

## Internal communication:

**Title:** Common Supplier Code of Conduct for All Québec Universities.

McGill University community members care about social progress, environmental protection and fair business practices. Did you know that Procurement Services ensures that our shared values are conveyed to our suppliers?

“We commit to nearly half a billion dollars of expenses in goods, services and construction works each year, and we acquire them from 14,000 different suppliers from around the world. There is an important responsibility that comes with this level of spending” says François Pouliot, Senior Director of Procurement Services.

About 7 years ago, the unit has developed a Supplier Code of Conduct, which is embedded in the terms and conditions of its contracts and purchase orders. The Code covered a diverse range of aspects such as the respect of human rights, indigenous rights, labour rights, the protection of biodiversity, as well as basic transparency and fair business practices. After overseeing the use of the Code for roughly 5 years, McGill's Program Manager for Sustainable Procurement, Stéphanie Leclerc, decided to invite other institutions to join in the document's revision. Together, with representatives from Université de Montréal, UQAM, Bishop's and Sherbrooke University, they conducted an international benchmarking exercise, and decided that with a few changes to the McGill Supplier Code of Conduct, the Code could be leveraged across other Quebec universities. It is now referred to as the Common Code of Conduct for suppliers of Quebec Universities and is actively being used by McGill, Université de Montréal, Sherbrooke University and Laval University. Other universities also intend to adopt its use in the next few months, with the plan that any future changes be adopted by consensus through the Bureau de la Coopération Universitaire (“BCI”).

“McGill University has been at the forefront in terms of sustainable procurement and is viewed as a leader in this field. We recognize, however, that meaningful changes in some markets can only come about from greater collaboration with our peer institutions and concerted efforts to drive continuous improvement added Pouliot.

The Common Supplier Code of Conduct is available in [English](#) and in [French](#) on the McGill Secretariat website.

Any comments or questions may be sent to [stephanie.leclerc@mcgill.ca](mailto:stephanie.leclerc@mcgill.ca) or by submitting a [Jira](#) ticket.