

## **QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**

responsible actions in the area of sustainability, including through socially responsible investment.

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McGill remains committed to implementing meaningful and responsible actions in the area of sustainability, including through socially responsible investment.

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### **QUESTION 3:**

**One hot meal, including a main and two sides (not including a drink, desert, or snack) at the McGill cafeteria costs approximately \$14. On average, McGill students have to pay approximately 4 times more on food than the average Canadian does. Students in residence have reported going hungry and developing eating disorders due directly to the current food and cafeteria systems in place at McGill (McGill Tribune). Cafeteria prices for basic items have continued to increase semesterly without corresponding compensation to students who had already purchased (or been forced to purchase, because of being in residence) a meal plan. Unlike other universities, McGill refuses to subsidize its cafeteria prices. Also unlike other universities, McGill refuses to monetarily support soup kitchen organizations on campus such as Midnight Kitchen, which is funded entirely by limited**

**funding directly from the university, and therefore are able to support students at a more sustainable level. What action will McGill take in order to stop its students from going hungry? COVID-19 has also impacted food inflation in which the cost is put on to students. Why has the school not used any of it \$1.89 billion endowment in subsidizing basic human needs such as food?  
which COVID-19 qualifies as?**

### **RESPONSE:**

The current mandatory, declining balance, meal plan offers residence students an introductory base amount of food dollars. The cost of the mandatory meal plan has not increased in recent years but due to high inflation and increased food costs, students on the mandatory meal plan have seen their purchasing power drop since the pandemic. To address these issues, the University is developing a change in the meal plan model to a dine-in, All-You-Care-To-Eat (AYCTE) meal plan model which would provide students unlimited access to fresh and nutritious meals and snack options throughout the day while removing the worry or need to budget food dollars.

To the specific question of the usage of the endowment fund, it is important to realize that this fund is not a reserve that can simply be drawn from; most endowed amounts that make up the fund are earmarked for a specific purpose, according to the wishes of the original donor.

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#### **QUESTION IV:**

**Mental health services at McGill are inadequate as students have to endure long wait times to have access to counselling sessions, and even when they are able to access them, they are inconsistent and infrequent at best. In a written statement to the Tribune on behalf of the Wellness Hub, Frédérique Mazerolle, a McGill media relations officer, explained that the Hub does not have the means financially or staff-wise addition to not providing emergency care for students in crisis, students have reported wait times of weeks and sometimes months for access to psychological counselling at the source of funding for the University's core activities, including student aid, faculty positions, groundbreaking research, and much more.**

## **QUESTION V**

**Only 8 of 25 members of the board are elected, resulting in the perpetual override of the democratic process at McGill. Firstly, divestment from fossil fuels has received broad**

The Board acknowledges that certain topics may be divisive within the community. In the context of making decisions on matters within its purview, the Board is bound by the fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the University as a whole. While its deliberations are informed by the views of various constituencies, including students, academic staff and alumni, the Board makes decision as a single body with a view to protecting the long-term interests of the University. In addition, depending on the subject matter, the Board, in its decision making, is assisted by other bodies, including the University Senate and Board Committees.

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