



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

Motion Regarding Special Referendum Period

Whereas, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG) ran an existence referendum in the fall 2011 semester in which 5,245 undergraduate students voted (24.7% of the undergraduate student body), and QPIRG won with 3,442 (65.6%) 'Yes' Votes;

Whereas, the McGill Administration has repeatedly told QPIRG that they would not accept the full results of the referendum;

Whereas, the Judicial Board voted to nullify the results of QPIRG's Fall 2011 referendum, and this decision was ratified by the SSMU Board of Directors on March 1st, 2012;

Whereas, McGill is refusing to negotiate with QPIRG on the terms of the MOA between the two parties --- an agreement that stipulates fee collection and is tied to QPIRG's lease agreement with the university, due to expire on the 31st of May, 2012 --- unless QPIRG obtains affirmation of their support on campus via an existence referendum with the exact wording that McGill has asked for;

Whereas, McGill notified QPIRG on the 8th of March, 2012, that they would not extend the current agreement until the Fall 2012 semester in order for QPIRG to reasonably obtain another referendum vote, and that they would only accept a referendum that takes place this semester;

Whereas, this notification came after the Winter 2012 referendum period had already closed;

Whereas, McGill Administration specifically suggested to QPIRG that the only option would be to request an exceptional referendum through the SSMU;

Whereas, the current electoral bylaws of the SSMU do not allow campaigning during statutory holidays or weekends, and Easter weekend is April 6th through 9th in the year 2012;

Resolved, that the SSMU shall run an exceptional referendum period, with campaigning starting on April 3rd and polling starting on April 10th, with polls closing on April 16th, 2012.

Moved by:

Carol Fraser, VP Clubs and Services
Shyam Patel, VP Finance and Operations
Joel Pedneault, VP External
Adam Winer, Clubs and Services Representative