlHash=AAAAAQAfbGF3IHN0dWRlbnRzIGFzc29jaWF0aW9uIG1jZ2lsbAAAAAAB

Repeal of the provisions adopted through the Referendum regarding the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel: refused by students

From Wednesday, September 23, at 9:00 AM to Friday, September 25, at 5:00 PM, all LSA members have been invited to vote to ratify or reject the LSA the Executive Council's decision to repeal article 32 of By-law 9 and By-law 15 from the LSA's governing documents, which were adopted through the *Referendum Regarding the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel to Preserve Academic Freedom*. The referendum was adopted by 57.3% of LSA members (67.3% turnout) on March 21, 2026.
On August 13, 2026, following several months of deliberation the LSA executive repealed these provisions, subject to members' ratification, in conformity with Québec law.
On September 23rd, the LSA executive council acknowledged that the decision to repeal article 32 of by-law 9 and by-law 15 was rejected by 51.6% of our members.
Re

Departure of the LSA President, VP Internal, VP Finance, VP Communications & VP Ongoing Events

On september 27th, 4 executives announce their resignation of the lsa, and the occurrence of elections to replace them:
"*After careful consideration and for the reasons outlined in our respective letters, we are writing to announce that we have decided to step down from our positions on the LSA Executive.*

It has been the honour of a lifetime to serve this community and to be part of the LSA. Although we are stepping away from our roles, we will continue to care deeply about this community and to contribute to it beyond our positions within the LSA.

Les élections visant à pourvoir ces postes seront lancées très prochainement par le Directeur général des élections. Nous veillerons à assurer la transition la plus harmonieuse possible avec le prochain Conseil exécutif.

With all our gratitude [...]"

- Email sent to members, on september 26th

Election of a new LSA executive

On October 13th, the chief returning officer announces the election of new LSA members
Executive Council / Conseil exécutif

- President / Président[e]: Lydia Etherington
- Vice-President Internal / Vice-président[e] interne: Olivier Lamoureux
- Vice-President Finance / Vice-président[e] aux finances: Lauren Prophet

- Vice-President Partnerships / Vice-président[e] aux partenariats: Jennifer Liu
- Vice-Président Ongoing Events / Vice-président[e] aux événements récurrents: Vacant
- Vice-President Communications / Vice-président[e] aux communications: Eva Clancy
- Vice-President Special Events / Vice-président[e] aux événements spéciaux: Javin Ames-Sinclair”

2. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. PRESIDENT

- Priority is our members
- Participated to a smooth transition (President is the previous VP special event s
- Lawsuits
- Met with SSMU president
- Met with stakeholders

B. VP INTERNAL

- LSA Committees recruitment (which was suspended because of the autumn vote on the repeal Boycott referendum by-laws) has started again and will close on Friday at 11:59 PM. I will send instructions on the next steps regarding the rest of the recruitment process later this week.

C. VP FINANCE

- **Transition:** access to bank account
- Budget for the year ahead has been delayed, but will occur
- Currently investigating on the financial sustainability of the LSA (ongoing lawsuits)

D. VP EXTERNAL

- Responsible of representing law student's interests to the Québec Bar
- Panelist at Sommet sur l'État du droit ("Québec Rule of Law Summit"(September)
- Organization of an electoral debate (in partnership with MBSM and SSSMU External Affairs)
- Participated to Annual Fédération des étudiants en Droit du Québec cocktail
- Organizing a "Démystifier le Barreau social media publication & a written document in partnership with Québec Bar.
- Report on Bar Student's Experience and possible reform (*Delayed*)

- Represented Law students at Fédération des étudiants en droit du Québec's meetings
- Rendez-vous sur la primauté du droit (Other Summit in November)
    - Possibility of submitting a report on access to justice for Students associations, for spring
- Advocacy for Library extended Hours
- Handled communications with students and journalists regarding a recent article published to CBC concerning a Law student
- Had do suspend many activities due to the ongoing situation at the faculty of law related ton the referendum on the Boycott & CBC article

E. VP ACADEMIC

- Back to working on our mentorship matching program (previously suspended because of the autumn vote regarding Boycott by-laws)
- Met with McGill Academic Provost (for exams)

F. VP SPECIAL EVENTS

- Halloween Party (It was a success! Tickets have been sold out), venue at Winston Churchill's was well-liked, with a solid and helpful team at Winnie's that included drink tickets, floor, security, coat check, and sound tech within the total price. Whenever you have events in a multi-floored venue best to put a stamp/wristband or marker to keep track of who's coming in and out. Already planning an official MedLaw Valentine's Party.
- Collaboration with MPLSS on upcoming events.
- Organizing and hosting auditions to be a Skit Nite animateur.
- Supporting the Executive team on other traditional ongoing events portfolio roles such as Coffeehouse/Moka Mecredi
- Law Ball planning in the works with UdM!

G. ONGOING EVENTS PORTFOLIO

- **Currently vacant**

H. VP COMMUNICATIONS

- Handled communications with students and journalists regarding a recent article published to CBC concerning a Law student
- Creation and promotion of event visuals, such as for our Halloween party
- Photography at our ongoing and our special events
- Writing and sending the weekly newsletter to law students which contains Club events, Firm events, external events, and LSA messages
- Regularly posting event recaps on Instagram to ensure the satisfaction of our firm partnerships in their reach/exposure to our student body
- Promoting our Clubs' events on our Instagram
- Responding to messages/inquiries in our general LSA inbox

I. VP CLUBS AND SERVICES

- Worked on the opening of new clubs
- Public interest Coffeehouse invites is finalized
- Worked on an pre-event related to the SSMU electoral debate