



MEMO

From the...

Office of the MSU President

TO:	Executive Board Student Representative Assembly
FROM:	Joshua Marando
SUBJECT:	Divestment Statement
DATE:	March 26, 2020

Hello,

Prior to the February 22nd SRA meeting SRA Engineering sent the following statement for SRA approval. Due to the length of the meeting it was pushed to a later date we discussed bringing it forward at General Assembly. I am bringing this forward as he would still like the statement to be approved during his term and thus it would have to be approved at this level. I have been in communication with him throughout this process and have edited and support this following statement to be adopted to call upon McMaster to fully divest from fossil fuel investments. Please find attached a list of McMaster investments provided by MacGreen and the statement to be adopted. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Marando", written in a cursive style.

Joshua Marando
President & CEO
president@msu.mcmaster.ca

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ that Executive Board adopt the following statement on behalf of the SRA:

Whereas students have committed to investing in McMaster's future through tuition & fee payments and contributions that help the McMaster community.

Whereas McMaster's investments should not harm its students' futures.

Whereas the fossil fuel industry's contributions to climate change hurt the Earth's viability to support life.

Whereas as of April 2018, 4.49% of McMaster's investment pool contains investments in companies that are a part of the 2017 Carbon Underground 200 list.

Whereas [the Silhouette Reported that \\$35.96 million of McMaster's endowment fund was invested in fossil fuel companies.](#)

Whereas [McMaster is the second highest university for global impact](#) and is therefore a role model for universities around the world.

Whereas [Concordia University](#), [Université Laval](#), [University of British Columbia](#) (Ranked 3rd for Global Impact) have all committed to divesting from fossil fuels.

Whereas [the Government of Canada declared a climate emergency.](#)

Whereas [Sweden's central bank's divestment from Alberta's oilsands](#) and companies with high carbon dioxide emissions.

Whereas The European Investment Bank (the largest public lender in the world) [has committed to stop lending to fossil fuel projects.](#)

Whereas investments in fossil fuels are not fiducially responsible, due to their decline as an investment tool, as seen by actions taken by investment institutions.

Whereas [hundreds of people attended Hamilton's climate strike to demand immediate climate action](#) from our institutions.

Whereas the Queen's Journal reported that a study from the University of Sussex argued that although the direct financial impact of divestment may be minimal, the movement will start an asset movement of \$2.6 trillion.

Whereas it is documented that McMaster University has invested in Teck Resources - a company that intended to develop a mine that would "result in significant adverse cumulative effects to wetlands in the region", [according to a report](#) established in-part by the former Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Whereas according to Cabin Radio, "The Dene National Chief believes a forthcoming decision on Teck Resources' Frontier mine could trigger the NWT's equivalent of recent protests seen on Wet'suwet'en land and around the country." The SRA as an institution is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous

people and ought to support them in defending not only their rights, but the health of water and the Earth.

Whereas an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, written by dozens of Nobel Prize winners, specifically said: “There is enough carbon embedded in already operating oil, gas and coalfields and mines to take us beyond 2C, let alone 1.5C. The implications of this are clear: there is no room for expansion of the fossil-fuel sector. There is no room for the Teck Frontier tar sands mine.”

Whereas the [mining project has been suspended](#), yet the underlying issue with this type of investment remains into the future, lest McMaster’s environmental, social and governance (ESG) screening, as outlined in the [President’s Advisory Committee on Fossil Fuels Divestment Report to the President](#), improves by moving away from companies such as Teck Resources.

Be it resolved that:

The Student Representative Assembly officially calls on McMaster University to fully divest from all its fossil fuel investments that include, but are not limited to, its endowment and pension portfolios. We also call for these funds to be reinvested exclusively into green-energy companies within one year. Additionally, the SRA encourage students to sign their name to [MacGreenInvest’s petition](#), which shares this vision.

McMaster - Investment Pool Carbon Underground 200TM 2018 Investments

CU200 Companies - McMaster	Percentage of Investment Pool
Allete	0.08857%
Anadarko Petroleum	0.00017%
Apache	0.00008%
Cabot Oil & Gas	0.00005%
Canadian Natural Resources	0.98295%
Cenovus Energy	0.02396%
Chevron	0.02101%
Cimarex Energy	0.03395%
Concho Resources	0.00012%
ConocoPhillips	0.27640%
Crescent Point Energy	0.08295%
Devon Energy	0.00009%
Encana	0.15705%
EOG Resources	0.00034%
EQT	0.00006%
FirstEnergy	0.02140%
Glencore	0.36432%
Hess	0.00008%
Husky Energy	0.44056%
Imperial Oil	0.53050%
Marathon Oil	0.02586%
Newfield Exploration	0.00003%
Noble Energy	0.00008%
Occidental	0.13710%
Peabody Energy	0.01091%
Pioneer Natural Resources	0.00017%
Range Resources	0.00002%
Suncor Energy	1.03732%
Teck Resources	0.25483%
Total McMaster Exposure	4.49093%

*based on McMaster Holdings as of April 2018

**based on CU200 2017 list