

To:

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Message:

To the SSMU Board of Directors,

I am writing as a SSMU Member because I am deeply disappointed in the Board's decision to overrule the Legislative Council's adoption of the Motion Regarding SSMU Building Gender Neutral Washrooms.

The Motion puts the SSMU in line with McGill policies on gender-neutral washrooms, while preserving some single-sex and single-occupancy washrooms. The current washrooms were designed over 50 years ago and are woefully inadequate for the current student body:

- The number of wheelchair-accessible stalls is limited to approximately one per floor, per gender. It is completely unacceptable for students with disabilities to be forced to change floors to find an available washroom.
- Mothers have to change their babies in the lounge of women's washrooms, in full view of other people.
- Fathers can only access one baby changing table in the entire building, located on a different floor from the SSMU Daycare.
- There is little privacy provided by the stall partitions, leading people to feel uncomfortable in the washrooms and changing menstrual products.
- There are only three single-occupancy universal toilets in the building, to meet the needs of the entire student body. In single-sex shared washrooms, trans and non-binary students are exposed to harassment, which SSMU has committed to end under the Trans Advocacy Plan.

It is imperative to have universally accessible washroom facilities in the University Centre with private, floor-to-ceiling stalls and childcare stations. Shared women's and shared men's washrooms are a 20th century design that is inaccessible to a growing proportion of the student body, trans and non-trans alike. They should not be the majority of the facilities at the SSMU.

Student representatives on the Legislative Council overwhelmingly voted for the Motion. It is unacceptable that the Board overturns democratic process in order to continue

trans-exclusionary practices at the SSMU. Please ratify the Motion Regarding SSMU Building Gender Neutral Washrooms immediately.

Sincerely,

Further context:

See our public statement: [Statement on SSMU Gender-Neutral Washrooms](#)

If you're an Arts student: Emma Chen and Rishi Kalaga are Arts Councillors and Directors. Both voted against the Motion at Council and they are some of the loudest voices at the Board opposing it. Their Council emails are artsrep1@ssmu.ca and artsrep2@ssmu.ca, respectively. Please send them emails as an Arts student. You can also reach out to the AUS to express disappointment that your representatives are supporting transphobia. The AUS president's email is president.aus@mail.mcgill.ca.