

Sustainability Projects Fund Application
Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project

Budget Requested: \$66,265

Date Submitted: March 1st, 2015

Applicant/Project Leader:

Lindsay O'Connell
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Project theme(s):

Community, Social Justice, Health & Wellbeing

Project Group:

Cameron Butler
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Project Overview

Summary:

The Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project aims to develop and expand the institutional capacity for equity and community programming on the Macdonald campus. By developing a number of initiatives that promote broad individual and community wellbeing, the project seeks to create a more inclusive and supportive campus environment. The project builds on the successes and momentum of SP0126, the Residences Anti-Oppression Programming Project, expanding and adapting it to fulfill the needs of the Macdonald campus community. It addresses the current identified need for increased programming capacity through:

1. Developing clear processes for transporting programming to the Macdonald campus.
2. Establishing and institutionalizing the Rez Project modules in the Macdonald residences.
3. Building institutional capacity for ongoing coordination of Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW), Consent Week, and the Bystander Intervention Program with Macdonald campus stakeholders.
4. Developing a "Know Your Services" initiative with Student Services to demystify available services for students (which has been identified as a major need through preliminary student consultation).
5. Supporting Student Services in the expansion of service provision onto the Macdonald campus.

The project will be primarily driven through the temporary creation of a full-time Coordinator position for two years. SP0126 has demonstrated that creating a position dedicated to building resources and capacity for a short period can effectively lead to substantial and sustainable institutional changes. This is indicated in the attached letters of support, wherein McGill equity experts have provided their positive assessment of the impacts of SP0126. Macdonald campus stakeholders also point to this being a necessary step to remediating the currently insufficient staff capacity

necessary for such programming development. Through a collaborative effort, the Macdonald campus will be better equipped to promote a healthier, more engaged, and more inclusive campus community.

The project is proposed as a two-year effort because it involves much more extensive and difficult work to institutionalize than can be accomplished over the course of a single year. The project will involve the creation of four student-staff positions, each of which will need to be incorporated, along with the associated programming costs, into the budgets of multiple university units; additionally there will need to be proper training and support provided for several permanent staff members. Because this project involves a number of large initiatives being implemented for the first time at the Macdonald campus, it will require two years for the necessary reflection, adaptations, and troubleshooting to determine what works best in the Macdonald context and to develop the protocols and processes to guide future efforts. After the first roll-out of the initiatives, they will be assessed and then begin to be institutionalized into the appropriate units. Then in the second year of the project, the units will be supported in rolling out the initiatives, while continuing to build the necessary capacity; further, this will be when the majority of work is done towards establishing clear processes and practices for future initiatives to be developed and carried out at the Macdonald campus.

This application is only for the budget of the first year of the project; an application for the second year will be submitted in Winter 2016 along with a report of the first year's progress. The estimated costs will be the same for the second year, however the amount requested from the SPF will be less, as more units take on the associated costs of the programming for which they become responsible. Lastly, the Coordinator salary has been increased relative to SP0126, following a review of position over the past year, to better reflect the diverse responsibilities of the Coordinator.

Background:

McGill has made a commitment to “develop measures to support not simply the retention, but also the flourishing, of students and academic, administrative and support staff from a variety of backgrounds.”¹ The application for SP0126 outlined examples of recent work at McGill to achieve this. Mental health has also been taken more seriously recently, as nearly 50% of students report experiences of depression- or anxiety-like symptoms.² SP0126 has resulted in major advancements in both these areas, through the creation of two new Rez Project modules (Race Project and Invisible Medicines), collaborating in the creation and implementation of MHAW, developing new staff training, overseeing an accessibility audit of the residences, and many others. The Macdonald campus has seen important student-driven equity- and mental health-related resource development, such as the adoption of MCSS' Equity Policy and the creation of the MCSS/MCGSS Peer Helper Program, a non-judgmental peer support service.

However, there has been a consistent struggle in successfully implementing downtown campus-initiated projects at the Macdonald campus because of its very different campus culture and practices. The Macdonald campus demographics are quite unique, due to factors such as the younger age of the students (FMT students start as young as 16 or 17), the higher rural Quebec population, and the higher proportion of female students. Therefore work will need to be done to adapt the Rez Project modules, in particular, to reflect Macdonald students' experiences. It also means that Macdonald campus students have unique needs that deserve their own focus, such as a potentially greater need for harm reduction education. Expanding the newly developed resources and trainings to the Macdonald campus would have a huge impact in furthering community inclusion across McGill. But it requires a significant focus on the needs of Macdonald community and a proper exploration the unique avenues available to meeting those needs on the campus.

