



MOTION REGARDING REGARDING THE REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE DAILY PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY (DPS) FEE 2022-10-25

Submitted for: 2022-10-25

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-10-25-001
Moved by:	Marco Pizarro <i>VP Finance</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Natan Sakarjiri <i>Arts-Science Representative</i>		

Issue The Daily Publications Society Fee, a non-opt-outable fee at \$6.00 per undergraduate student per term and \$3.35 graduate student per term (\$1.68 where the status is additional session/non-thesis extension or Thesis Evaluation), is set to expire after Winter 2023.

Background and Rationale The Daily Publications Society (DPS) publishes Le Délit and The McGill Daily, two independent, student-run, non-profit newspapers both in print and online.

For more than 100 years, both newspapers have been critical sources of news and investigative journalism on campus, as well as platforms for commentary and creative work, welcoming contributions from the entire McGill community.

Le Délit is McGill's only francophone student newspaper, and The Daily is among Canada's oldest independent student papers.



McGill University has no journalism program. Through the DPS, students interested in journalism acquire hands-on experience in researching and reporting stories in a journalistic learning environment, exposure and training for design and publishing software that can lead – and has led – to future employment.

The Daily Publications Society (DPS) Fee provides necessary funding for the DPS to continue their operations in service of the McGill community and its student body.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU’s mission to improve the quality and accessibility of education and promote social and personal opportunities for the SSMU Membership.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the Office of Student Life and Learning, Vice-President (Finance), Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), and the student newspapers supported by the Daily Publications Society (The McGill Daily and Le Délit).

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the renewal of this fee not pass, the Daily Publications Society will not receive the funding necessary to continue their operations.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion considers the economic sustainability of the Daily Publications Society, social sustainability by providing a forum for McGill students to express their opinions, and social sustainability by keeping informed McGill students of important campus events and providing an independent and critical press, all essential to a vibrant campus and community and a healthy student democracy.

Impact Decision and Next Steps

of Should the renewal of this fee pass, Members will continue to be charged \$6.00/term for undergraduate students, excluding summer. This will allow the Daily Publications Society to continue their operations.



Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that, the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2022 referendum period:

WHEREAS, Le Délit and The McGill Daily are two of McGill's independent, student-run, non-profit newspapers;

WHEREAS, Le Délit is McGill's only French-language student newspaper;

WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, the newspapers have provided a forum for students to express their opinions and keep informed of important campus events;

WHEREAS, all downtown campus undergraduate students are members of the Daily Publications Society;

WHEREAS, the Daily Publications Society (DPS) hosts annual general meetings every Fall, in which any and all DPS members can propose changes to the society or constitution, as well as raise questions about both publications;

WHEREAS, both newspapers welcome writing and artistic contributions from the entire McGill community;

WHEREAS, participation in either newspaper requires no previous experience;

WHEREAS, McGill does not have a journalism program and Le Délit and The McGill Daily provide a journalistic learning environment, exposure and training for design and publishing software, and an annual journalism week, that can lead – and has led – to future employment;

WHEREAS, a free and critical press is essential to a vibrant campus society and a healthy democracy;

WHEREAS, both papers are supported by a non-opt outable student fee of \$6 per undergraduate student each term, without which both papers would cease to exist at McGill;

Do you support the DPS continuing as a recognized student organization supported by student fees with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of undergraduate student fees to the DPS?

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question, and recommends the ratification of



this referendum question to the Elections SSMU and Board of Directors, and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Be it further resolved, that the DPS provide a financial budget on the referendum question to inform voters on the usage of the fee

Results of the Vote	In favour	(16)
	Opposed	(1)
	Abstain	(2)

APPROVED