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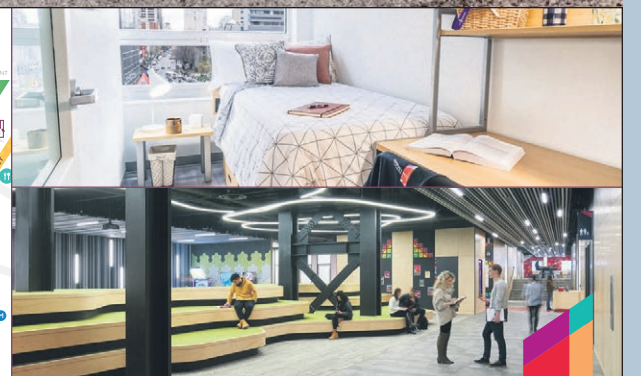
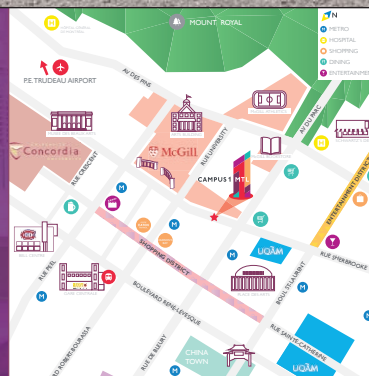
# THE McGill Daily

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THE McGill Daily

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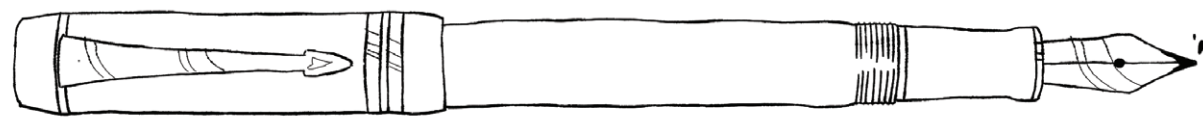
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## Hurricane Response in Bahamas is Environmental Racism

**O**n September 9, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) ordered 103 Bahamian evacuees to get off a ferry scheduled for Florida if they did not have visas, according to reporter Brian Entin. Bahamians are required to have either preclearance from US facilities in Nassau and Freeport or a visa in order to enter the US. However, communication by acting CBP commissioner Mark Morgan announced that the US would let in Bahamians, stating, “this is a humanitarian mission [...] If your life is in jeopardy and you’re in the Bahamas [...] You’re going to be allowed to come to the United States, whether you have travel documents or not.” However, Trump later said to journalists that every Bahamian would need proper documentation, and made racist statements claiming that some evacuees were “very bad people.” The last-minute miscommunication and conflicting statements between CBP officials and Trump on the entry policy within the US left hundreds of evacuees stranded on the island of Nassau, while their home islands were gravely affected by Hurricane Dorian. Further, CBP’s expectations that residents would be able to gather official documents during a hurricane are unrealistic, and bipartisan calls to suspend all visa requirements during the crisis have been ignored by the US government. The lack of mainstream coverage and the mismanagement of CBP and disaster relief organizations come as a result of the hurricane mainly affecting islands like the Abacos and Grand Bahama, which are not typically tourist locations. The Bahamas, which were formerly a British colony and became an independent country within the Commonwealth in 1973, is more than its tourism. It is comprised of almost 700 islands, 30 of which are inhabited.

The news coverage and rhetoric around Hurricane Dorian have been largely focused on the impact on the tourism industry, rather than on human lives and the material loss for the inhabitants of the islands. Even within the media’s misguided discussion of the country’s economy, the coverage remains classist. More than 70,000 Abacoans and Grand Bahamians who commute to Nassau, where they largely work on cruise ships or in the homes of the rich, are now displaced from their homes. This attention to tourism focuses on the wealthy foreign tourists, rather than on the racialized working class, whose labour upholds the tourism industry.

Hurricane Dorian is a direct manifestation of the climate crisis. However, the devastation caused by the hurricane is rarely linked to a larger discussion on who is impacted first and most severely by climate change. Natural disasters in the Caribbean must be contextualized and addressed as a result of environmental racism. While the US leads the world in greenhouse gas emissions, it is racialized populations who are

primarily affected by “natural disasters,” and who are denied adequate disaster management response. Racialized climate refugees are then denied entry in countries like the US and criminalized should they manage to enter.

Great Abaco, one of the main islands hit by the hurricane, has large informal housing communities where Haitian refugees, who fled from the 2010 earthquake, have settled. Those housing communities are now gone as a result of the category five hurricane. “Everybody says, ‘Leave.’ Leave and go where?” said Jackson Blatch, one of the 20,000 residents of Great Abaco living in informal housing. With over 60,000 people in need of food and water, the Abacos and Grand Bahama are now left unlivable for thousands of Haitian refugees, who were already victims of environmental racism.

It will cost an estimated seven billion dollars to repair the damage in the Bahamas caused by Hurricane Dorian. Instead of providing aid to Grand Bahama and the Abacos, some people are encouraging tourism in Nassau as a means of offering support, while totally dismissing the crisis in Great Abaco and Grand Bahama. This means of “support” does not include resources that help communities in the Abacos or Grand Bahamas. Informal housing communities were already fighting for the state to fund the construction of permanent housing even before the hurricane’s damage. At the same time, the government was actively tearing down informal settlements and surveilling inhabitants with drone technology to prevent them from building new necessary housing. Making these islands livable again will take much more than tourism campaigns which bolster areas that mostly serve wealthy vacationers, not permanent residents. According to the UN, there are several communities that already do not have access to clean drinking water or sanitation. Effects of an oil spill, reported to have reached over 70-80 kilometers into the open ocean, render any remaining clean water unusable, and leave citizens needing both food and water assistance. Getting these islands back to a livable state will take immense combined efforts to rebuild homes and infrastructure, provide basic necessities, and clean up the environmental disasters in the hurricane’s wake. The burden of these efforts should not just fall on countries affected by the hurricane, but should include international aid, especially from former colonial countries

We must reorient how we talk about climate change, recognizing that it disproportionately affects racialized populations and former colonies. We can support the Bahamas by donating to local funds such as the National Association of the Bahamas, and the Bahamas Red Cross.

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# In Negotiations with the University

## MCLIU Updates Members in General Assembly

YASNA KHADEMIAN  
The McGill Daily

On September 13, the McGill Course Lecturers and Instructors Union (MCLIU) held its second General Assembly (GA) of the year in Leacock 232. On the agenda was the approval of the previous GA's minutes, MCLIU President Raad Jassim's report, the report of the Union's finances for the first six months of the year, and the report of the Chair of the Bargaining Committee, to which the bulk of the GA was dedicated.

The MCLIU has been in negotiations with its employer, McGill University, since June 2018. The Union's first collective agreement was ratified in 2015, and they are currently negotiating their second collective agreement (the first was set to expire in October 2018). Their primary issue with the agreement is Clause 15.03, which they argue the University has purposefully misinterpreted in order to increase external hiring and limit their teaching opportunities.

"You are the  
Union, you are  
our force."  
— Vice-President  
Ahmad Munir

Even though mediation on article 15.03 was scheduled for July 24 of this year, it ultimately did not happen. "After waiting for two years," President Jassim explained, "this is the second time that article 15.03 arbitration has been cancelled because of the employer" (the first time it was cancelled, McGill's lawyer was apparently sick).

"The employer is using every article in the book to stall, to delay, to object," he said to union members in his report. "But we will teach them there is democracy, and there

"The employer is using every article in the book to stall, to delay, to object, [...] But we will teach them there is democracy, and there is justice [...] It will take a long time, but you will be here a long time. Management will change — you won't."

— President Raad Jassim

is justice [...] It takes a long time, but you will be here for a long time. Management will change — you won't."

### NEW DELEGATES APPOINTED

After the President's report — and the subsequent presentation on the Union's finances — more than 15 new delegates were appointed to the Union. There are now about 30 of them total, from a variety of schools and departments. The delegate system, which was set up in 2013, is a crucial connection between the Union and members' respective departments.

Per the MCLIU's website, "delegates act as a direct link between the Union and their departments, and thus play an essential role in ensuring that the Union continues to represent the interests of its members."

As the motion to approve the new delegates passed, Vice-President Ahmad Munir told them, "You are the Union; you are our force."