Eligibility:

This project has a major focus on building greater social sustainability on the Macdonald campus through the development of anti-oppression resources and education for students and staff, allowing all to work together towards a more inclusive and supportive campus community, supporting key goals of the Vision2020 Governance & Administration and Education categories. Additionally, the implementation of Mental Health Awareness Week, Consent Week, and the Bystander Intervention Program, all focus on expanding students' understanding of self-care, peer support, consent, and healthy relationships. This is especially relevant to the Connectivity goals of Vision2020, by promoting a broad conception of health and better ways of engaging and relating with one another.

Finally, the goal of this project is to build and institutionalize programming capacity on the campus. As such, the full-time Coordinator position created will cease to exist after two years, while the created student positions will be incorporated into different units and groups. This is particularly important, as there are few paid programming-related

opportunities available for students on the Macdonald campus. The Coordinator will address the current lack of expertise and staffing directed towards these goals, so that the units involved are then able to continue the programming after the project is complete and have the capacity to support, develop, and expand them in the future.

Deliverable/Milestones:

- Institutionalization of Rez Project modules, Mental Health Awareness Week, Consent Week, and the Bystander Intervention Program on the Macdonald campus
- Creation of new Student Services initiative to improve student knowledge of available services
- Mental health lesson plan based on existing student testimonial videos for professors to use³
- Development and implementation of ongoing equity and mental health training for student groups and staff members, such as inclusive event planning
- Institutionalization of student positions within the appropriate units, with proper support for both student and supervising permanent staff (primarily second year)
- Protocol for future programming initiative development and expansion to the Macdonald campus (primarily second year)
- Detailed stakeholder plan to ensure the long-term continuation and improvement of resources and programming developed through this project (primarily second year)

Stakeholders:

Please see the attached letters of support & commitment from the following individuals, associations and groups:

Jana Luker (Executive Director, Services for Student), Bianca Tétrault (Harm Reduction Liaison Officer, Dean of Students' Office), Julia Lévy-Ndejuru (Coordinator, Peer Helper Program), Tynan Jarrett (Equity Educational Advisor (LGBTQ), Social Equity and Diversity Education Office), Emily Yee Clare (Residences Anti-Oppression Programme Coordinator, Student Housing and Hospitality Services), Dr. Jennifer Janzen (Interim Clinical Director, McGill Counselling Services), Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost, Student Life and Learning)

Project Implementation

Timeframe:

This project will be implemented over a two-year period starting in the Summer 2015 and ending Winter 2017 (this application is just for the first year, so the activity and timeline breakdown pertains only to this time period):

- Preliminary work is currently being done with stakeholders to prepare for the project
- Summer 2015 – Winter 2016 will serve for the adaptation and first trial roll-out of initiatives, with the Coordinator being primarily responsible for the supervision and support of the student staff
- Winter 2016 will be geared towards assessing first roll-out, working on further programming adaptation, and exploring integration options within university units
- Summer 2016 – Winter 2017 will serve for the second roll-out of initiatives, with units taking on greater oversight, and then the full institutionalization of new unit responsibilities and finalization of Macdonald programming development processes

Type of Activity – Task	Estimated Time Required	Timeline	Group Member
Overseeing of adaptation and provision of Rez Project modules for the Macdonald context	200 hours (10 hours/week for 20 weeks)	Summer 2015 (development) Fall 2015 (provision)	Cameron, Ria, Lindsay, Bianca
Development of anti-oppression resources, such as taking over the Rez Project tumblr, creating equitable event guidelines, etc.	260 hours (5 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Lindsay, Ria
Expanding and coordinating ongoing monitors, staff, & support staff anti-oppression training	160 hours (8 hours/week for 20 weeks)	Summer 2015 (development) Fall 2015 (provision)	Cameron, Lindsay, Ria

