

SSMU Referendum Questions

Winter 2023



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Elections SSMU

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3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

1. Creation of the Legal Essentials Plan Fee

[Motion Regarding the Implementation of the Legal Essentials Plan Fee 2023-02-09](#)

WHEREAS, the SSMU and Studentcare have identified a need for legal representation for students facing legal challenges in their day-to-day lives, as currently available legal resources may be expensive, inaccessible, or inadequate;

WHEREAS, the SSMU has been offering its membership access to a Legal Essentials service since September 2022 and that it is being actively used by the students;

WHEREAS, the Legal Essentials would offer unlimited access to legal representation for housing, employment, academic, and human rights disputes, small claims support, and civil mediation where legal representation services would apply until the case is resolved, even after a student finishes their studies;

WHEREAS, the Legal Essentials further offers students unlimited access to Legal Consultations for questions on any area of the law, including but not limited to Immigration Law queries for international students amongst others;

WHEREAS, the proposed Legal Essentials service would provide all SSMU members with access to the service for an entire year (September to August) at no extra cost beyond the proposed referendum of \$30.00;

WHEREAS, members who begin their studies in January will be charged a pro-rated fee in the Winter semester of \$20.00 to access the Legal Essentials service for the months of January to August;

WHEREAS, this fee is fully opt-outable and the opt-out procedure will be overseen through Studentcare (in a process similar to the SSMU Health and Dental Insurance change-of-coverage period);

Do you agree to establish an opt-outable SSMU Legal Essentials service fee valued at \$30.00 per student to be charged in the Fall semester for full year access (September to August); students who begin in the Winter semester will be charged a prorated fee of \$20.00 to access the program from January to August? The fee will be payable by all SSMU members, for 2 years, starting Fall 2023 until Winter 2025 (inclusive) to access the Legal Essentials service, at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal.

2. Creation of the SSMU Grocery Fee

[Motion Regarding the SSMU Grocery Fee Program 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree with the creation of the SSMU grocery program supported by an opt-outable SSMU Grocery Program Fee of \$1.00 per student per semester (excluding summer) payable by all SSMU members,



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starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the non-existence of such a fee and the termination of the program?

3. Arab Student Network (ASN) Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the Arab Student Network Fee-Levy 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Arab Student Network Fee of \$0.50 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to the Arab Student Network?

4. Plate Club Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding Plate Club Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Plate Club Fee of \$0.14, to be charged per semester to all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), with the understanding that a “no” vote will result in the discontinuation of the fee?

5. Student Space Fund Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Space Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Student Space Fund Fee of \$1.00 per semester, per student, payable by all SSMU members, starting Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority vote “no” the reduction in the amount of money available to students to furnish campus spaces?

6. Black Students’ Network (BSN) Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding the Black Students' Network Fee Renewal 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Black Students’ Network Fee of \$1.00 per full-time student (\$0.50 per part-time student), per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to the Black Students’ Network?

7. Environment Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Environment Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)



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Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Environment fee of \$1.25 per semester, per student, payable by all SSMU members, starting Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority vote “no” would lead to a reduction in the amount of money available to students who wish to start sustainable initiatives?

8. Daily Publication Society (DPS) Fee Renewal and Increase

[Motion Regarding the Referendum Question on the Increase of the DPS Fee 2023-02-09](#)

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 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 the DPS has not asked for a fee increase in the last 15 years, since 2008, and a fee increase would reflect inflation and the rising cost of operations for publishing two newspapers and their respective websites;

Do you agree to increase the non opt-outable fee titled “Daily Publications Society” collected by the DPS, from \$6.00 to \$7.50 payable by all SSMU Members, starting in Fall 2023 to Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?



9. Tribune Publication Society (TPS) Fee Renewal and Increase

[Motion Regarding the Fee Increase of the TPS 2023-02-09](#)

WHEREAS, the current fee levy has allowed for the Tribune Publication Society (TPS) to operate since the last proposed fee increase in 2018;

WHEREAS, the TPS has consistently demonstrated its financial responsibility with the funds it receives from students;

WHEREAS, the TPS has to take into consideration the effect of inflation and economic instability from the pandemic onwards.

WHEREAS, a fee increase is necessary for The McGill Tribune to continue as a reliable and critical editorial voice on campus, as well as an educational opportunity for its members;

WHEREAS, a fee increase is necessary to support the additional positions that were created since 2019 to maintain financial stability, as well as, ensure we can continue our growth as an organization in future years.

WHEREAS, the fee increase would allow the Tribune to expand its multimedia and digital reporting, which are increasingly necessary tools as journalism moves toward primarily online delivery.

A) Do you agree to renew the non-opt-outable fee titled “McGill Tribune (SSTB)” of \$4.00 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 to Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?

B) Should the McGill Tribune fee be renewed in part a), Do you agree to increase the non-opt outable fee titled “McGill Tribune (SSTB)” from \$4.00 per student per semester to \$5.50 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 to Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal? Failure to achieve a majority yes vote will result in the fee remaining at \$4.00 per semester.

10. ECOLE Fee Renewal

[Motion Regarding ECOLE's Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

WHEREAS, the ECOLE Project has a mandate to “bring together McGill students, faculty and staff and Montreal community members in the pursuit of sustainable living by means of applied student research, alternative education, and community building”[1];



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WHEREAS, the Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) granted seed funding to the ECOLE Project in October 2013; thereafter, the Project has been funded by the “ECOLE Project Fee” levy since the Fall of 2015, which was renewed in the Winter 2018 referendum;

WHEREAS, the ECOLE Project is a student-initiated and student-run initiative;

WHEREAS, the ECOLE Project has gained status as an Independent Student Group (ISG) with the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU);

WHEREAS, the ECOLE Project provides a free space booking service that includes the dining room, study room, living room and kitchen. These rooms have been used by several dozen McGill groups since the Winter 2018 referendum;

WHEREAS, since its launch in the Fall of 2014, ECOLE has provided the McGill community with over 290 events related to alternative education programming. These events are geared to engage in topics related to sustainability and justice, including film screenings, Zero Waste Challenges, potlucks, career discussions, used bookstore crawls, vegan cooking workshops, game nights, meditation & mindfulness circles, organized discussions, formal skill-sharing events, and much more;

WHEREAS, members of the ECOLE Project pursue yearlong microprojects centred around sustainability topics, with the aim to develop tools and resources to support students pursuing similar projects or initiatives and showcase their projects at annual Symposiums;

WHEREAS, since the launch of the ECOLE project in Fall 2014, 35+ hands-on community-based projects have been completed by ECOLE members;

WHEREAS, the ECOLE Project had fewer hired facilitators and was unable to host any physical events during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 measures; thereafter, it had a reduced engagement and presence on campus, which it is working hard to change;

WHEREAS, ECOLE provides the McGill community with several services and activities (such as those mentioned above) that strengthen the environmental and educational experiences and conditions for SSMU’s members.

WHEREAS, ECOLE is a leader in sustainability advocacy on campus and actively supports, educates on and advocates for climate justice, sustainable mobility, regenerative agriculture, greening our spaces, divestment from fossil fuels, indigenous leadership, degrowth, etc.



WHEREAS, ECOLE attempts to further sustainability in its entirety (not just ecological) as stated in the SSMU values “The SSMU recognizes the holistic nature of sustainability and the importance of addressing environmental, social, and economic viability.

WHEREAS, a ‘yes’ vote to the following question would ensure the financial sustainability of the ECOLE Project as it fulfills its mandate of providing meeting space, sustainable educational learning opportunities, support for student research, and a greater sense of community to McGill students;

WHEREAS, a ‘no’ vote to the following question would entail that the ECOLE project will cease to exist after the end of the Winter 2023 semester;

Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable student levy, titled “ECOLE Project Fee,” of \$2.00 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting Fall 2023 and ending Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority vote “no” will result in the discontinuity of the operations of ECOLE due to lack of funding?

11. Student Support Fee Renewal

- a) *Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Student Support Fee, a for-profit organization providing unlimited access to Udemy, Calm and ProWriting Aid, charged to all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2024 (inclusive). Failure to achieve a majority yes vote will result in the service being discontinued.*
- b) *Should the Student Support Fee be renewed in part a), do you further agree to increase the opt-outable Student Support Fee from \$9.99 to \$10.29 per student per semester. Failure to achieve a majority yes vote will result in the fee remaining at \$9.99 per student per semester.*

12. Midnight Kitchen Fee Increase

[Motion Regarding a Referendum Question on the Increase of the Midnight Kitchen Fee 2023](#)

- 1) *Do you agree to extend the opt-outable Midnight Kitchen Fee of \$3.35 per student per semester (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in the termination of services.*
- 2) *Should the opt-outable Midnight Kitchen Fee be renewed in part a, do you further agree that the fee be increased from \$3.35 to \$8.00 per student per semester? Failure to achieve a majority yes vote will result in the fee remaining at \$3.35 per student per semester.*

13. Muslim Students’ Association (MSA) Fee Increase



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[Motion Regarding Muslim Students' Association \(MSA\) Service Fee Increase Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

WHEREAS, the Muslim Students' Association's Service (MSA) Fee is used, in accordance with the SSMU Constitution, to "provide excellence and quality of service at all times, and shall continue to enhance the quality and scope of these services."

WHEREAS, without proper correction, the MSA Operational Budget is likely to remain low or insufficient, hindering the association's ability to improve the quality of services they offer and properly cater to SSMU members.

