Office of the
**Vice-Principal,
Administration and Finance**

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November 30, 2020

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability
in Higher Education (AASHE)
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Report for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

On behalf of McGill University, it is my pleasure to present our third report for AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).

McGill's Gold rating demonstrates our ongoing commitment to fostering excellence in sustainability, which extends throughout our University—in our research and teaching, in our facilities and their operations, in our daily administration, and through our engagement with the wider community.

McGill's sustainability efforts have been guided by our Sustainability Policy and many other policies and procedures that have been revised and updated in recent years. Thanks in large part to McGill's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2017-2020 and projects supported through the Sustainability Projects Fund, we have improved our STARS performance since our last report in 2016.

What makes many of McGill's innovative sustainability initiatives unique are dynamic collaborations between committed students, staff, faculty, and community members in Montreal. These initiatives represent a holistic view of sustainability, including environmental, social, and economic aspects, as can be seen in the following examples:

- **Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2017-2020** is the University's second action plan, and the first to clearly focus on climate action. Driven by two ambitious long-term targets—to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and to attain a STARS Platinum rating by 2030—the Action Plan institutionalizes concrete objectives to reduce McGill's carbon footprint and bolster sustainable initiatives on campus. Vision 2020 encompasses all three pillars of sustainability while setting up McGill for long-term success.
- **McGill Board of Governors Sustainability Committee**: In December 2019, the McGill Board of Governors approved the establishment of the Sustainability Committee as a standing committee of the Board. The Committee's mandate is to assist the Board in setting and achieving

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institutional priorities and goals, and in monitoring progress in the area of sustainability. The new committee expands the stewardship role of the Board of Governors and is yet another step towards achieving the highest possible standards of sustainability on McGill's campuses.

- **McGill Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF)**: McGill's SPF reached 1 million dollars in 2020 and is the largest SPF of its kind in Canada. The Sustainability Projects Fund mandate is to build a culture of sustainability on McGill campuses through the development and seed-funding of interdisciplinary projects. Since 2010, there has been $10 million allocated to projects and over 250 projects funded, 86% of which were staff-student collaborations.

This report represents a substantial, campus-wide effort led by McGill's Office of Sustainability to assess and report on our progress towards sustainability. STARS has proven to be a valuable tool for tracking and reporting on the University's sustainability activities, as well as for identifying opportunities for improvement.

We are pleased to have been a part of the development of STARS from the very beginning and are committed to remaining a sustainability leader for years to come. To maintain our momentum, we will be publishing our Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 in December. I am confident that this new strategy will help guide our University to a Platinum STARS rating by 2030 and I look forward to sharing our achievements in our next STARS submission.

Sincerely,

Yves Beauchamp
Vice-Principal, Administration and Finance