development and provision			
Supporting Mental Health Awareness Week and Consent Week coordination	60 hours (4 hours/week for 15 weeks)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Bianca, Lindsay, Sylvie, Cameron
Email correspondence and administrative tasks	208 hours (4 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron
Liaising with Student Services units	364 hours (7 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Sylvie
Supporting assessment process of student needs	150 hours	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Rich
Supporting the establishment of the Bystander Intervention Program at the Macdonald campus	208 hours (4 hour/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Bianca, Sylvie
Liaising with McGill equity-related groups	312 hours (6 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron
Liaising with Laird Hall Committee and providing training as required.	156 hours (3 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Lindsay
Liaise with the MCSS, MCGSS, and PHP	208 hours (4 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron
Supporting of student-led workshop, discussion group & movie screening provision	104 hours (2 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Lindsay, Ria
Resource provision and support for the broader Macdonald campus community	255 hours (5 hours/week)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron
Development of Know Your Services campaign	300 hours (10 hours/week for 30 weeks)	Summer 2015-Winter 2016	Cameron, Jana, Sylvie, Rich
Development of mental health teaching module	40 hours	Winter 2016	Cameron, Sylvie
Initial development of protocol for future initiative and programming expansion	50 hours (5 hours/week for 10 weeks)	Winter 2016	Cameron, Lindsay, Sylvie
Evaluation of initiatives and initial plan for integration into McGill units, including liaising and training to support efforts after the completion of the Coordinator's contract	50 hours (5 hours/week for 10 weeks)	Winter 2016	Cameron, Lindsay, Ria, Sylvie

Financials

Detailed expenses:

Expense Description	Estimated Cost	Comments
Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project Coordinator Salary	\$55,965	Student Services HR Advisor provided the following: <i>M-Casual, Grade 2 position (based on 35 hours a week):</i> \$45,500 + 23% (Benefits) = \$55,965
Student Staff Positions	\$17,100	All at the rates of \$15/hour + 20% (Benefits): Rez Project Coordinator (600 hours); Mental Health Week Coordinator (100 hours); Consent Week Coordinator (100 hours); Know Your Services Campaign Coordinator (150 hours)
Workshops presenter/facilitator fees	\$1,500	Any individual can be extensively versed in matters of equity. However, it is important to recognise how a plurality of voices ensures a holistic and

		comprehensive approach to anti-oppression.
Translations, materials, and communication material development, design, and publication	\$5,000	Mental Health Awareness Week, Consent Week, and Know Your Services all require significant poster and pamphlet design/printing & multi-media promotion. And because of the higher francophone population on the Macdonald campus, it will be important to ensure that all Rez Project modules are translated into French.
Total:	\$79,565	

Detailed revenues:

Revenue Source	Amount Requested	Confirmed?
Sustainability Projects Fund	\$66,265	No
Student Services Innovation Fund (for MHAW Coordinator salary, supplies, and facilitator fees)	\$2,500	No
SHHS (for Rez Project Coordinator Position)	\$10,800	Yes
Total:	\$79,565	

In-Kind Donations:

Collaborator	Donation	Comments
SHHS	----	Office space and supervision (75 hours) for the Mac Community Wellbeing Project Coordinator; 200+ work hours for programming and training development in the project's first year, as well as ongoing implementation support after the departure of the Project Coordinator
Dean of Students	----	Materials for Consent Week; facilitator training and supplies for Bystander Intervention Program
Social Equity & Diversity Education Office	----	150+ work hours for materials consultations, and workshop development and delivery in the project's first year, as well as ongoing implementation support after the departure of the Project Coordinator.

Additional information

Cameron Butler has extensive experience with developing anti-oppression and mental health programming and resources, particularly within the McGill and Macdonald contexts. Please see the attached CV for the position of *Community Wellbeing Project Coordinator* for more information.

Bibliography

1 Munroe-Blum, H. (2011). Principal's task force on diversity, excellence, and community engagement. McGill University, Montreal.

2 Di Genova, L. and V. Romano. (2013). Student psychological wellbeing at McGill University: A report of findings from the counselling and mental health benchmark study. McGill University, Montreal.

3 Healthy McGill. (2014). Students and mental health video series. Link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPV-qYk1eWs&list=PLKb85CWdVI-uXk0nPKLHy-6bq4vv9ALYL>.

To the Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund,

March 4th, 2015

It is my great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Sustainable Projects Fund Application: Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project being submitted by Cameron Butler.

This is a much needed project that will help promote the wellbeing of Macdonald campus students through assuring the expansion of the Consent Campaign, and assisting with the implementation of the Becoming an Active Bystander Program. Both initiatives are aimed to reduce the incidences of sexual violence and to foster a culture of responsibility in our community.

