



# McGill

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY SENATE**

## Question

**TO:**

Senate

**FROM:**

Mr. Sean Waugh and  
Professor Stefano Algieri

**DATE SUBMITTED:**

March 13, 2008

**SENATE MEETING DATE:**

March 26, 2008

**SUBJECT: Accessibility at McGill**

**PREAMBLE:**

Currently, McGill claims to be approximately 90% accessible<sup>1</sup> and has committed itself to being a fully accessible “Barrier-Free” campus. In the Master Plan Task Force Planning and Design Principles Executive Summary the University has set a high priority for development and accommodation of such commitments, along with the “providing of special services to people with disabilities in locations where universal access has not yet been achieved”<sup>2</sup>

Although new developments and renovations are currently committed to accomplishing this task, there remains a concern to the commitment of guaranteed accessibility within our currently occupied campus space. In several cases, providing accessibility assistance is only possible with prior arrangement and notice, rendering the facility inaccessible without careful planning and/or arrangement.

**QUESTION:**

1. How does the university define “Barrier-Free”?
2. How does the University make known to the community any restrictions to ensured “Barrier-Free” access?
3. With the commitment to make all new developments fully accessible, what progress has been made on making currently occupied space fully accessible?
4. What procedures lie in place at the University to ensure that unforeseen issues of accessibility are dealt with promptly and effectively?
5. What statistics, if any, does the University have on incidents and/or complaints made by members of the community (both within and outside McGill) about matters of accessibility?
6. Finally, what procedures and/or resources exist for members of the community to report such issues and/or concerns?

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<sup>1</sup> Students with Disabilities, Building Access information ([www.mcgill.ca/osd/buildingaccess/](http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/buildingaccess/))

<sup>2</sup> McGill Planning Design Principles Report, Master Plan Task Force (distributed at Meeting of Senate, February 13, 2008)