

Motion for the Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University to Declare a One Day Strike in Support of Climate Justice

Whereas, the 2018 report¹ published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the effects of 1.5 degrees of warming are far more catastrophic than previously thought, and that the climate action necessary to bring about the requisite 50% emission reductions over the next eleven years will demand comprehensive and aggressive changes to our systems of production and consumption;

Whereas, the Canadian and Quebec governments have failed to meet their own targets in line with the fulfillment of these goals;

Whereas, McGill University continues to be actively complicit in climate change through its investments in fossil fuels, nuclear weapons, and arms manufacturers, as well as by actively conducting research for the fossil fuel and arms industries;

Whereas, the continuous and conscious inaction of these institutions in spite of the overwhelming and alarming evidence has proven the need to utilize collective action as a means of change;

Whereas, nearly 2000 McGill students took part in the demonstration for climate justice on March 15 2019;

Whereas, students in Quebec and worldwide have voted for a one day strike to demand climate action from their universities and governments;

Whereas, the Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University “exists to represent all McGill students in the Faculty of Arts and to promote their welfare and interests;”²

Be it resolved, that the Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University hold a one-day strike on September 27, 2019 in order to pressure the university and government to meet the demands set forth by the climate strike movement (included in Annex 1) as well as participate in the global mobilization for climate justice.

Be it further resolved, that the Arts Undergraduates' Society creates a committee who will organize soft picket lines and class announcements for the strike.

¹ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

² <http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Word-Doc-Constitution-.pdf>

Moved by
Ayo Ogunremi

Seconded by
Meghan Rapp

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Annex 1: Demands of the AUS

1. McGill University acknowledge the virtually unanimous scientific consensus and publicly state that: “Fossil fuel companies currently cause grave injurious impact, which disproportionately affects traditionally marginalized and oppressed populations that have also contributed least to the climate crisis. These populations include but are not limited to Indigenous communities, People of Colour, poor communities, and migrants.”
2. McGill University divests from its investments in fossil fuels.
3. McGill University calls on and actively pressures the federal and provincial government to fully recognize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Specifically, we demand immediate recognition of Article 29, noting that “Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and productive capacity of their lands or territories.” Understood within the Canadian context, Article 29 of UNDRIP can be understood as a call to recognize the place of Indigenous peoples as land stewards within Canada. McGill has a duty to recognize land stewardship as a tenet of Indigenous culture and identity, and with this recognition, McGill must demonstrate leadership in championing reconciliation and the rights of Indigenous peoples.