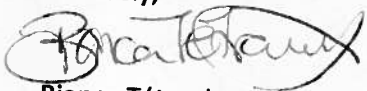
Sexual violence is a serious problem, and our campuses are not immune. In an effort to provide a space where our students can engage in a dialogues on consent and healthy sexual activity McGill launched its first consent campaign last October. The campaign proved to be a success amongst staff and students. However, through the campaign's Exit Report it was found that without a designated coordinator charged with implementing the campaigns messaging and creating the necessary connections at the Macdonald campus to promote the different events, our efforts to expand the campaign to the Macdonald campus did not meet our expected goals. "It was also suggested that increased paid support be made available to support the campaign, for example, logistic coordinators for both the downtown and Macdonald campus, promotion, training, etc." (#ConsentMcGill Campaign Summary Report 2014).

Additionally, the creation of the new Coordinator and student position will help substantially with the implementation and expansion of the Becoming an Active Bystander program at the Macdonald campus. As quoted in the Fund Application, "(T)here has been a consistent struggle in successfully implementing downtown campus-initiated projects at the Macdonald campus because of its very different campus culture and practices". The bystander workshop requires that its curriculum be tailored to fit the needs of its audience to properly empower participants to create a culture of change. With the implementation of the two new proposed positions I am confident that the development and implementation of the bystander program at the Macdonald campus will be a success.

Finally, I have had the great opportunity to collaborate with Cameron Butler on the two above mentioned initiatives. As a McGill graduate and a student who attended classes on the Macdonald campus, Cameron has a very good understanding of the needs of Macdonald campus students and the necessary improvements that are required to develop and expand its institutional capacity for equity and community programming. I look forward to our continued collaboration in the coming year.

In conclusion, I fully support the proposed project as it seeks funding from the Sustainability Project Fund. Any program that seeks to promote equity will benefit our students, campus and community at large.

Sincerely,



Bianca Tétrault ts. Liaison Officer Harm Reduction



Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)

Premier vice-principal exécutif adjoint (études et vie étudiante)

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March 5th, 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
1010 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 1200
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2R7

To the members of the Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund:

I am writing to express my support for the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project. I believe it is a wonderful project that will have broad and long-lasting positive impacts on the Macdonald community and McGill more widely.

The areas of equity, mental health, and consent have been ones that have received increasing attention on the campuses of universities across Canada, and at McGill in particular. This has led to the development of new resources and efforts to address these issues, such as the Bystander Intervention Program, the creation of the Mental Health Working Group, and current development of a Sexual Assault Policy.

With this current momentum, now is an ideal time for a project like this one, to ensure that these efforts and steps forward achieve the positive impact that they should on the Macdonald campus. Successfully including Macdonald students in various engagement efforts has been difficult, and navigating the differences of the two campuses can be a challenge. This project will help improve this and support the flow of information and resources between the two campuses to allow for more effective and efficient programming development and provision.

Additionally, creating volunteer and employment opportunities for students is an important means of furthering students' post-secondary experiences and learning through extra-curricular activities. By building the capacity for the different programming included in the project, these student opportunities are created and staff are given the tools and training in order to create an environment in which students can flourish and develop new skills. With the strong focus on institutionalization and developing effective processes, the project makes sure that its impacts will be expanded and built upon in future years to respond to changing campus needs.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ollivier Dyens".

Ollivier Dyens
Deputy Provost



March 5th, 2015

RE: Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project

To the members of the Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support and commitment endorsing the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project. The proposal covers many areas and initiatives, several of which are directly related to Counselling Services and mental health.

Mental health issues are complex and often shaped by individual's identities and experiences. When working to understand and address mental health issues at McGill, it is important to recognize how the Macdonald campus will have both different needs, and different viable options for addressing them. This application has focused on a clear and concrete plan to draw upon existing resources and groups to shape programming towards fulfilling the particular needs that Macdonald students have.

Counselling Services is committed to supporting the coordination of Mac Mental Health Awareness Week. We have agreed to partner with Cameron Butler and his colleagues in forwarding an application for financial support through the Student Services Innovation Fund to cover the coming year's costs. We are also committed to exploring options to secure ongoing funding to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of the initiative. Finally, we are eager to take part in discussions around increasing the presence of Counselling Services on the Macdonald campus, and participating in outreach campaigns, such as 'Know Your Services' to promote the resources available to students.