### MEMBER GRIEVANCES

Nick Papatheodorakos, Grievance Officer and Chair of the Bargaining Committee, then provided a review of different issues Union members had recently brought forth.

One of these grievances was the distribution of courses to members with lower seniority, but Papatheodorakos says it's being resolved. He explained, "they recognized that you must respect the preference of the member — so if you have [a ranked list of four] courses, they should give you the first one if you're next in the seniority list to get courses" rather than the fourth-preferred course.

In addition, Papatheodorakos spoke to a practice that certain hiring units have been employing in order to bypass the limit on the number of PhD students hired under clause 15.03. According to him, some hiring units have been putting out calls to PhD students to submit specific course proposals.



YASNA KHADEMIAN | Photographer

"So there'll be five PhD students submitting a course proposal," he explains, "and then they'd pick one — the one that they wanted, and in most cases, it was the one that was of the chair or of somebody pretty high up who needed some research done." That course would then be posted on a 48-hour short posting, and everyone would be invited to apply. "But the problem is that that course was tailored for one individual," he says. The MCLIU has reportedly filed a grievance on this issue, and will go through arbitration.

"They're capping out on their reserve clause under 15.03," Papatheodorakos said, "and so to expand it, they're doing calls for course ideas so they can kind of swing around the back door and create another 15.03 list on their own."

### NEGOTIATIONS AND CONCILIATION REPORT

As the Chair of the Bargaining Committee, Papatheodorakos then presented a detailed report on the status of the Union's negotiations and the clauses the University has and has not budged on.

One of the clauses the University did concede on was the addition of clause 15.03.03, which would inform MCLIU members what courses are going to be reserved for external hires — including professionals and PhD students — under article 15.03 earlier than they previously had been informed.

"What was happening is we'd only find out which courses were reserved and allocated to professionals or PhD students a month after the semester started," Papatheodorakos explained. "But by that time [...] there would be a lot of time wasted. It created

anxiety amongst our membership, and it created stress and anxiety with the hiring units."

Now, MCLIU members will be informed of which courses are reserved at the beginning of each course allocation period — June 1, October 1, and February 1.

Another clause the University conceded on was article 21.06, extending the amount of time that Union members can file a complaint of harassment from 90 days to two years.

### CLAUSES AT ISSUE

While certain clauses passed without relative contention, the MCLIU still has a number of issues with the collective agreement that the University is not budging on.

One of these was article 2.03 — the definition of "Course Lecturer." Papatheodorakos maintained in the GA that even though the Principal has publicly stated that Course Lecturers are faculty, the bargaining team for the University refuses to recognize this.

"They fear [...] that if we get the word 'faculty' in there, we'll suddenly be demanding full professorship tenure-track appointments for some

strange reason," he explained. On the topic of academic freedom — in line with article 3.05 entitling Course Lecturers to "freedom of conscience and teaching" — the University has also not budged.

"We asked for academic freedom — we tried to explain to them why it's important, [but] they did not want to understand or they just were playing dumb," Papatheodorakos said. According to him, one member even thought conceding this would mean course lecturers would be able to change the class from 13 weeks to six.

Another article the University has been increasingly persistent on is 6.11, regarding the provision of free office space for the Union. "We've had no demands for this," Papatheodorakos said, "but for some reason this is something they're doing with all the unions — they're insisting on us signing a lease without having seen the lease. Everytime we ask them to see the lease, they say 'Oh, it's not ready yet.'"

But the University may have ulterior motives for removing the Union from Peel Street. "There's rumours that they're going to basically be selling or knocking down these buildings on 515 Pins and the row houses on Peel," Papatheodorakos added.

### FINAL COMMENTS

As the GA wrapped up, MCLIU introduced their newest member to the Executive Committee — Fabienne Cyrius, the Interim Communication and Mobilization Officer. She has worked for McGill for 10 years, lecturing in the Faculty of Management.

"When it comes to mobilization, it really depends on each one of us," Cyrius said. "Our force really comes with numbers."

"When it comes to mobilization, it really depends on each one of us...our force really comes with numbers."  
—Fabienne  
Cyrius, Interim  
Communication and  
Mobilization Officer

McGill



# SSMU Debates Gender-Neutral Language

## A Review of the First Legislative Council

ALEX KARASICK  
News Writer

On September 10, the SSMU Legislative Council convened for their first meeting of the fall semester. While a significant portion of Council was dedicated to committee allocations and reports from both the executives and committees, there were a number of important motions brought to council, notably the Motion Regarding Adoption of the Standing Rules, as well as the Motion Regarding Adoption of a Conflict of Interest Policy.

There was little debate regarding the latter, most significantly over how long to extend the policy for – Council eventually agreed to extend it until 2024 in order to stagger the dates that policies must return to Council. On the other hand, there was a great deal of debate regarding the changes to the standing rules, with a significant area of discussion focused on a number of the recommendations given by the Gender Neutral Language Researcher, specifically regarding the format of the placards used in Council, as well as responses to misgendering.

“In my experience, the coloured band on [councillors’] placards has become colloquially understood to refer to their gender identity and not their pronouns.”  
— Madeline Wilson

### COLOUR-CODED PRONOUNS ON PLACARDS

Clause 4.7.1, which was eventually removed from the motion, was particularly controversial. It stated, “placards will also use a neutral colour system to more easily identify commonly used pronouns as recommended by the Gender Neutral Language Policy Implementation Coordinator.” In this recommendation, green would be used for councillors using she/her pronouns, burgundy for councillors using he/him pronouns, and black for councillors using they/them pronouns.

However, councillors had different opinions on the colour scheme, with some advocating to keep it the same. It was eventually agreed to keep the placards red, and instead increase the font of the pronouns.

VP University Affairs Madeline Wilson, who was in favour of removing the coloured bands in exchange for increasing the font size of the pronouns, explained her position further to the *Daily*: “In my experience, the coloured band on [councillors’] placards has become colloquially understood to refer to their gender identity and not their pronouns. So for example, a councillor who used she/her and they/them pronouns and identified as a woman would be assigned the placard band color that denotes a female gender identity, which a) fails to capture the full picture of this person’s experience with gender and b) does not, in my opinion, simplify the identification of the pronouns by which they wish to be addressed.” She elaborated to say “that presenting options within the binary and then one option outside the binary conveys the idea that such a binary exists, when in reality, it does not.”

Wilson writes that SSMU Legislative Council has been a “deeply, systemically, and toxically masculine” space, and that “to implement this mechanism (the coloured placard bans) and do nothing to address the fact that Council can be (and has been) an actively hostile space for folks who

do not identify as male, [feels] like a slap in the face.”

### RESPONSES TO MISGENDERING DURING COUNCIL

Additionally, there was debate over clauses 2.7.5.2 and 2.7.5.3, the first of which mandated that if the Speaker notices the misgendering of any councillor, they call it to Council’s attention by stating, “Before we continue with debate, I would like to call attention to the pronouns specified on councillor [Last Name’s] placard.”

Clause 2.7.5.3 then mandated that if a councillor noticed the misgendering of another councillor, they call it to the attention of the Speaker on a Point of Personal Privilege. In the final, approved version of the standing rules, Council voted to change the language of the councillor clause from “[councillors] should call [the misgendering of another councillor] to the attention of the Speaker on a Point of Personal Privilege,” to “[councillors] may call this to the attention of the Speaker on a Point of Personal Privilege.”

Adam Gwiazda-Amsel, VP External at SSMU, was in favour of the change. “I argued that this wording change offered an avenue for recourse, but did not impose this obligation on councillors given that the person being misgendered might not want to call attention to it,” he wrote to the *Daily*. “In my comments, I encouraged councillors to ask one another if they’d like to be spoken up for.”

In addition, they removed clause 2.7.5.2, which required the Speaker

“The clause which mandates the speaker to call out misgendering would produce an incredibly uncomfortable environment for the person being misgendered, in case they did not want to call attention to it.”  
— Madeline Wilson



to address the misgendering. Gwiazda-Amsel elaborated on his reasoning in supporting this change. “The clause which mandates the speaker to call out misgendering would produce an incredibly uncomfortable environment for the person being misgendered, in case they did not want to call attention to it,” he explained.

