

# Post-Election Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

29 November 2007

**ELECTIONS MCGILL**

November 29, 2007  
Authored by: Corey Shefman

# Post-Election Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

29 November 2007

## Turnout

SSMU			
		Participation by Year	
Parameters: <b>Cumulative - All polls</b>	Votes	Percent of Year	Percent of Tot.
0:	1,112 of 5,496	20.2%	5.7%
1:	407 of 2,245	18.1%	2.1%
2:	803 of 4,814	16.7%	4.1%
3:	1,010 of 6,368	15.9%	5.2%
4:	43 of 678	6.3%	0.2%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,375 of 19,601</b>		<b>17.2%</b>

## First Year Council Results

First Year Council Vice President External	
Restriction: Year 0	
Sarah Woolf	293 (26.3)%
Robert Townley	217 (19.5)%
<b>Amara Possian</b>	<b>380 (34.2)%</b>
Warne Goodman	120 (10.8)%
Spoiled	102 (9.2)%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1112</b>
First Year Council Vice President Finance	
Restriction: Year 0	
Joanna Chong	175 (15.7)%
<b>Jonathan Verrett</b>	<b>508 (45.7)%</b>
Kelly Huang	114 (10.3)%
Will Jin Xu	173 (15.6)%
Spoiled	142 (12.8)%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1112</b>

## Acclaimed Positions

**President** – Sean Stefanik

**Vice President Internal** – Kelly Ding

**Vice President Academic** – Eleanor Ou Xu

## Vacant Position

**Vice President Communications**

## Fall 2007 Referenda Results

Sexual Assault Centre Fee Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>2884 (85.5)%</b>
No	426 (12.6)%
Spoiled	65 (1.9)%
TOTAL:	3375
Constitutional Cleanup Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>2066 (61.2)%</b>
No	574 (17.0)%
Spoiled	735 (21.8)%
TOTAL:	3375
General Assembly Quorum Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>2027 (60.1)%</b>
No	842 (24.9)%
Spoiled	506 (15.0)%
TOTAL:	3375
General Assembly Date Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>2205 (65.3)%</b>
No	575 (17.0)%
Spoiled	595 (17.6)%
TOTAL:	3375
Student Space Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>1850 (54.8)%</b>
No	1264 (37.5)%
Spoiled	261 (7.7)%
TOTAL:	3375

Executive Terms Referendum	
<b>Yes</b>	<b>2223 (65.9)%</b>
No	481 (14.3)%
Spoiled	671 (19.9)%
TOTAL:	3375

## Analysis of Turnout

As Council was informed during the voting period, turnout was low throughout this recently past electoral period. This can be attributed to a number of causes. First and foremost, fall elections at McGill generally attract fewer voters since they are mistakenly seen as ‘first year elections’. That being said, the turnout this year was considerably lower than past fall elections (which normally run between 18.5% and 22%). The major cause of this lower turnout was without a doubt the fact that the electoral dates were changed three-quarters of the way through the process.

**Reccomendation 1:** That SSMU Council adopt a standing policy to not interfere with the independence of Elections McGill nor overturn decisions of Elections McGill besides in the case of negligence.

## Publicity

Elections McGill engaged in significant publicity efforts during this electoral campaign in anticipation of turnout issues as a result of the date change. These efforts included five days worth of Facebook advertisements, 300 posters, classroom announcements and twice as many email listservs as have been sent in the past. In addition, Elections McGill would like to thank the Inter-Residence Council (IRC) for also sending out a listserv email and for communicating, on our behalf, with all McGill floor fellows and would finally like to thank the SSMU Executive and those members of SSMU Council who assisted with getting out the vote in the final days of regular polls. Unfortunately, Elections McGill must point out that the outgoing (2006-2007) FYC Executive was completely absent from this campaign. Under normal circumstance, this would just be unfortunate – however, at the meeting which saw SSMU Council change the Election dates, the FYC Councilor, when arguing in favour of delaying the election, assured us that later election dates would allow the FYC to publicize the elections and give them more exposure. Thus, it is fairly disturbing that the FYC did not contribute, in any way, to the election – even when directly asked to. Even more interesting, within a week of the end of the election, Elections McGill had received an email from the incoming FYC President, asking us whether it was possible to ensure that FYC elections are held significantly earlier next year. It was ironic, to say the least.

**Reccomendation 2:** FYC Elections should be finished no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> (changed from Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>) annually.

## Online Voting System

The new online voting system purchased earlier this year successfully made it through its first full election with no crashes, no downtime and no significant problems. The only issue of note was an issue we were already aware of concerning the eligibility to vote of people who have requested that their McGill UEA be changed. We are in the process of establishing a protocol so that this inconvenience is avoided in future electons.

## Spring Electoral Dates (for approval)

**Nomination Period:** February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Candidate’s Meeting:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Campaign Period:** March 4<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>

**Advance Polls:** March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>

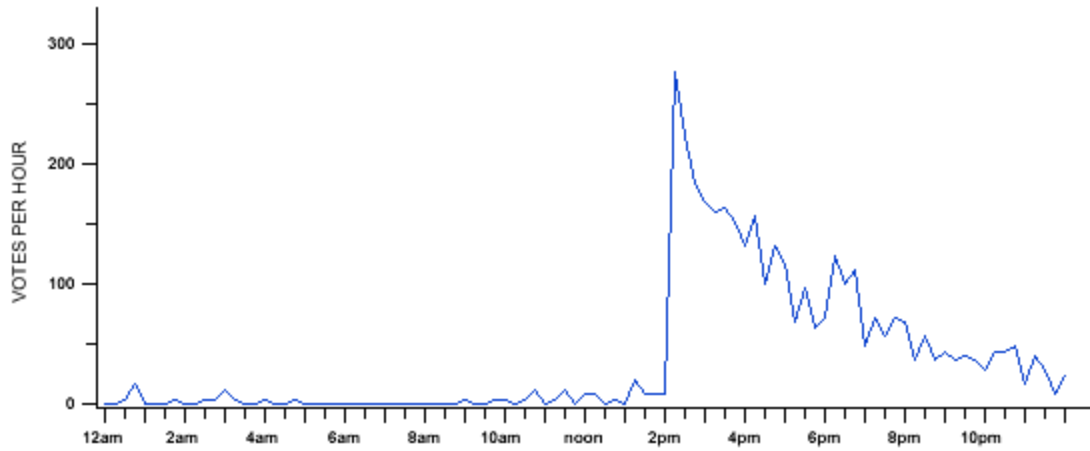
**Regular Polls:** March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,

*Corey B. Shefman*

Corey Shefman  
Chief Returning Officer  
Elections McGill

**November 10<sup>th</sup>: (with listserv)**



**November 11<sup>th</sup>: (without listserv)**

