

November 22nd, 2017

Dear Principal Fortier, Provost Manfredi, Assistant Provost Campbell, the Office for Sexual Violence Response and Support Education, et al:

We, the undersigned students and student groups of McGill University, call upon administration of McGill University to provide a greater allocation of funds available to current McGill students impacted by sexual and gender based violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment, whether the act of violence occurred on or off campus.

We recognize that O-SVRSE is presently empowered in providing support to Survivors, however, it is evident that the resources provided do not fully support those impacted on our campus. McGill University must be better able to offer free medical treatment, mental health services, and legal support/consultation, be it via reimbursement or via free treatment through McGill's health services, including mental health services. This is especially relevant for populations contending with other special needs and social stressors that are frequently underserved by our services (i.e. LGBTQ2+ students, IBPOC students, and students with pre-existing mental health struggles). We know that McGill University has the ability to provide these services from competent, qualified, and compassionate practitioners and professionals.

We acknowledge that this type of support has the potential to be costly, however we believe that the benefits provided to McGill Survivors will exceedingly outweigh the financial expenses. In terms of external monetary resources, this initiative is one that alumnae might be willing to contribute to, further increasing available funds.

The demand of such support remains largely unknown due to the underreporting of sexual assault and the stigma, as well as the barriers related to seeking treatment and support. On this basis, more comprehensive and holistic support and care would go a long way in demonstrating that our campus stands with our Survivors and that they will be supported and defended appropriately should they choose to disclose.

There is a culture of silence and apathy surrounding sexual violence in our culture and each institution and individual bears responsibility in either improving or perpetuating it. We appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to further discussing it with you.

Sincerely,