**Motion to Advocate for the Removal of the “Redmen” Team Name at McGill**

**WHEREAS,** McGill’s Men’s Varsity Sports teams carry the name “Redmen.”;

**WHEREAS,** McGill sports teams’ logos have historically featured stereotypical and hyper-masculine imagery of Indigenous people;

**WHEREAS,** slurs such as “Indians” and “Super Squaws” have been utilized in reference to McGill sports teams;

**WHEREAS,** the name has resulted in headlines such as “Redmen Scalped” and creates space for further insensitive and racist commentary;

**WHEREAS,** the name “Redmen” provokes feelings of isolation and dehumanization among Indigenous students and student athletes;

**WHEREAS,** the Provost’s task force on Indigenous studies and Indigenous education’s 2017 report calls for the renaming of the team in the “immediate term” (APPENDIX A);

**WHEREAS,** the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) has released an open letter calling on the University to Rename the Men’s varsity sports teams that has over 1,000 signatures;

**WHEREAS,** a [change.org petition](https://www.change.org/p/mcgill-university-change-the-redmen-name) has been launched with over 2,535 signatures;

**WHEREAS,** the SSMU commissioner of Indigenous Affairs has organized a widely attended demonstration calling for the “Redmen” name to be changed;

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the AUS mandates the Arts Senators to advocate in favor of the name change at the University level.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the AUS sign on as a student group in the aforementioned [Open Letter](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zBD7y63-rGz5rXkZrrjL390LlnGb5HDuRQouilL4TWk/edit) that calls for McGill to change the Redmen name.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that AUS release a statement to condemn the Redmen name and to stand in solidarity with the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Committee in calling for immediate change of the Redmen name.

Moved by,

Ana Paula Sanchez, Arts Representative

Jennifer Chan, PSSA VP External

Garima Karia, Arts Representative

Joshua Werber, RSUS VP External

Rebecca Scarra, AUS VP External

Andrew Figueiredo, Arts Representative

Maeve Botham, HSA VP External

Madeline Wilson, Arts Senator

Kyle Stewart, Arts GSFSSA Co-Coordinator to AUS

Emma Clark, SLUM VP External to AUS

Anaïs Lépine Lopez, QSSA VP External

Ommu-Kulsoom J. Abdul-Rahman, Arts Senator

**Appendix A**

Link to full report:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/equity_diversity/files/equity_diversity/final_report_of_the_provosts_task_force_on_indigenous_studies_and_indigenous_education_0.pdf>

Relevant Excerpt:

“21. Varsity Teams and the McGill Name (immediate term) The Redmen team name was raised repeatedly in our meetings – in Open Forums held on the downtown and Macdonald campuses, in meetings with Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and in discussions with a wide range of other members of the McGill community.  Our community questioned seriously the credibility of the University’s efforts in relation to Indigeneity given the pejorative connotation of our men’s varsity team name.

The Task Force notes past usages of the name 'Indians' to refer to men’s teams, and 'Squaws' or 'Super Squaws' to refer to women’s athletics teams, as well as phrases such as ‘Indians on the warpath’ and ‘Redman scalped’ that appeared in McGill media. Such demeaning and offensive language was used into the 1970s, long after the official naming of the men’s varsity team as the ‘Redmen'. Further, stereotyped images of Indigenous persons found their way onto McGill jerseys and helmets before a 1992 decision of the McGill Athletics Board to cease usage of the offensive logo, while retaining the Redmen name largely because of the apparently benign origins of the term Redmen: <http://mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2015/2/27/GEN_0227154844.aspx?path=general>.

With a view to positioning McGill as a leader in post-TRC Canada, and in view of perspectives shared within the McGill community, the Task Force calls on our University to begin a process of consultation inside McGill, and with other relevant external organizations and communities, with the goal of renaming McGill male varsity teams. This consultation should engage all parts of the McGill community, communicate the community-building value of selecting a new team name, and recognize the contributions of student-athletes, past and present, to the University. The consultation will be guided by the pressing importance for the future of moving forward under a McGill team name that breaks with the associations that ‘Redmen’ evokes in contemporary society.”