

WHEREAS all 196 nations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have agreed on a target of limiting emissions to a level that would prevent global temperature increase beyond 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, based on research from the Nobel-Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in order to “prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”; and

WHEREAS the major fossil fuel companies severely impair the global community’s ability to adhere to the UNFCCC’s protocols, by continuing exploration and extraction of fossil-fuel reserves beyond sustainable limits, and by actively undermining the transition toward renewable and sustainable energy sources; and

WHEREAS divestment campaigns have historically been a successful means by which public institutions can apply pressure on and change the practices of regimes and industries engaged in documented social injury; and

WHEREAS McGill University has a proud history of socially responsible investment, divesting from companies doing business in South Africa’s apartheid regime in 1985, and divesting from tobacco companies in 2007;

WHEREAS Cambridge University, the London School of Economics, and 52 other educational institutions in the UK; Stanford, Columbia, and 30 others in the US; the University of Laval in Canada, and many other academic bodies around the world have already committed to partial or full divestment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT) divest its financial holdings from all direct investments in companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels; and from all mutual funds that directly invest in such companies.