

# Motion

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**TO:** Senate

**FROM:** Senators Madeline Wilson, André Lametti, Chloe Kemeni, Sebastien Duckett, Henrique Mecabô, Jeremy Garneau, Bryan Buraga, Gregory Mikkelson, Derek Nystrom

**SUBJECT:** Motion Regarding Cancellation of Classes on September 27, 2019

**DATE:** September 18, 2019

**DOCUMENT #:** D19-08

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

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**ISSUE** On September 27, 2019, a climate strike is scheduled to take place in Montreal. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE** Local iterations of the [global climate strike](#) shall be taking place on September 20 and 27. The [Montreal strike](#) will occur on September 27, 2019 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is expected that thousands of [McGill students](#) will be in attendance. In addition, teen climate activist Greta Thunberg [has announced](#) that she will be in Montreal on September 27 to join strikers.

The strike calls for global consensus on the need for climate justice.

On September 13, Concordia University interim President Graham Carr [announced the cancellation](#) of September 27 classes from 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., so as to allow students to attend the strike. On September 16, L'Université de Montréal [announced](#) that they would be doing the same.

[McGill University Statute](#) Article 6.3.14 gives the Senate the authority to “fix the academic calendar, including the dates of academic functions and holidays, or general suspensions of lectures; and shall co-ordinate all timetables affecting more than one faculty.”

**PRIOR CONSULTATION** This motion, as well as the global climate strike, are student-led initiatives. Should the university decide not to cancel classes, assorted departments and faculties are organizing and/or considering strike votes. For example, the Medical Students' Society voted by referendum on September 16<sup>th</sup> to go on strike for the afternoon. In addition, a paper petition is currently circulating to call a strike vote of the Arts Undergraduate Society.

**SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS** The climate strike on September 27 advances a sustainable agenda, and allows for students to actively immerse themselves in community affairs.

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**IMPACT OF  
DECISION AND  
NEXT STEPS**

Should this motion pass, a message shall be sent to the entire McGill community notifying them of the cancellation of classes. Course instructors impacted shall be responsible for communicating to their students the effect of the cancellation on the course schedule, but students will be strongly encouraged to work with their instructors to identify the best way to make up course content, if desired. Should classes be cancelled, the university itself shall remain open.

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**MOTION OR  
RESOLUTION  
FOR APPROVAL**

*Be it resolved that Senate approve the cancellation of classes from 11:35 a.m. to 3:55 p.m. on September 27, 2019.*

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**APPENDICES**

N/A

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