

# Memorandum

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**Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)**  
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**TO:** Senate  
**FROM:** Professor Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)  
**SUBJECT:** Update on McGill Men's Varsity Teams Naming Process  
**DATE:** February 19, 2020  
**DOCUMENT #:** D19-35  
**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION     APPROVAL/DECISION

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**ISSUE** A special steering committee has been formed to lead the process of finding a new name for the men's Varsity teams. An important part of the committee's work is to listen to contributions from the McGill community; members of the committee will present the current status of the committee's work to the Board and solicit input from Board members.

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**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE** In April 2019, the Principal issued a statement to the effect that the University would stop using the nickname *Redmen* for its men's varsity teams. A steering committee was formed to find a new name for these teams. The committee is co-chaired by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) and Hubert T. Lacroix (BCL'76, MBA'81); its voting membership is made up of varsity athletes, varsity alums, coaches, and key Athletics and Recreation staff. Non-voting members include representation from PGSS, SSMU, the McGill Alumni Association and from communications professionals.

The committee has published its principles on its mandate on its [website](#), on which meeting summaries can also be found.

As part of its mandate, the committee has started broad consultations with the community, through an online webform that has garnered more than 1,200 submissions, and through interviews and meetings with individuals and stakeholder groups. The aim of these consultations is to gather ideas of suitable names, but also, and maybe most importantly, to help define the qualities of a suitable name.

Based on these consultations and its work, the goal of the committee is to come up with a proposal of a new name to be submitted to the Principal in time for the name to be used by our teams for the 2020-2021 season.

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**PRIOR CONSULTATION** McGill community

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**SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS** One of the considerations in choosing a new name is the social acceptability of said name.

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<b>IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS</b>	The committee will continue its consultations, including through its online consultation form which will remain open until the end of February. The committee's work will then continue with an aim of having a new name in place in time for the 2020-2021 season.
<b>MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL</b>	This item is presented for information.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	N/A