

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) supports divestment of the McGill University Pension Plan 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MAUT supports divestment of the McGill University endowment fund from these such companies.