Overall, this is a well thought out and comprehensive proposal which will address an important need in the McGill Community. We are looking forward to working with the project team on the initiatives that are related to our unit and mandate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Janzen
Interim Director
McGill Counselling Services

March 4th, 2015

To whom it may concern,

The Macdonald Helper Program (PHP) is a peer support service available to all McGill students and staff. It holds drop-in hours bi-weekly where trained peer helpers offer support through active listening and non-judgmental conversation. This is a confidential service. The PHP was created in September 2014 after a year of reflection and research. Cameron Butler was the instigator of this project and was joined by some MCSS counsel members who also saw a great need at Mac for peer-to-peer support. I was one of these students. Initially, MCSS planned establishing a partnership with the PSN (Peer Support Network), a downtown peer support initiative, to extend their services to the Macdonald campus. After many meetings with PSN executives, it was decided that Mac's unique setting and smaller student population made it so that it should have its own peer support service, separate and different from the PSN. Over the summer, after researching the topic, I put together a proposal for the implementation of the Macdonald Peer Helper Program. It was approved and peer helpers began their training in October 2014.

This past year, the PHP's mandate was to provide a peer support service. In the year to come, the team is ready to collaborate with the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project in the organization of the Mental Health Awareness Week. We are also ready to explore additional responsibilities that the PHP may take on in the future, such as the organization of the bystander intervention program and the mental health module of the Rez Project.

McGill's Macdonald community is a wonderful environment for students to evolve in. Unfortunately, being far from downtown has its downsides, one of which being the clear lack of mental health services and well-being promoting initiatives.

The implementation of the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project is absolutely necessary. It would help in diminishing the discrepancies that exist between services and activities offered at the down town campus compared to those offered at Mac. Students and staff have been responding favourably to the PHP's activities as well as the first Mental Health Awareness Week lead by Cameron in the Fall semester.

The Macdonald community was lucky to have had Cameron as a student leader: he is a person of action. Without his persistence, the PHP would not exist and he has been very helpful in its implementation up to this day. He is determined to bring more services and mental health resources at Mac and has already started to do so by organizing our first Mental Health Awareness week and helped organize last year's Mac Forum on Consent. I firmly believe that Cameron would be the most qualified Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project Coordinator possible. His experience as a Mac student and student leader, as well as the amount of work he has already put in to making our campus a better place make him the perfect candidate.

Sincerely,

Julia Lévy-Ndejuru
Coordinator, MCSS/MCGSS Peer Helper Program

March 5, 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
1010 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 1200
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2R7

To the SPF Working Group:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter endorsing the Macdonald Community Well-Being Project Proposal. The proposal is succinct, well-thought out, and has effectively addressed a long-term strategy for sustainable integration of the project into different McGill Units. Further, it highlights the Student Housing & Hospitality Services (SHHS) continued support for anti-oppression programming throughout McGill.

As stated in the progress report submitted to the SPF Working Group in December 2014, the Residences Anti-Oppression Project (SPF 0126) has successfully implemented a range of trainings, workshops, service expansion, and awareness campaigns for the SHHS population. Further, the SPF 0126 project team organized and facilitated Macdonald Residence Monitor Orientation Training. Topics included but were not limited to, drugs & harm reduction, anti-oppression training, and basic active listening. The Macdonald project will build on this progress and target its services to the specific needs of the satellite campus.

SHHS has confirmed to support this proposal in the following ways:

- Ongoing advisorial support and mentorship for the project coordinator
- Access to all trainings and resources developed by SPF 0126
- In-kind donations of a workspace, computer, and phone
- Collaborative support between the Downtown Campus and Macdonald Campus Rez Project Coordinators.

I look forward to witnessing the evolution of this project. I am confident that it will yield many tangible results for a long-term impact to the Macdonald Campus community. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Yee Clare
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March 4th, 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
1010 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 1200
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2R7

To the members of the Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund:

The Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) Office wishes to express its strong support for the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Proposal submitted by Lindsay O'Connell of Student Housing and Hospitality Services, in partnership with Student Services, the Office of the Dean of Students, and McGill alumnus Cameron Butler.

SEDE has an ongoing, collaborative relationship with Student Housing which has been bolstered through the Residences Anti-Oppression Programming Project. The expansion of Rez Project, particularly with the development of the Race Project module, has created a stronger vocabulary and understanding for students to have conversations around race and racism. The partial roll-out done this year created invaluable space for students to engage in transformative learning.