This suggestion was first given by the SSMU Gender Neutral Language Researcher at a meeting of Council in September 2018. At this meeting, they explained the procedures they were proposing: “councillors must address each other formally, usually in the form of councillor last name, and avoid referring to one another using third person pronouns to promote a cordial environment,” they said.

### OTHER COUNCIL NEWS

Also acknowledged were the appointments of four new members to the Board of Governors, two of whom (councillors Bhutkar and Wright) are filling the role immediately as Interim Directors, while the other two (councillors Chan and Fakih) will enter the role on November 15.

A number of announcements were made as well. Importantly, several Committees are now open for applications for members-at-large, notably the Equity Committee (via the Equity Committee Facebook event) as well as the Library Improvement Fund Committee (which can be found at <https://ua.ssmu.ca/libraries/>). Additionally, elections for First Year Council have begun, and students can now access nomination kits for the Clubs and Services Representative position (available on SSMU’s Facebook page). Furthermore, it was announced that a number of motions regarding the climate change emergency would be brought to faculty and department councils in the near future.

Finally, it was noted that the SSMU General Manager, Ryan Hughes, had unfortunately resigned. He had worked at SSMU for the past seven years.

Montreal



# Demystifying Micromobility

## Great News for Urban Transportation?

AUDREY-FRÉDÉRIQUE  
LAVOIE  
News Writer

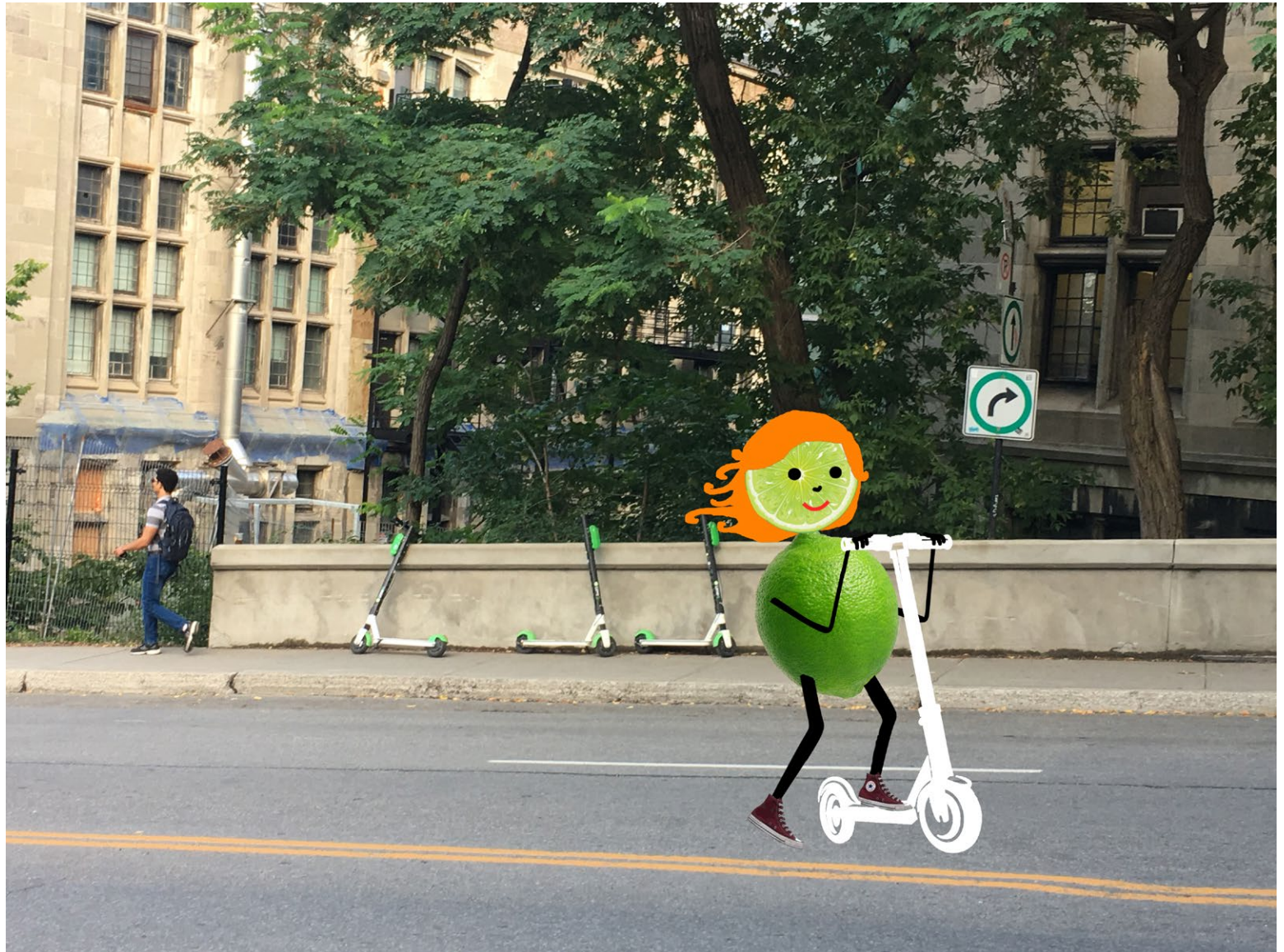
**M**icromobility – referring to the use of “light” vehicles such as small electric cars, electric bicycles, and all forms of scooters – has been increasing in popularity in recent years, as an “environmentally-friendly” alternative form of transportation. Recent years have brought shifts in citizens’ preferences for alternative modes of transportation, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

So it didn’t come as a surprise, when less than a month after dockless electric scooters made their debut in Calgary, Montreal – Canada’s second-largest city – officially launched a micromobility fleet of its own in mid-August. Due to their fast-growing popularity, this new movement has given rise to issues such as road safety, as well as public space-sharing and design.

But while Lime is reportedly “excited to get to work in Montreal,” many public officials and elected members of the City Council of Montreal are claiming the arrival and deployment of Lime in the city to be a disaster.

In late August, Montreal Mayor Valerie Plante told CBC that they are “not satisfied on how it is being implemented.”

One of the main issues comes from scooters blocking the sidewalk when parked. Even though Montreal has reserved 239 spaces for scooter parking in the city, Eric Alan Caldwell – city executive committee member responsible for mobility – told *the Montreal Gazette* that scooter parking is a recurring problem. “When they’re properly parked, it’s okay,” Caldwell told the *Gazette*, “but there are too many



PHOEBE PANNIER | The McGill Daily

scooters improperly parked in the streets of Montreal.”

### SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

According to INRIX – a transportation-focused research organization – on trips that are replaced by shared-bikes and scooters, cities are experiencing less traffic congestion, reduced emissions, and a local economic boost.

But even though the scooters themselves don’t emit carbon dioxide, the process of producing, charging, and transporting them is not emission-free. Researchers at North Carolina State University found that most of the harm comes from manufacturing the device and from transporting them around cities, which is typically done by car.

In addition to creating carbon emissions through the transportation process, Lime also poses several issues with their employment. According to Alex Youn, a representative for Lime’s Communications and Public Affairs, “juicers” – the people who charge scooters – are paid “between \$3-10+ per scooter, depending on the market” and are not paid hourly. When this pay is stacked against the prices of gas, as juicers must supply their own vehicles, the compensation is minimal.

The requirement of having a vehicle to work as a juicer also creates an issue with accessibility.

“I think it excludes a large portion of people who could actually benefit from [...] a job like this one.”

— McGill Student

One McGill student who entered the job application process with Lime told *the Daily*, “it’s almost impossible for people who don’t have cars [...] [or] a Canadian licence [sic] to get the job.”

“At the beginning I thought it was a cool side job students could take for some extra money, but most students don’t have a car they could use any time, and even if they did own one, the time commitment compared to the

payment, in addition to having to use your own gas aren’t worth it,” they added.

The student continued, “I think it excludes a large portion of people who could actually benefit from [...] a job like this one.”

### REGULATIONS AND SAFETY

Regulating the parking, speed, and permitted areas of operation for scooters is critical. Currently, Lime scooters have a speed limit of 20 km per hour, and they slow down in certain zones automatically. But rapid changes in the volume and modes of transportation on the road have made it difficult for cities, such as Montreal, to keep up.

But many Montreal residents are concerned with riders who often don’t wear a helmet. In a *Global News* article, one resident says they “haven’t seen one person wear a helmet yet, so many of them are riding on the sidewalk.” According to the same article, the city is currently in talks with Lime to address this.

