



McGill

Question

TO: Senate
FROM: Mr. David Marshall, SSMU
SUBJECT: Question Regarding Snow Removal Procedures & Information
MEETING DATE: January 12, 2010

PREAMBLE: Between November 2009 and January 4th 2010, approximately 70 centimetres of snow had fallen on the City of Montréal. Snow plowing efforts on the part of the city have begun en masse and it is estimated that snow from the most recent storm will have been removed by January 8th.

Throughout this and last academic years, many exterior staircases, including the majority of the stairway adjacent to the Lorne M. Trottier building (and now the new stairway in front of the James Administration building) have been difficult to traverse as a result of the snow. Portions of many stairwells have historically been blocked off with caution tape to prevent passage following snowfalls. Additionally, the remaining portions of those stairwells appear not to have been shoveled. As temperatures continue to drop, much of this unplowed snow has become compacted and slippery.

Little information is available on the McGill website regarding snow removal on campus. The “Special Services” section of the Facilities page indicates that Snow Removal is a joint effort of Building Services and Grounds Staff, but information is limited to that fact. No information is provided as to how and to whom members of the community may report an unsafe snow- or ice-related condition.

Additionally, as the amount of snow and ice on campus affects travel time for students and staff, it is important that the McGill community know whether there is timely and adequate snow removal.

QUESTION:

1. Given the importance of snow removal to the safety of members of the McGill community and to the navigability of our campus, will the University commit to augmenting the resources available for campus snow removal?
2. What steps will the University take to ensure information regarding snow conditions, removal and related hazards is widely-available and easily-accessible to members of the McGill community?
