SSMU Referendum Questions

Fall 2026

Updated as of 2026-10-23

Élections de l'AÉUM
Elections SSMU

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Existence Referendum of QPIRG

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 this referendum proposes no change on the current fee structure;

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;

Do you support QPIRG continuing as a recognized student activity supported by student fees with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of undergraduate fees to QPIRG?

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Existence Referendum of CKUT Radio

WHEREAS McGill University has had a radio station since 1966, which received a license from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to broadcast on the FM dial at 90.3FM in 1987.

WHEREAS CKUT has consistently been voted the #1 radio station in consecutive Cult Montreal's Best Of Montreal polls for providing unique programming 24/7 on the FM dial and on the web at www.ckut.ca, produced by community and student members of CKUT.

WHEREAS CKUT provides McGill students with news, music and arts & culture programming, radio training, podcast production, journalism experience, with many student members going on to successful careers in broadcasting;

WHEREAS CKUT employs McGill students and has student representation on its Board of Directors, Steering, and Programming Committees and provides internships and research opportunities for student members related to their academic fields, allowing students and their projects to reach local and international audiences through CKUT's publishing and distribution platform

WHEREAS CKUT works within the Montreal community, sponsoring various cultural events, festivals and promoting emerging artists and grassroots initiatives, providing an important link between the McGill University campus and the Montreal community at large.

WHEREAS CKUT collects an opt-outable student fee that allows the station to produce 24/7 programming, provide training for students, purchase audio equipment and software, and keep its facilities and broadcast running.

WHEREAS since Winter 2025, the CKUT fee has been charged at a rate of$7.00/semester for full-time and $5.50/semester for part-time SSMU members in professional programs (Dentistry, MDCM, Law) and $8.00/semester for full-time and $6.00/semester for part-time SSMU members in all other programs.

WHEREAS this referendum proposes no change on the current fee structure;

WHEREAS the majority no vote will result in a significant cut to CKUT's operating budget and consequently make its services to students and its existence on the FM dial impossible.

Do you support CKUT continuing as a recognized student activity supported by student fees with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of undergraduate student fees to CKUT?

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Increase of the Plate Club Fee

Whereas, Plate Club is a sustainability initiative that became a SSMU service in Winter 2019 and renewed via referendum in Winter 2023, and provides free rentals of reusable dishware to various groups in the McGill Community, particularly to SSMU clubs and services, with the goal of reducing waste generated by the usage of disposable products.

Whereas, operations have expanded significantly over time, where the General Coordinator now manages a team of 8 executives and nearly 40 volunteers, as compared to a team of only 3 volunteers and no executives in the 2024-2025 year;

Whereas, 2025-2026 was the highest year of Plate Club usage since Plate Club was founded in 2007, with over 29,000 dishes borrowed, 119 completed orders, and 83 groups, consisting of student, faculty and community initiatives, having benefitted from the service;

Whereas, increased usage and operational growth requires additional labour hours, creating a deficit where the General Coordinator is projected to exhaust their budgeted contract hours prior to the Winter 2027 semester, threatening the continuity of service delivery;

Whereas, Plate Club is currently funded by an opt-outable fee of $0.14 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members;

Do you agree to the increase of the opt-outable SSMU Plate Club Fee from $0.14 per semester to $0.35 per semester, payable by all SSMU members, beginning in Winter 2027 until Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal?

A majority 'no' vote will result in scaling back operations of Plate Club.

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Constitutional Amendment Concerning Athletic Teams

On November 27, 2025 and January 15, 2026, the Legislative Council motioned to provide temporary club status to 11 groups consisting of the varsity teams cut by McGill. This status would last until the groups were "Reinstated by McGill Athletics and Recreation, or; There is the formation of an Athletics category for groups within the SSMU, in which case the team will be granted status under the new category.

On November 27, 2025, the Legislative Council further tasked the Student Groups Committee with the planning of an athletics category under the SSMU. A working group was formed, and the general plans for such a category were discussed.