“I thought it was a cool side job students could take for some extra money, but most students don’t have a car they could use any time, and even if they did own one, the time commitment compared to the payment, in addition to having to use your own gas aren’t worth it.”

— McGill Student

*Beyond*

# Disenfranchisement of Voters with Disabilities

## Accessibility is Still a Problem, Say Disability Rights Activists

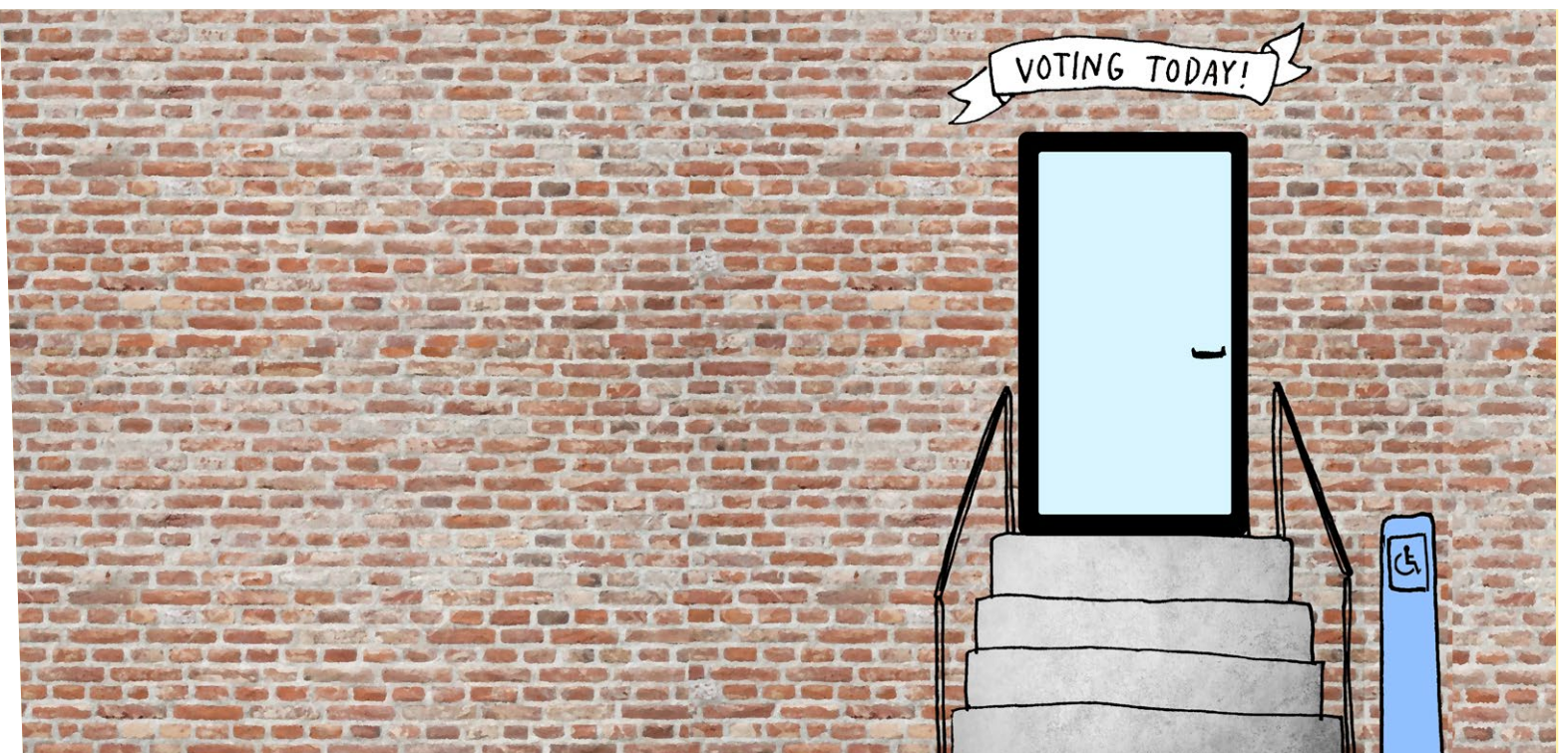
EMILY BLACK  
The McGill Daily

Since Canada's last federal election in 2015, much has changed – except, according to disability advocates, voter accessibility. Despite the Advisory Group for Disability Issues' report in 2016, which included suggestions for voter accessibility following the previous election, “little has changed,” according to disability rights activist Megan Linton. Of the 11 recommendations by the committee, the status of their implementation hasn't been announced, and it's unclear how many and on what scale they will be implemented by October's voting period.

In response, Elections Canada (EC) has claimed that they have “taken concrete action on more than half of these 11 items,” but the availability of these changes in each province was not mentioned. Specifically, EC states that improvements include “significantly expanding the suite of digital and print-based information products for electors with disabilities; [...] Allowing for personal use of mobile applications that gives an audible verification for an elector's marked ballot and changing the design of the ballot to make this easier; and expanding the accessibility testing of Elections Canada's print products and its website,” as well as improving training for election workers, though the specifics of the training have not been clarified. To address criticism, EC cited the many legislative steps required to make the called for changes as the reason they have not been fully implemented.

According to Linton, clarity and accessibility on the ballot is especially important for the federal election, as the higher number of candidates – as well as differences between provincial and federal parties – can lead to confusion.

Canadian voters with disabilities, who only fully gained the right to vote in 1993, still face considerable difficulty at polling stations and accessing candidates themselves. Though polling stations are more likely to be physically accessible, the office of many political candidates may not be, which can make gathering information and engaging with the political process difficult.



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### OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS

While EC does provide the opportunity for individuals to vote from home if their local polling station isn't accessible, these services, including the ability to have a sign-language interpreter or aide at polling stations, must be arranged ahead of time. Requirements like these create barriers for disabled individuals to access opportunities to cast their ballots without difficulty, let alone with the same ease as able-bodied or neurotypical voters. Additionally, information for these services are not readily available or easy to navigate, and they can remain unknown to voters. Of the 37 accessibility criteria set out by EC, only 15 are mandatory, and voters must call ahead to find out which polling stations fit their needs. Most of these accommodations are only available with advanced polling, which does not fall under the day that citizens can legally take off work to vote – which is only the official election day.

### TRIAL AND ERROR ON THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Manitoba's general election, which was called early and held last Tuesday, was a useful indicator to how calls for improved accessibility have progressed. Not

only do early elections make the accommodations needed by some voters with disabilities difficult to arrange, but recommendations such as adding pictures to ballots – a useful tool for those with intellectual and learning disabilities and neurodivergent individuals – were not implemented in the voting process. Ballot modifications such as these aid in avoiding confusion between candidates and lessen the chance of errors.

“The unnecessarily early election creates additional barriers and confusion that, paired with the lack of action by the election organizations, continues the disenfranchisement of disabled voters in a cruel, usual way,” Linton said in a piece for the CBC.

In Ontario's general election last fall, EC employed 175 “accessibility machines” in polling stations across the province. However, several voters came forward expressing issues with the machines, as some simply did not work or were unavailable. In one case, some voters were left with no choice other than to convey their choice to an elections official verbally. There were also many reports of voters having to rely on physical assistance from election workers to cast their ballot, with one wheelchair user adding that an elections official saw

his choice by the end of the process.

Additionally, these machines were only available in polling stations during the advanced polling period, and not on Election Day itself. On Election Day, voters with visual impairments were provided with a braille template, though some voters – including disability rights advocate David Leopsky – reported that the templates were not offered at some polling stations, and some had to use the audio-visual aids with great difficulty.

### RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

As disability rights organizations, such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) assert, voters with disabilities have the right to private and independent voting inside the polling station. (As it stands, a federal act laying out rights for Canadians with disabilities – for issues concerning more than just voting – is not yet law, and was officially proposed just this summer.) This can be especially difficult for some voters, who, due to inaccessibility of voting booths, require an aid to enter the polling station with them. Though this is an offered accommodation by EC, it ultimately removes the possibility of voters having an independent

and confidential voting process. This is a reality for voters with visual impairments, as, depending on the province or area, the most common accommodations are ballots templates printed in Braille. If those are not available, voters with visual impairments must have someone read the ballot to them and then cast their ballot verbally, or they must have an elections worker aid them in filling out a ballot. EC had previously worked with the CNIB on a new technology for voters with visual impairments, but it was abandoned in 2010 and there has been no further progress since.