SEDE has worked hard to expand its presence on the Macdonald campus and is excited that this Proposal will provide the opportunity to further expand its presence and resource development aimed towards Macdonald students. SEDE has provided ad hoc training for Macdonald Student Services staff previously, and establishing more ongoing trainings and support would be significant step forward in promoting equity and inclusiveness on that campus.

This project will build on a close collaboration with our office. We will be pleased to contribute to the following:

- Ongoing support for staff training for both Macdonald Student Services and Student Housing and Hospitality Services
- Editing for training materials and reports
- Advising and strategic support for various projects

We strongly believe this project will help to foster a more welcoming and supportive place for student and community members and has the potential to be a sustainable model to share with other units at McGill.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tynan Jarrett".

Tynan Jarrett

Equity Educational Advisor
Social Equity and Diversity Education Office
E-mail: tynan.jarrett@mcgill.ca



March 5, 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
McGill Office of Sustainability

To whom it may concern,

As the representative of Student Services, I am pleased to offer my full support to the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project at McGill.

The goals of this project represent values that Student Services upholds in its mission to support and promote student success and well-being. The realization of the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project is invaluable to our objective to foster a campus environment committed to inclusion, equity, and sustainability. A clear process for developing programming on the Macdonald Campus is in need and will be very beneficial.

Student Services has committed to:

- Collaborating with the Coordinator on assessing student needs at Macdonald Campus
- Supporting the exploration of options for institutionalizing Mental Health Awareness Week
- Supporting the "Know Your Services" campaigning as a promising initiative to expand Student Services outreach to Macdonald Campus Students

The Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project not only upholds but enhances the core values of Student Services, and aims to implement them in sustainable initiatives. Student Services is fully supportive of this initiative and looks forward to this collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jana L. Luker
Executive Director, Services for Students



McGill

Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo, Eng.

James McGill Professor and Dean

Faculty of Agricultural
and Environmental Sciences

McGill University
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March 10, 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
1010 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 1200
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To the members of the Selection Committee of the Sustainability Fund:

As the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, I wish to express my sincere support for the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Proposal submitted by Lindsay O'Connell of Student Housing and Hospitality Services.

The Macdonald Campus is home to a diverse and international community of students, academic staff, and non-academic staff. Our campus prides itself upon being a close-knit and supportive community where all individuals are welcomed and able to succeed.

The Macdonald Community Wellbeing Proposal would be a major opportunity for the campus to further this goal and promote inclusion, understanding, and celebration of our diverse community. The implementation of the Rez Project modules would be a valuable resource in addressing issues around homophobia, racism, and gender-based violence. It would give students a shared language to discuss their experiences and learn from each other.

The student response to Mac Mental Health Awareness Week this past November showed that they strongly want and need these kinds of programming to be more available to them. With the increasing discussions around mental health at universities, it is essential that students have the tools to help each other and themselves, to know how to support their peers and engage in self-care.

This project will significantly enhance student life and well-being on the Macdonald Campus. I am excited to watch it unfold and see it impact the community.

Yours truly,

Chandra A. Madramootoo, Ph.D., P.Eng.
James McGill Professor and Dean



McGill

Lydia White, FRSC

Associate Provost
(Policies, Procedures and Equity)
James McGill Professor of Linguistics

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Lydia White, MSRC

Vice-principale exécutive adjointe
(politiques, procédures et équité)
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March 10th 2015

Sustainability Projects Fund
Office of Sustainability
McGill University

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in support of the application for funding for the Macdonald Community Wellbeing Project at the Macdonald campus of McGill University, which is being submitted by a team headed by Lindsay O'Connell. As Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity), as well as Chair of the Joint Board Senate Committee on Equity, policies and initiatives relating to equity and diversity fall under my mandate. This project builds on and extends the successful Rez Project funded last year by the Sustainability Projects Fund. The current proposal clearly relates to social sustainability, as understood in Vision 2020, in that it will provide education and awareness training on mental health, equity and diversity, as well as making students on the Macdonald campus more aware of the support services available to them.

The project is well thought out with a realistic timeline. It is essential that students on the Macdonald campus should benefit from the kinds of initiatives that have already been introduced downtown. Crucially, the aim is for the groundwork to be laid by the work of the Coordinator of this project. The initiatives that the Coordinator will introduce are expected to continue in the longer term, with stakeholders taking responsibility for the continuation of the project, thus contributing to true sustainability. In conclusion, this proposal has my strongest support.

Yours sincerely,

Lydia White
James McGill Professor
Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity)