



Motion to Mandate Land Acknowledgement Statements at MSS Events and Meetings

Submitted to the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS will neither sustain or condone acts of sexism, racism, ableism, classism, transphobia, homophobia and other experiences of oppression.”¹;

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS is committed to advocating for social and economic justice for oppressed people, focusing on ongoing struggles of communities served by McGill Medical School.”²;

Whereas, as future health care professionals, we are socially accountable and expected to practice in a culturally sensitive way;

Whereas, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) sets out the individual and collective rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health education and land.³

Whereas, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action the MSS Equity and Diversity supports the implementation of these Calls to Action whenever possible.⁴

Whereas, Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution upholds and enshrines Treaty rights and Aboriginal right and title.⁵

Whereas, the SSMU adopted an Indigenous Solidarity Policy that recognizes the historical and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples both on campus and in society at large, and offers commitment to advocating for the issues and priorities identified by Indigenous students, staff, and community members and as such has implemented a traditional territory acknowledgement statement as follows:

“McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka, a place which has

¹ *The MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity*, 3.1

² *Ibid.*, 3.8

³ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

⁴ http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

⁵ <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-16.html>



long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations".⁶

Be it resolved, that the SSMU Indigenous Solidarity Policy be upheld and implemented during all MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity business including meetings and presentations.

Moved by Safina Adatia (M1)

Seconded by Jennifer Robinson (M1)

⁶ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SSMU-Indigenous-Solidarity-Policy-2016-04-07.pdf?x26516>