Though calls for increased accessibility are present across the country, it is unclear if EC will take these suggestions to action this October, or if accessibility measures will work effectively. And even though disability rights groups and activists are working to make accessibility possible ahead of the election, one Ontario voter, Tim Nolan, who is legally blind, says there is a “gap in the whole democratic system.”

“While everybody else who doesn't have a disability has both the right and privilege,” Nolan says, “persons with disabilities do not get the privilege.”

# Thirteen Reasons Why Not Media That Portray Mental Illness Correctly

**KATE ELLIS AND  
CADENCE THAKUR**  
The McGill Daily

*Content Warning: depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, disordered eating, self-harm, sexual assault, generational trauma*

With the latest season of *13 Reasons Why* having been released on Netflix in August, it's easy to get caught up in the idea that there are no media that talk about mental health in a way that is both accurate and sensitive. In mainstream media, mental illnesses, trauma, and substance use disorders are romanticized, sensationalized, and misrepresented.

For people that experience these things as part of our lived realities, it can begin to feel like we will never see ourselves on television or listen to a song that says what's in our heads. A lack of realistic representation of mental illness in media can make us feel isolated when we seek help from others with similar struggles. Fortunately, there are some people who are doing it right. We decided to write this article to give you a list of media that we feel represent mental illness properly. Of course, we can't speak for all experiences, and invite readers to share their favourite media with us as well.

## DEPRESSION AND OTHER MAGIC TRICKS BY SABRINA BENAÏM BOOK

Sabrina Benaim is a Canadian poet, most well-known for her poem "Explaining My Depression to My Mother," which went viral on YouTube in 2018. In *Depression and Other Magic Tricks*, she explains the feelings that come with depression and anxiety accurately, in a way that will make you think *ah, someone gets it*.

In her poem "The Loneliest Sweet Potato," Benaim articulates a feeling that rings close to home for individuals who experience clinical depression. "In my lonely at the grocery store I practice trying to make myself feel good by pretending I'm a regular person, buying her groceries, not a very sad person trying not to cry," it reads. The crushing feeling of trying to feel real, to be better, to just exist like everyone else, is one that isn't often articulated in popular media.

In "So I'm Talking to Depression..." she describes depression as "this invisible bone that I caught and I can't stop writing poems about, I mean living." She truly hits the feeling that your mental illness can not be escaped head-on.

## DODIE MUSICAL ARTIST

Dodie is a British musical artist who got her start on YouTube as

Doddleodde. As she gained popularity, Dodie began a vlog channel called Doddlevlog and used her platform to discuss derealization/depersonalization, anxiety, depression, and other aspects of mental health.

This comes through within her songs as well. In "I Won't Be Done," Dodie sings "a woman with a teenage brain/attempts to play the grownup game," and in "When," she sings "I'm sick of faking diary entries, / Got to get it in my head; I'll never be sixteen again." Dodie embodies how adulthood can feel daunting to those who feel as though they never truly lived out their teenage years due to trauma or mental illness. She also articulates how, for many people who have been suicidal in their youth, it can be terrifying to reach adulthood and realize you never made a plan to be at that point.

Dodie's songs express how it feels to be growing up, recovering, and just *surviving* in a way rivalled by few other artists.

She has also released a memoir titled *Secrets for the Mad*, which further explores her experiences with depersonalization/derealization, depression, anxiety, and disordered eating.

## GIRL IN PIECES BY KATHLEEN GLASGOW BOOK

Traumatized by her past, Charlie Davis laboriously learns to cope with her mental health issues in Kathleen Glasgow's first novel. Tackling harsh realities such as self-harm, living on the streets, hospitalization, disassociation, drug abuse, suicide, and sexual abuse, Glasgow has no qualms portraying mental illness as it really is – painful, unstable, and long-standing.

Self-harm, the most prominent of Charlie's struggles, is an issue often misrepresented and even glorified by mainstream media. Describing Charlie's battle with cutting from the beginning to her recovery, Glasgow not only forces the reader to understand her psyche but offers coping skills through the voice of resident doctor Casper. Through 400 pages of raw truths, *Girl in Pieces* portrays a unique and compelling coming-of-age story. As Charlie's friend Louisa writes in her journal: "People should know about us. Girls who write their pain on their bodies."

## THE ROAD WITHIN MOVIE

Director Glen Wells creates a satirical yet authentic portrait of three young people suffering from life-altering mental illnesses in his 2014 movie *The Road Within*. The story of the escapist road trip of a young man with Tourette's syndrome, his unwilling roommate with OCD, and a woman with anorexia is imbued with dark humour. Trying to outrun



BRIANNA CHENG |Illustrator

their parents and doctors from a recovery center while simultaneously running towards the ocean, all three protagonists grapple with their mental illness while both overcoming and being defeated by their struggles.

A fresh and raw approach to portraying mental illness in media, Wells moves away from the typical "struggle-recovery" story to show that many people still have a long way to go on the road to recovery.

## ELWING SU'O'NG GONZALEZ VISUAL ARTIST

A popular Instagram artist known as @elwingbling, Gonzalez addresses the intersections of mental illness, generational trauma, and colonialism. In the culture of whitewashed "self-care" art on Instagram, her work fills an important void: art that decolonizes mental health care and awareness.

Through her work, Gonzalez addresses the reality of how POC experience mental health care.

"Drug and alcohol addiction are treated as health issues for some/ But as criminal issues for others," one of her pieces states. She calls her followers to action in the caption: "rethink who you have sympathy for and why." In another piece, she says "fact: you cannot have or treat an illness unless it is government approved," continuing to address the rampant racism that is present in the North American healthcare system.

"Drug and alcohol addiction are treated as health issues for some/ But as criminal issues for others"

In another piece, she explores the links between colonialism and trauma. "The village/That raised me/Was damaged/Damaged me/So I must work/To heal/My village/To heal/Myself," it reads. In another caption, she explains "war and dislocation and loss were a central part of the family narrative, with abuse and resentment and violence always just below the surface [...] it made me a very angry and deeply sad teenager and adult [...] until I saw my family as simply made up of people – injured people who were denied many of the tools and opportunities they needed to break away from the shadows of their multiple traumas and be free to live and love." Her art addresses how the mental health care system in North America consistently disadvantages marginalized groups, as well as how institutional discrimination is deeply intertwined with mental illness and trauma.

# McGill Daily Book Recommendations

*Our Anti-Oppressive Book List*



According to Forbes magazine in 2013, there are between 600,000 and 1,000,000 books published every year in the US alone. There are more books out there than anyone could ever read in a lifetime, and we know that your time is limited. Choosing authentic content within this wealth of knowledge can be tedious. Further, throughout history, white men's voices have been prioritized in literature and art with marginalized people rarely recognized or given attention for their work. With this article, we'd like to share some of our favourite books written by authors of various backgrounds to share some lesser-known works our readers will definitely love.

## *I'm Afraid of Men*

by Vivek Shraya (2018)

Kate Ellis (Culture)

*content warning: gender dysphoria, transphobia, homophobia, sexual harassment*

Raw, real, and refreshing, this 2018 creative nonfiction piece tackles gender and how we view femininity and masculinity. It is a breath of fresh air in the world of cis authors writing sappy "wrong-body" narratives and just plain-old getting it wrong. *I'm Afraid of Men* perfectly articulates those feelings of not "doing" gender in a way that cis people approve of and the frustrations that come with it. It'll hurt, make you uncomfortable, and make you go "ah, someone finally gets it," all in one sitting. At 85 pages, you really have no reason not to read it.

## *Aye, and Gomorrah, and Other Stories*

by Samuel R. Delany (2003)

Phoebe Pannier (Illustrations)

*content warning: suicide*

Every story in *Aye, and Gomorrah* is unified by the idea of displacement – no matter how many galaxies may exist between its settings. Samuel R. Delany's collection features protagonists who are, in one way or another, part of a diaspora. First published in 2003, the stories were mostly written in the 1960s and 70s. When reading it, though, it doesn't feel like your typical 1960s sci-fi. In many ways, even today this collection pushes the envelope with its questions about sexuality and relationships. Other themes include communication (both in terms of linguistics and in terms of interpersonal connection), mythology, and complex epistemologies (it sounds pretentious, but I swear it isn't). *Aye, and Gomorrah, and Other Stories* is a good way to dip your toes into Delany's challenging but ultimately worth it, prose.

