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TO:	Members of the McGill University Senate
FROM:	Christopher P. Manfredi, Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
DATE:	January 18, 2017
SUBJECT:	Report and Response: Open Forum on the Recommendations of the 2016 CAMSR Report on Divestment

I am pleased to submit to Senate Professor Frederic Bachand's Report of the Open Forum on the Recommendations of the 2016 CAMSR Report on Divestment. This report is provided to Senate as specified under the Terms of Reference of the Open Forum. Under those Terms of Reference Professor Bachand led three open meetings on the CAMSR Report recommendations at both the downtown and Macdonald campuses. Professor Bachand and his team are to be commended for their extensive efforts to publicize and encourage attendance at the Open Forum sessions, as well as for their skill in facilitating constructive discussion. According to the report, approximately 135 individuals attended the three sessions.

The specific terms of reference of the Open Forum focused on two broad issues:

- Creating a "comprehensive climate action plan" to reduce measurably McGill's own carbon footprint while expanding initiatives in sustainability research and education
- Developing concrete measures to ensure our investments comply with recognized Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

While some of the discussion focused on these issues, the majority of the interventions were on the CAMSR report and the Board of Governors' decision to endorse the recommendations in the March 2016 report.

The Open Forum Report identifies several measures that I will pursue in conjunction with other relevant University actors:

- Work with various sectors of the University, including the Advisory Council on Sustainability, to establish and provide budgetary support for a University Climate Officer with a mandate to consolidate work on carbon neutrality, climate literacy, and climate resilience (p.11-12, "McGill's Sustainability Strategy: A Call for a Bolder Vision").

- To the extent possible given the nature of McGill's physical infrastructure, set a target date and implementation plan for McGill to become a carbon neutral institution (p.12, "McGill's Sustainability Strategy: A Call for a Bolder Vision").
- Implement additional institution-level programs to facilitate individual and collective actions that will reduce the University's carbon footprint (p.12, "McGill's Sustainability Strategy: A Call for a Bolder Vision").
- Develop a comprehensive plan to reduce and/or offset the effects of carbon-intensive university travel (p.15, "Rethinking University-Related Travel").
- Explore development of a sustainability-focused curriculum (pp.15-16, "Education and Research").
- Leverage the newly-established Advisory Council on Sustainability to improve two-way communication on the University's sustainability commitments and actions (pp.14-15, "More Effective Communication and Outreach Efforts").
- Continue to develop vehicles for broad community participation, engagement, and commitment with respect to sustainability.

I will report on progress made on the above objectives at the September 2017 Senate Meeting.