



15 October 2019

Dear Hillel McGill,

We write to you today concerning communications that have taken place between members of your organization and certain Employees and Executives of the Students' Society of McGill University as well as its Clubs, Services, and Independent Student Groups involving offers of "free trips to Israel".

This year, two members of our Executive team as well as a staff member and an Executive of a SSMU Service were approached by different individuals affiliated with Hillel McGill and offered a "free trip to Israel". Last year, two SSMU Executives were also invited. All parties report that this offer was made to them because of their position as "student leaders". It has become apparent, however, that the context, details, and nature of this offer varied depending on who was making it. One party reports that they were offered, in the words of the Hillel McGill representative, "a free trip to Israel so [they] could better understand the context of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and educate others on campus" upon their return. While one Executive was approached in a closed office and told that this offer was strictly confidential, another was approached openly and no such confidentiality was mentioned. Moreover, it is unclear what methodology Hillel McGill has used to decide who to invite and who not to invite. Overall, we find these inconsistencies deeply troubling.

Therefore, it is imperative that we communicate both our discomfort with the process by which invitations of "free trips to Israel" have been extended to SSMU and SSMU-affiliated Executives and Staff as well as our opposition to the invitations themselves. We will not be complying with the request of the individual who claimed this offer was to be kept confidential. In addition, we ask that Hillel McGill immediately make public:

- The fact that these invitations have been extended
- Who they have been extended to and why these individuals were chosen, and
- The details and specific purpose of the trip being offered

Hillel McGill has made it clear that those invited were chosen in part because of their shared status as student leaders, yet as student leaders it is our responsibility to ensure that we remain as transparent as possible. Unfortunately, due to the incomplete and contradictory information that has been provided by Hillel McGill, we are unable to fulfill this responsibility until corrective measures are taken.

Thank you for your understanding, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
The SSMU Executive Team