## ***Her Body and Other Parties***

by Carmen Maria Machado (2017)

Willa Holt (Sci+Tech)

*content warning: abuse, sexual assault, gendered violence*

Through a new take on an old fable and a series of other short stories, Machado expresses the struggle of existing in the systems of womanhood. Her razor-sharp prose cuts to the heart of indescribable aspects of moving through the world as not only a woman, but as a gay woman. If you're looking for lesbian art, beautiful writing, or an author who seems to just get it, look no further. Anything I write about this book would do it an injustice. Go read it.

## ***Everything is Illuminated***

by Jonathan Safran Foer (2002)

Cadence Thakur (Staff Writer)

*content warning: genocide, anti-semitism*

Published by Jonathan Safran Foer in 2002, *Everything is Illuminated* is a historical fiction novel written from autobiographical and epistolary points of view. It chronicles three narratives detailing the author's own fictionalized journey to Ukraine accompanied by a quirky translator, an old chauffeur, and a one-eyed dog. As they search for Augustine, a woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis, Safran Foer spins a tale that's brilliant, hilarious, and all too real (despite the hints of magical realism which pepper the text). This novel takes you on a wild ride that'll have you screaming with mirth, laughter, and tears until the very end.

## ***Evicted: Property and Profit in the American City***

by Matthew Desmond (2016)

Rosa Sundar-Maccagno (Contributor)

*content warning: racism, classism*

*Evicted* discusses the reality of the housing market, with a specific focus on the lives of low-income tenants and their landlords, using Milwaukee as a model for other major metropolitan areas in North America. It reads like fiction, as it follows different individuals and families through their experiences. This book is brutally revealing and packed with statistics; because of the accessible way in which it's written, you don't realize how much you're learning until you put it down. This book will remind you of the necessity of ending capitalism, but it will also make you smile and maybe even tear up.

# No Borders, No Prisons

## The New Laval Migrant “Detention Centre” is a Prison

**NELLIA HALIMI, YASIR PIRACHA, AND NELLY WAT**  
The McGill Daily  
*content warning: mention of suicide, PTSD, colonial violence, sexual assault, death*

On September 5, over 50 activists gathered at the Lemay architecture firm offices to protest the construction of the new Laval migrant prison. In 2017, Lemay obtained a five million dollar federal contract to design the plans for the facility and activists have been protesting it since. The project was announced in August 2016 by the Liberal government; Public Security Minister Ralph Goodale explained that \$138 million dollars would be invested to build two new facilities, one in British Columbia and one in Quebec. While the Trudeau government was elected for supposedly having a welcoming immigration policy, it has clearly not lived up to its campaign promises. Currently, there are three migrant “detention centres” in Canada: one in Laval, one in Toronto, and one in Vancouver, administered by the Canada Border Service Agency. Migrants are also imprisoned in regular and maximum-security prisons across the country. From April 2014 to March 2015, 6,768 immigrants were detained, 2,366 of whom were released and 3,325 deported from Canada.

The announcement was justified by a need to create a “fairer and more humane immigration detention system.” The inhumane conditions that exist within those migrant prisons were not addressed, neither were the multiple deaths and illegal solitary confinement that have repeatedly occurred in the existing prisons. The Laval project costs an astronomical \$56 million, and will be able to imprison 133 migrants, with a maximum capacity of 158 when extra overflow cots are added. This is an extension of the current holding facility that exists in Laval, which can hold 144 migrants. The prison is planned to open in 2021 and is located at 600 Montée Saint-François, a kilometer away from the current provincial detention facility. The rhetoric of the Liberal government has been to present this prison as a positive improvement compared to the current one, which was built in the 1950s, rather than as the massive investment in the further policing and criminalizing of migrants and racialized people in Canada.

In the plans designed by Lemay, which were revealed in a report released by the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) in 2017, the facility is described as having a “warm and homey feeling.” The report describes a facility which follows sustainability standards, has a LEED certification and is environmentally friendly; it further describes “children playing areas” which will “only be surrounded by a one-metre fence similar to a daycare facility.” This new migrant prison, which subjects migrants and asylum seekers to inhumane conditions, will be detaining children and separating families, all while presenting it in a palatable manner. The emphasis on sustainability is essentially greenwashing; a prison remains a prison, no matter how environmentally friendly it is. It is part of a larger movement of rebranding of migrant prisons as “reformed” and aesthetically attractive, in order to conceal their harmful nature.

Detaining immigrants in prison for indefinite periods of time is an abhorrent practice that takes place all too often in Canada.

The new “detention centres,” regardless of how the government attempts to masquerade them as humane, are simply a continuation of racial profiling in law enforcement, xenophobia, and the practice of detaining undocumented immigrants indefinitely; that is, a prison. The new facility would be located next to three existing prison complexes, where immigrants are already being detained without trial. In 2018, over 1,500 immigrants were detained in maximum-security provincial prisons, typically on the grounds that they were “unlikely to appear for their immigration hearing.” Detaining immigrants in prison for indefinite periods of time is an abhorrent practice that takes place all too often in Canada; many detainees are held for a few weeks, but sometimes their cases can drag on for several months or years. For example, Kashif Ali, a West African

man, spent seven years in prison, sometimes in solitary confinement, without a release date, because the government could not deport him.

Amy Darwish, an organizer with Solidarity Across Borders, condemns the project: “For the people on the inside, it doesn’t matter if there are leaves on the window, if you’re going to be separated from the people that you care about,” she says. “It doesn’t matter if the building is more energy efficient if you’re going to be deported back to a situation of danger. At the end of the day, this is a facility that’s aimed to facilitate deporting people.”

Sylvie Freeman, a prison abolitionist in Montreal, argues that the design of the new facility reflects an attempt at prison reform, which only strengthens the prison-industrial complex. “Often reformers are potentially well-intentioned, but every time reforms actually go through, they get co-opted. It just seems like prison reform always leads to an extension of the prison-industrial complex.” Carmelo Monge, an activist who was formerly detained in the Surveillance Centre for Immigration (CSI), argues, “The government claims that building ‘better’ prisons for ‘suspect’ immigrants is the answer, but the real problem is that we are treated like criminals; firstly by the very fact of being arrested. This is really what affects us. Why are they stopping us? Why are we suspicious in the eyes of the state? It is almost always our skin colour, our apparent poverty, and our accent that betray us. It is almost always on the basis of our image that we are stopped in the street. Being undocumented is not a pleasure. It’s hard. You need support, not to be arrested or imprisoned. Although the cage is golden, it remains a prison.”

Since the announcement, multiple protests and direct actions have been organized by activists, targeting mainly the complicit private contractors who have rendered the project

“The government claims that building ‘better’ prisons for ‘suspect’ immigrants is the answer, but the real problem is that we are treated like criminals.”

— Carmelo Monge



Courtesy of End Immigration Detention Network

possible. In May 2018, crickets were released in the Lemay offices to protest its designing of the plan. While the company claims that to be “socially responsible,” with “human interests” at heart in every project, their complicity in the inhumane detention of migrants and asylum seekers suggests otherwise. In March 2019, the windows of the sales office of a condo tower designed by Lemay in Montreal were smashed, and another condo development in the city was “redecorated” with spray paint by activists.

In February 2019, the excavation company Loiselle’s offices in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield were covered in white paint and tagged with “No to the Migrant Prison.”

The company was given the contract for decontaminating the future’s facility site before the construction started. On February 17, the first rally was organized by the organization Ni Frontières, Ni Prisons (No Borders, No Prisons); over 100 people marched from Saint-Henri metro to the Lemay offices. Three days later, another protest was organized, this time at the current CSI in Laval.

On May 1, International Labour Day, the annual anti-capitalist demonstration in Montreal chose to focus on the new migrant prison. The Convergence des Luttes Anti-Capitalistes in Montreal, who were part of the march, said on their website that they were targeting the prison and Lemay to oppose “capitalist and racist forces [who] build the walls of a Canada and USA fortress, making work and life conditions more and more dangerous and precarious for migrants.” According to *The Link*, over 200 protesters threw rocks and launched projectiles at Lemay’s Le Phoenix head office. Adeel Hayat from Solidarity Across Borders explained at the protest that “after crossing that

fucking border about 60km South of here, people seeking asylum after months or years of homelessness are put in Canadian prisons, conveniently renamed 'detention centres,' to give them a more humane appearance."

