

September 13, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Zahniser,

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

McGill's Gold rating demonstrates our ongoing commitment to excellence in sustainability that 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 Environmental Policy (2001) and Sustainability Policy (2010), and thanks to McGill's Vision 2020 Sustainability Strategy (2014) and our flagship Sustainability Projects Fund, we have improved our STARS performance since our last report in 2012.

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.

- **Sustainability Projects Fund** — This \$880,000 per year program established in Fall 2009 is the largest of its kind in North America. It is funded through student fees matched dollar-for-dollar by the McGill administration. To date, the Fund has supported more than 155 projects, from farmers markets to anti-oppression programs. Approximately half of projects are led by staff and students. 90% of project teams involve student-staff collaboration. Projects both big and small are funded with the purpose of continuing to build a culture of sustainability at McGill.

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- **Managing for Sustainability Major and Concentration (MSUS) programmes** — This award-winning programme was the result of collaboration between the Desautels Faculty of Management, the McGill School of Environment, and the Department of Geography. Officially launched in the fall of 2014, the MSUS programme for Bachelor of Commerce students provides a holistic approach to management education, beyond the traditional of emphasizing economic value at the potential expense of ecological and social well-being.
- **Sustainability in Governance** — In November 2015, the template used by members of the Board of Governors and Senate to bring forward topics for information and approval was expanded to include a question on sustainability considerations. This innovation both encourages writers to think about the potential sustainability impacts of their propositions and informs decision-makers of these impacts.

This report represents a substantial, campus-wide effort led by McGill's Office of Sustainability to assess and report on our progress towards sustainability. Compiled through a substantial data collection and review process, I can affirm, to the best of my knowledge, that our submission is complete and accurate. 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, McGill is in the midst of setting new priority actions for our Vision 2020 Sustainability Strategy. I am confident that this new process will allow our University to achieve new heights in sustainability and I look forward to sharing these achievements in our next STARS submission.

Sincerely,



Professor Suzanne Fortier