

## **Proposed Initiatives for Moving Forward:**

**Shared by McGill leadership with members of the McGill community who are participating in the encampment on McGill campus on 10 June 2024**

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The following initiatives seek to address issues that have arisen on our campus in view of the ongoing war and loss of civilian life in the Middle East. These initiatives are rooted in the following principles:

- McGill, as an institution of higher education, contributes to social progress, cohesion, and justice **through its academic and research activities**, notably by establishing a learning and scholarly environment that promotes courageous inquiry, intellectual flourishing, rigorous debate, and the advancement of knowledge.
- McGill's decisions, both at a policy and at an operational level, **must reflect its [Mission and Principles](#)**.
- McGill **will not take a public position on geopolitical matters that are not directly relevant to our academic mission**.
- McGill has **robust policies and governance frameworks** that are the channels for change within our institutional context. University policy decisions must occur through McGill's Senate and Board of Governors, and/or their respective committees. Such decisions cannot be made unilaterally by the Administration.

These initiatives are proposed with a view to seeking a peaceful resolution to the encampment. McGill is proposing that **any discussion that follows occur through a neutral, skilled third-party mediator**, as proposed in an email to McGill encampment participants on 28 May 2024. This discussion via a mediator will occur **only with members of the McGill community**.

### **Initiative 1: Investment Review**

The Board of Governors will issue to its **Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR)** a mandate to review, within a social responsibility framework, McGill's direct equity investments in **entities that derive a dominant portion of their direct revenues from the production of military weapons**. This review shall be in keeping with McGill's commitment to maintain geopolitical neutrality; the country in which an industry is situated or does business will have no bearing on the CSSR's analysis.

The review will include **benchmarking** with peer institutions and **consultation** with members of the McGill community, including faculty, students and staff, through multiple

formats. Such consultation will occur only with persons who register using McGill student or staff identifications and who participate unmasked.

In carrying out its review, **the CSSR will act within [its mandate](#)** (section 3).

The CSSR will make its best efforts to submit to the Board, before the latter's meeting of **12 December 2024**, a written report setting out its process, findings, and recommendations. The report shall be made public. The Board will consider and vote on adoption of the CSSR's report at this meeting.

The timeline proposed is aggressive, considering the resources required to carry out a fulsome review that integrates broad and meaningful stakeholder participation. The importance of the issues raised by members of the McGill community compels actions within this timeframe and diligent, best efforts to meet the delay set out herein.

### **Initiative 2: Academic Initiatives**

The Provost & Executive Vice-President (Academic) (PEVPA) and the Interim Vice-President (Global Engagement) (VPGE) will be mandated to review the following questions:

- 1) How can McGill best **support Palestinian scholarship** at our university?
- 2) How can McGill **leverage and supplement its Scholars-at-Risk program** to support scholars and students who have been displaced by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and other parts of the Middle East?

In carrying out this mandate, the PEVPA and VPGE shall consult widely across the campus, including with members of the McGill community of Palestinian identity. Dedicated consultation sessions will be held for students, faculty members, and staff within the Institute of Islamic Studies and the Department of Jewish Studies.

Consultations will be open to members of the university community who register with their McGill student or staff identifications and who participate unmasked.

In exploring the questions enumerated above, the PEVPA and VPGE will consider whether and how this mandate can complement or build upon the [2022 Initiative against Islamophobia and Antisemitism](#).

The PEVPA and VPGE are asked to conduct their review and submit a written report no later than November 15, 2024 that sets out the processes by which this mandate was conducted, findings, and recommendations. The report shall be made public and shall be presented for adoption at the **December 4, 2024 meeting of Senate**.

### **Initiative 3: Investment Disclosures**

Direct equity and fixed income investments above \$500,000 are fully transparent and presented through quarterly reports. Going forward, direct equity and fixed income investments of less than this amount will be shared publicly in quarterly reports unless this is impossible.

#### **Part 4: Amnesty**

Since the establishment of the encampment on our downtown campus on April 27, 2024, McGill has taken the position that the encampment is unlawful and violates our policies. This position stands.

However, with a view to a peaceful resolution to the encampment, the University will grant a disciplinary amnesty to any McGill student, faculty, or staff member for taking part in the encampment any time prior to June 15, 2024. Such individuals are welcome and encouraged to participate in Initiatives 1 and 2 provided they register in accordance with the terms set out above.

For greater clarity, such amnesty does not extend to any acts that are related to the encampment and that violate the law or McGill policies, such as the forceable entry and occupation of, and destruction of property within, the James Administration Building on June 6, 2024, vandalism of campus buildings and properties, and acts of harassment and intimidation affecting members of the McGill community.