- 1) *Do you agree to extend the opt-outable MSA Service Fee of \$0.99 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the fee continuing to be levied up to and including Fall 2026, as approved in the Winter 2021 referendum.*
- 2) *Should the opt-outable MSA Service Fee be extended in part a, do you further agree that the fee be increased from \$0.99 to \$1.55 per student per semester? Failure to achieve a majority yes vote will result in the fee remaining at \$0.99 per semester.*

14. Referral Services Fee Increase (Queer McGill and Eating Disorder Resource & Support Centre)

[Motion Regarding the Increase of the Referral Services Fee 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the increase of the opt-outable Referral Services Fee of \$4.92 per student per semester by the following amounts:

- a) *An additional \$0.35 per student per semester starting in Fall 2023, with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote will prevent the increase of the fee amount, impacting **Queer McGill's** ability to provide services in alignment with its mandates?*
- b) *An additional \$0.76 per semester, starting in Fall 2023 with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote will prevent the increase of the fee amount, impacting **The Eating Disorder Centre's** ability to provide services in alignment with its mandates?*
- c) *Should both of these increases be approved by the majority, then do you further agree that the fee be extended to Winter 2028 (inclusive). If this does not pass, then the increases revert to an end date of Fall 2026 requiring renewal at that time.*



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15. Mental Health Fee Increase

[Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Increase of the Mental Health Fee 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the increase of the non-opt-outable ‘Mental Health Fee’ from \$0.40 to \$0.75 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members starting Fall 2023 until Winter 2026 (inclusive), with an understanding that a majority ‘No’ vote would result in the continuation of the fee remaining at the current amount per semester until its expiry?”

16. Safety Services Fee Increase

[Motion Regarding a Fee Increase For Drivesafe Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

[Motion Regarding Safety Services Fee Increase Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)

Whereas, the SSMU Safety Network Fee funds the following services:
\$0.60 for Drive Safe, \$1.85 for MSERT, \$1.75 for SACOMSS, and \$0.12 for Walk Safe;

a) Do you agree to a fee increase of the non-opt-outable Safety Services fee from \$4.32 to \$5.65, payable by all undergraduate students who are SSMU Members, starting in Fall 2023, and ending in Winter 2026 (inclusive)? This fee increase is to support the DriveSafe and MSERT, which is under the umbrella of the Safety Services fee, whereby \$0.60 of the \$4.32 was allocated to the DriveSafe program, and with this increase of \$1.00, \$1.60 would now be allocated, and an increase from \$1.85 to \$2.18 for MSERT. Should the majority vote “no” , there will be no expansion of the Drivesafe or MSERT operations.

b) Do you agree that the Safety Services fee which was to end after the Winter 2026 term, be extended to end after the Winter 2028 term?

17. Creation of IRSAM Fee

[Motion Regarding a Fee Creation For IRSAM Referendum Question](#)

WHEREAS the International Relations Students’ Association of McGill (IRSAM) is the only student-run organization in the world to hold special consultative status with the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the only organization affiliated with McGill University to be federally registered as a Canadian non-profit organization,

WHEREAS additional funding would help the Flux International Relations Review academic journal and the McGill International Relations Review newspaper increase their editing and publication operations while expanding on-campus interviews, photojournalism, and outreach,

WHEREAS, additional funding would allow the International Youth Advisory Delegation (IYAD) to expand the number of McGill students travelling to the United Nations headquarters in New York City



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to present policy proposals to the permanent missions of various countries, while also increasing the number of conferences that the McGill Model United Nations Delegation Team can attend and compete in,

WHEREAS, additional funding would enable IRSAM to offer transportation, food, and other bursaries to the several hundred McGill students who volunteer each year to help run the McGill Model United Nations Assembly (McMUN) and the Secondary School United Nations Symposium (SSUNS),

WHEREAS, additional funding would facilitate the Junior Peacemakers' (JRP) outreach operations to provide primary school students in the Montreal region with interactive workshops and community service projects by subsidizing the cost of transportation paid by JRP volunteers to travel to elementary schools and community centers;

Do you agree with the creation of the opt-outable IRSAM Fee of \$1.00 per student, per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal, with the understanding that failing to receive these funds would significantly hinder the aforementioned initiatives?

18. Ratification of the Board of Directors Members 2022-2023

[Motion Regarding the Ratification of the Board of Directors 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree that the following individuals be appointed to the Board of Directors, for a term beginning on November 15, 2022 until November 14, 2023:

- I. Risann Wright
- II. Kerry Yang
- III. Val Masny
- IV. Benson Wan
- V. Coco Jie Wang
- VI. Peter Tai
- VII. Julia Nam

19. Nomination of the Auditor for 2023 Fiscal Year

[Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year 2023-02-09](#)

Do you agree to the appointment of FL Fuller Landau LLP as the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year for the Students' Society of McGill University, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the SSMU's inability to be properly audited for this fiscal year?

20. Plebiscite Question: Bar Milton-Parc Solidarity Cooperative

[Motion Regarding Plebiscite Question for Bar Milton-Parc Solidarity Cooperative 2023-02-09](#)



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This question does not in any way implicate SSMU into action; it is neither referendum nor resolution, a plebiscite question by nature is non-binding. By asking this question, the SSMU is able to better understand its membership's perspective on investment in the local solidarity economy.

Do you support the investment of 5% of the SSMU Capital Investment Fund (est. \$150,000) towards the development of a solidarity cooperative bar out of the Milton-Parc Community, through the creation of a memorandum of understanding with the following conditions:

1. That SSMU be eligible for support-member status with the bar;
2. That the coop privileges McGill student groups for events and bookings in future operations of the bar;
3. That the co-op include in its business plan a solidarity meal program to service the local community, which includes McGill students.