In June 2019, two acts of protest were carried out by activists, targeting cars belonging to Englobe enterprise and Lemay. Englobe is one of Canada's largest firms, specializing in environmental engineering. It carried out the sanitation assessment for the future site of the prison; in response, one of the company's cars was smashed, its tires slashed and tagged with the "No Migrant Prison" slogan. Activists from Montreal Counter-Information claimed responsibility for the act as an "easy and effective way of protesting" the company's complicity in the project. On June 11, Lemay's Vice-President André Cardinal's BMW was torched in the city west end.

The contractor, who was given the \$50 million federal contract for the construction of the prison by CBSA, was revealed in July 2019, sparking further protests over the summer. The company, Tisseur Inc., a construction company based in Val David, attempts to present itself as a socially responsible company, highlighting environmentally conscious projects on their website, while being complicit in the violent displacement and imprisonment of migrants in Canada. A family-friendly, information-picket protest was organized at their offices in August, where Amy Darwish from Solidarity Across Borders stated that "by agreeing to work on this project, Tisseur is profiting from the imprisonment of migrants and refugees" and that the goal of protest was to "talk to their workers about why there is widespread opposition to this project and why it is also an anti-worker project."

These different acts of civil disobedience have all had a similar goal of both raising awareness around the new prison and actively opposing it. Activists have taken what they see as necessary steps to oppose a violent, inhumane facility, regardless of consequences. Direct action, especially now that the construction has effectively started despite widespread opposition, should be supported. These groups, which are often painted as "anarchists" or "extremists" by the mainstream media, have taken a strong anti-prison stance, and we recognize the necessity of active opposition to such state violence.

The new migrant prison will replace the existing CSI in Laval.

The government has attempted to justify the project by claiming that the new "detention centre" will have better ventilation, a playground for detained children, a TV room, better beds, and the separation of immigrants from prisoners. The government also claims that this will avoid criminalizing detained immigrants and respect their rights. However, this does not refute the fact that, regardless of living conditions, the very practice of targeting, arresting, and detaining immigrants is racist, dehumanizing, and detrimental to the well-being of migrants and their families. Immigration officers in plain clothes have allegedly been randomly conducting ID checks on the street in Toronto, though the CBSA has denied conducting street checks. Given the police and immigration services' record of racial profiling, racialized immigrants are more likely to be targeted and arrested.

Canada supports sanctions and egregious policies that destabilize countries and displace populations, only to detain those who are forced to migrate to Canada.

Moreover, the administration of these prisons by the CBSA is inherently harmful to migrants. The CBSA, while claiming not to be a prison force, adopted a new uniform for officers working with detained immigrants that includes highly defensive and militarized gear, such as bulletproof vests, batons, pepper spray, and handcuffs, which further contributes to the dehumanization and treatment of detainees as criminals despite not having committed a crime. The CBSA is also a body that is subject to little to no independent oversight. *CBC News* also reported in February that around 1,200 allegations of CBSA staff misconduct were made between January 2016 and the middle of 2018, including alleged offences of sexual assault, criminal association, and harassment.

Moreover, detained migrants are not told where their family members are being held or how to contact them, and children separated from their loved ones can

experience psychological distress, sometimes on top of existing trauma. Some formerly detained immigrants, especially children and women who were separated from their families, experience anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and post-traumatic stress disorder as a consequence of their detainment. "Even short periods of detention are highly traumatic and detrimental to migrants' health," says Marlihan Lopez, Vice President of the Quebec's Women Federation. "We denounce the government's investment in infrastructure that upholds and reproduces violence against migrants."

While most Canadians have called on the government to take a strong stance against the detainment of children in the United States at the hands of ICE following massive coverage of the horrifying practice, few are aware that Canada also detains children in so-called immigration centres. In 2018, over 160 children were detained in one of the three migrant prisons. While the government has stated that they will stop the practice of detaining children, the incorporation of a playground in the new migrant prison in Laval suggests otherwise. In November 2017, the government issued a "National Directive for the Detention or Housing of Minors," which stated that it will reduce and eventually stop the practice of detaining children. However, the Canadian Council for Refugees states that it is not enough, and calls for the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to be amended to "end the detention of children, reserve children's right to family unity by not detaining accompanying parents." Further, the use of child removal, especially in racialized communities, has historically been a violent colonial tool of Canadian settler nation-building. The Union of BC Chiefs released an open letter to Trump and Trudeau condemning the separation of immigrant children from their parents. They called the action a violation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and stated that the detainment of children and separation of families is reminiscent of the policies of Indian residential schools in Canada and the US.

Furthermore, beyond the inhumane conditions and abuse happening within these prisons, at least 16 people have died at the hands of the CBSA since 2000. These deaths include the death of a 50-year-old woman at a maximum-security prison in 2017; the death of Bolante Idowu Alo, who died in 2018 after an "altercation" with CBSA guards escorting him on a plane to be deported to Nigeria; the death of 39-year-old Francisco Javier Romero Astorga while in custody of the CBSA, whose family was only informed weeks later; the death of

a 24-year-old man died in CBSA custody in Alberta; the deaths of Jan Szamko, 31, from Czech Republic; the death of Melkioro Gahungu, 64, from Burundi; the death of Abdurahman Hassan, 39, from Somalia; the death of Lucia Vega Jimenez, 42, from Mexico; and more whose names have not been released to the public. Each of these unnecessary deaths at the hands of the Canadian government have been handled with secrecy, leaving families without any information about what happened. Each of these must be condemned as state violence enacted against migrants, in migrant prisons that the government are now trying to rebrand as environmentally friendly, daycare-like migrant prisons.

The migrant "detention centre" in Laval is yet another prison making up the prison-industrial complex in Canada. First, Canada supports sanctions and egregious policies that destabilize countries and displace populations, only to detain those who are forced to migrate to Canada. These actions are predicated on racist and xenophobic ideologies that permeate every level of government in Canada. It is important to recognize that Canada's immigration policies and practices are not removed from global systems of capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism. The outsourcing of labour, as well as Canadian mining projects in Latin America, exacerbate social inequality and political instability in

the global south. Moreover, Canada is complicit in US-led sanctions and imperialist interventions in Latin America and the Middle East, such as those in Cuba and Venezuela. Canada's imperialist projects and colonial resource extraction abroad create unstable conditions in the global south that displace people, who then migrate to Europe, the U.S., and Canada to seek asylum. Immigrants and their children are then criminalized by the state for not having the "proper" documentation and are faced with the threat of being deported.

It is essential that we work towards abolishing all prisons, which includes refusing to allow new ones to be built. We must mobilize to stop the construction of the Laval migrant prison, as it will allow for the continued criminalization of racialized people. Many organizations have already begun mobilizing to try and halt construction, including the organization Solidarity Across Borders, which has been organizing weekly protests. They are also calling for a Day of Action on October 3, against Canada's detention of migrants. We urge you to join these protests, while also keeping in mind the companies that are complicit in the construction of this prison. It is imperative that we put pressure on these companies through boycotts and public awareness, in order to help stop the migrant prison from being built.

**END  
IMMIGRATION  
DETENTION!**

1. Free all jailed migrants
3. End indefinite detention
3. No to maximum security
4. Overhaul review process

**TORONTO.NOONEISILLEGAL.ORG**

Courtesy of End Immigration Detention Network

# Consent is Mandatory

## “It Takes All of Us” Misses the Point



**ROSA SUNDAR MACCAGNO**  
Commentary Writer

*content warning: mentions of sexual violence*

Registering for Frosh at the beginning of August was anxiety inducing, mainly because it prompted me to start thinking about the social interactions that university would bring. At the bottom of the email explaining how to register, as if it was an aside, there was a paragraph indicating that in order to participate in Frosh, it was required that every student complete an online seminar about consent. After reading a bit about the seminar, I felt inclined to avoid it until the last minute. When I finally steeled myself into clicking the link, I realized I had been right to be reluctant.