WHEREAS, the SSMU Constitution is the Society's primary governing by-law and can only be amended by referendum, meaning that any substantial restructuring such as the creation of a Student Group category must be brought directly to the student body for approval;

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments serve only to create a Student Group category called Athletic Teams and to assign its management to the VP Clubs and Services;

Do you approve of the proposed amendments to the SSMU Constitution, as hyperlinked, to take effect immediately upon passing, to create the Athletic Team Student Group category, managed by the Vice-President Clubs and Services, and to include a representative of this Student Group category in the composition of the Legislative Council, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in no amendments to the Constitution and significantly hinder the cut varsity teams from continuing their operations under SSMU?"

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Plebiscite Questions Concerning the SSMU Athletic Fee

On November 27, 2026 and January 15, 2026 the SSMU motioned to incorporate the varsity teams that McGill cut as interim clubs, to be transitioned to their own Student Group category. When this motion was passed, there was no proposed plan to fund the operational costs incurred or to offer any supportive funding to the teams.

Athletic Teams have extensive expenses including competition fees, equipment upgrades, uniform, practice space rentals, travel costs, and coaching.

Athletic Teams no longer have access to the network and channel through which alumni and interested parties donate to McGill Varsity teams. Without access to this network, teams will face a significant challenge funding their operations. Existing membership fees are high and without their historical funding support networks, membership may become prohibitively expensive for athletes.

Considering Services have individual fees to fund their operations and Clubs have a collective club fee to cover the administrative costs of maintaining them and to provide a fund that clubs can apply to for their general activities, it is reasonable to create a similar fund for Athletic Teams.

Seeing as the Athletic Teams have expressed substantial concern for their financial sustainability in the future, this motion looks to consult the membership on whether a student fee specifically for Athletic Teams would be favorable.

Would you support the creation of an opt-outable Athletic Team Fee of at least $0.30?

Would you support a higher fee, which would include an Athletic Teams Fund, between $1.00 and $3.00, to offer financial support for team expenses?

Are there any additional comments regarding the structure or amount of an athletics team fee that you would like considered?

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Plebiscite Questions Concerning Affordability

The SSMU, in collaboration with several other organizations and universities, is exploring several projects that aim to improve students' affordability within the city of Montreal and neighbouring regions, including a potential switch to the Universal Pass model ('UPass') for the ARTM (which includes buses, metro, REM, and EXO across 4 zones) to bring the price down for students, as well as a second housing project in collaboration with UTILE. However, given the costs associated with these plans, the SSMU must utilize its resources and consult with its membership to understand if this potential project would benefit students in the long term. The following non-binding plebiscite questions are designed to provide the SSMU with data to use to support these advocacy projects.

Transportation:

1. How long (in minutes) is your commute to and from campus (one way, on average)? Please indicate whether by foot or other form of transportation.
2. Do you use any of ARTM's services (Bus, metro, EXO, REM)? If so, how often do you take these services per week?

Housing:

3. *How would you describe the quality of your current living conditions (e.g., room size, number of roommates, condition of appliances, etc.)?*
4. *If you do not mind sharing, how much do you pay in rent each month? This information will be tremendously useful for our advocacy effort. (Optional)*

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Plebiscite Questions Concerning the Library Improvement Fund Priorities

The SSMU Library Improvement Fund (LIF) supports McGill Libraries through extended library hours during midterm and final examination periods as well as student employment, study spaces, technology, furniture, and other library improvements.

Extended hours at the McLennan-Redpath Library Complex, Schulich Library, and Nahum Gelber Law Library require substantial ongoing funding. As the Fund has a limited budget, maintaining current extended hours may leave less funding available for additional services and improvement projects. Conversely, reducing some extended hours could make more funding available for other projects, but would reduce late-night access at affected locations.

This plebiscite seeks to consult Members' preferences only. It is non-binding and will not, by itself, change library hours or approve specific projects.

1. Given the Library Improvement Fund's limited budget, which of the following would you prefer the Fund to prioritize? (only one option)
    a. Maintaining the current extended library hours during midterm and final examination periods.
    b. Reducing some extended library hours to allocate additional funding toward library services, facilities, and improvement projects. (e.g. reflection or wellness spaces; improved library furniture; updated technology to use on-site or borrow; and improvements to study areas)
    c. No preference towards either option.

2. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding how the Library Improvement Fund should be allocated?
    [Optional text box for written comments]