The video seminar, entitled “It Takes All of Us,” involves a robotic voice detailing example situations in which consent is important or unclear. There is very little done to engage the student watching it, and so I sat in my grandma’s kitchen in August, clicking through the modules and trying to not get too

A formal, engaging, and well-structured dialogue about these topics during Frosh is necessary, as this online format felt like it sidelined students’ experiences for the sake of convenience.

bogged down by the onslaught of statistics and cutesy advice. I tried to finish the seminar as quickly as I could, and I’d be surprised if I was the only one in 7,000 incoming students to rush through it. The information was presented in a way that allowed people to give it as much or as little attention as they desired. This is not how we can meaningfully work towards eradicating sexual violence. There are definitely some students for whom the program would have been triggering, and while it is true that the same can be said about many types of consent education, a marked lack of respect for these students is evident, even within the title. A formal, engaging, and well-structured dialogue about these topics during Frosh is necessary, as this online format felt like it sidelined students’ experiences for the sake of convenience.

Because of how uninvolved and casual the program was, I assumed that this was the first part of a larger consent training that McGill would mandate participation in. At a certain point I realized that the five minute conversation our Frosh leaders had with us about

the ban on relationships between “Froshies” and leaders was the last time they were going to formally bring up the topic of consent. The word “formally” is of the utmost importance here, because the catchy, informal phrase “consent is sexy” was, in fact, repeated countless times over the course of Frosh.

To put it simply: the “consent is sexy” rhetoric is harmful and dangerous. Consent is not sexy, consent is what distinguishes sex from rape. I’ve never heard anyone say that “rape is unsexy,” as a way of promoting the importance of consent, because to do so would be to belittle the experiences of survivors of sexual violence. Funnily enough, saying that “consent is sexy” accomplishes the exact same thing – while simultaneously oversimplifying a complex issue. The onus in this circumstance is not on the Frosh leaders, but on the University’s administration for relegating consent education to the sidelines.

On the first day of Frosh, there was a list of tasks that each group competed to finish first. One of these tasks was to “explain why consent is sexy.” Hearing this set off alarm bells in my head, but I couldn’t put my finger on why. Nothing about my group members’ explanations was offensive or inaccurate, but nothing about the seminar had been insensitive either (aside from the title). All of these things could have sufficed as components of a broader consent training program. My discomfort stemmed from the fact that McGill’s consent education

was centered on making consent palatable. It’s presumed to be an unpleasant conversation to have and therefore it was instead dealt with in the margins, at the leisure of each incoming student and in a funny, casual way.

In a video introducing the seminar, Principal Suzanne Fortier describes the training as “required learning for each one of us, including [herself]”. This statement, along with the title, suggest that each member of the McGill community plays an equal role in preventing sexual violence. The program successfully addresses the ways in which each individual is affected by consent as it covers what to do as a bystander, someone in a sexual situation, and someone supporting a survivor. However, by providing incoming students and faculty or administrators with the same training it disregards the differences in power that characterize a university environment. My role in preventing sexual violence is different from the role of Professor Manfredi, the Provost and Vice-Principal, who claimed to be “proud” to have already completed the modules in an email addressed to students. It is the responsibility of the University to do more than just the bare minimum, which is what this seminar is. The role of the Administration should be to actively support and protect the student body.

The rhetoric within the seminar portrays it as an effective tool in combatting sexual violence on campus because of its mandatory nature. A more effective strategy would be to

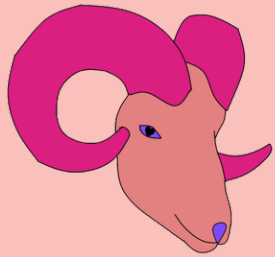
**PHOEBE PANNIER** | The McGill Daily

provide separate training for faculty and students, because the reality of consent is affected by the position one occupies. Within the online seminar, it is stated that there is a higher risk of sexual violence during the first eight weeks of the semester. The alcohol-fueled nature of the frosh activities coupled with the fact that, for many students, this is the first time away from home, creates a hyper-sexualized environment.

Consent  
is not sexy,  
consent is what  
distinguishes  
sex from rape.

Clearly, this is understood by the coordinators, who provided us with condoms in our Frosh bags. It is also evidently understood that such circumstances lend themselves naturally to higher incident rates of sexual violence. Yet instead of addressing the issue in a meaningful way, priority was placed on making sure nothing interfered with the fun of the week. It’s true that an in-depth, multifaceted training about consent would not be fun, but isn’t that kind of the point? There are people who need to feel uncomfortable, who need to be made to genuinely consider the reality of what consent means – because the alternative (sexual violence) is significantly more unpleasant than a comprehensive and informative workshop.

# HECK'in HOROSCOPES



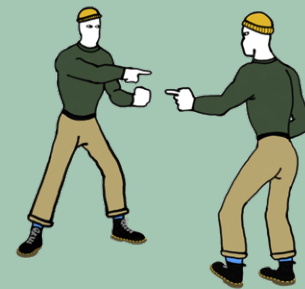
**ARIES**  
(MAR 21 -  
APR 19)

Quit your job. Change your name. Have a new life. Whatever you're feeling this week.



**TAURUS**  
(APR 20 -  
MAY 20)

Did you know that there are Greyhound buses to Boston? No? Good. Don't take one.



**GEMINI**  
(MAY 21 -  
JUN 20)

Don't apologize for taking up space. Apologize for the things you do there.



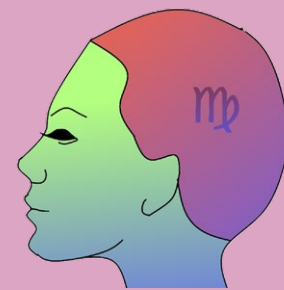
**CANCER**  
(JUN 21 -  
JUL 22)

Stream the *Dedicated* album by Carly Rae Jepsen.



**LEO** (JUL 23 -  
AUG 22)

Take that Timbit, seriously. You deserve it.



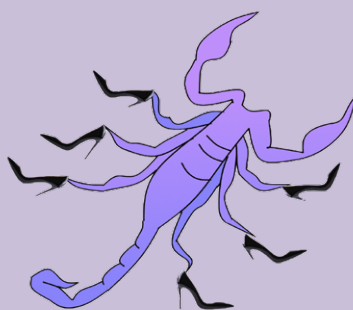
**VIRGO**  
(AUG 23 -  
SEPT 22)

The last drink isn't worth it.



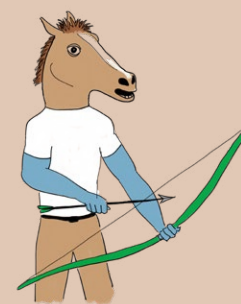
**LIBRA**  
(SEPT 23 -  
OCT 22)

Think about attending a writing workshop. Just think about it. You don't even have to go.



**SCORPIO**  
(OCT 23 -  
NOV 21)

Go to a drag show. Support your local queens.



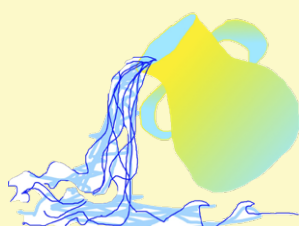
**SAGITTARIUS**  
(NOV 22 - DEC  
21)

This is the week you're gonna meal-prep, I just know it.



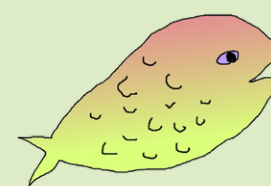
**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC 22 - JAN  
19)

Do you really want to spend your valuable time reading the *New York Times*?



**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN 20 -  
FEB 18)

Stop watching that video of Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello kissing like fish. It's not cute.



**PISCES**  
(FEB 19 - MAR  
20)

Your high school ex isn't worth it. Get Tinder or something. Unfollow them.

**BIENVENUE SUR VOTRE PISTE DE DANSE !**

# LES MARDIS, RÉTRO

**LES CHANSONS CULTE DES ANNÉES 50 À L'AN 2000**

TOUS LES MARDIS

# LES JEUDIS THROWBACK 2000

**LES HITS DES 25 DERNIÈRES ANNÉES**

TOUS LES JEUDIS

# LES WEEK-ENDS X-LARGES

**LA MUSIQUE D'AUJOURD'HUI**

TOUS LES VENDREDIS ET SAMEDIS

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