

2025 November By-Elections Report

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Election Results

Fee Levies and Referendum Questions

Concordia Recreation & Athletics

With health and wellness as a priority for Concordia University students, the recreation and athletics department would like to increase its activity offerings while making them more accessible and diverse. This increase would allow the department to update its recreational equipment, create more recreation opportunities, create more student jobs and much more.

Do you agree to increase the Concordia recreation and athletics fee from \$2.92 per credit to \$3.91 per credit (an increase of \$0.99 per credit), annually adjusted to the consumer Price index of Canada, to be collected from all CSU members and implemented with registration for the Fall 2026 term (2262) in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Total Voters: 3566

No: 1650 (55.2%)

Yes: 1339 (44.8%)

Abstain: 577 (16.2%)

Concordia Food Coalition

The Concordia Food Coalition (CFC) is the resource hub for student-focused food initiatives on campus. We run the Concordia Farmers' Market, and we provide strategic support to organisations that serve free and healthy food to students, such as the Hive and CultivAction. Since our launch in 2013, we've accomplished all of this and more on a fee levy of \$0.16 per credit. Now, with food insecurity on the rise among students, there's greater demand for the CFC's services than we've seen before.

With a fee levy of \$0.32 per credit, the CFC will have the budget to:

- Fund, support, and incubate more student- and community-led projects that advance food security, foodsustainability, and food sovereignty on campus through the STIR Program (previous projects include CultivAction, The Hive, and the Concordia Farmers' Market);
- Give away more coupons to students, which can be used at any vendor at the Farmers' Market, by expanding our Market Dollars Program;
- Hold more free food events to introduce students and other community members to Concordia's vibrant food justice movement
- And so much more!

Do you agree to increase fee levy of the Concordia Food Coalition from \$0.16 per credit to \$0.32 per credit (an increase of \$0.16 per credit), annually adjusted to the consumer Price index of Canada, to be collected from all CSU members and implemented with registration for the Winter 2026 term (2254) in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Total Voters: 3566
Abstain: 350 (9.8%)

Yes: 2305 (71.7%)
No: 911 (28.3%)

Queer Concordia

Do you wish to vote in favour of Queer Concordia's first fee levy increase in over 10 years from 0.02c per credit to 0.29c per credit (indexed with inflation) so Queer Concordia may provide over \$100,000 in free community resources for students; such as expanding the interest free gender affirming care loan program, artist bursaries, and a community project fund; additionally, for Queer Concordia to have full time office hours, make the majority of events completely free for students, take over the Concordia Queer Alumni Network, and establish an employee position for a full time coordinator?

Do you agree to increase the Queer Concordia fee levy from \$0.02 per credit to \$0.29 per credit (an increase of \$0.27 per credit), annually adjusted to the consumer Price index of Canada, to be collected from all CSU members and implemented with registration for the Winter 2026 term (2254) in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Total Voters: 3566
Abstain: 565 (15.8%)

No: 1639 (54.6%)
Yes: 1362 (45.4%)

CSU Daycare

The CSU Daycare and Nursery is conveniently located on Bishop Street, next to the library building, between St. Catherine and De Maisonneuve. This affordable childcare service prioritizes the children of student-parents and currently accommodates up to 50 children, ranging in age from 3 months to 5 years old.

Our mission is to provide a safe, high-quality educational environment that fosters the overall development of each child. Over the years, the CSU has proudly invested more than \$1 million into improving and expanding the daycare, ensuring student-parents have peace of mind knowing their children are well cared for—right on campus for easy access.

Like many organizations, the daycare has faced significant challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic, including staffing shortages and rising operational costs. Most recently, our historic building on Bishop Street has been identified as needing major repairs—not only to improve the quality of the space, but also to ensure its safety. Unfortunately, these necessary upgrades will lead to a substantial increase in rent.

To continue offering accessible, high-quality childcare services to our student community, we are requesting an increase to our fee levy. This support is critical to help us maintain affordable rates, retain qualified staff, and ensure a safe, enriching environment for the children of Concordia student-parents.

Do you agree to increase fee levy of the CSU Daycare & Nursery from \$0.29 per credit to \$0.50 per credit (an increase of \$0.21 per credit), annually adjusted to the consumer Price index of Canada, to be collected from all CSU members and implemented with registration for the Winter 2026 term (2254) in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Total Voters: 3566
Abstain 490 (13.7%)

Yes: 2172 (70.6%)
No: 904 (29.4%)

CSU Clubs

As the number of clubs has grown, the CSU Clubs Department is no longer able to offer the same support to student groups that we once could. As of this year we can no longer offer any budget increases, and in order to approve any new clubs we've had to cut existing clubs budgets. The staffing of the clubs department has also not kept up with the increasing number of clubs. Currently staffed by one part-time administrator and one executive, it is difficult to answer all club inquiries in a timely manner.

This increase would allow us to:

- Increase club budgets & funding
- Approve more clubs
- Increase staff hours
- Provide better training and support for clubs

Our financial policies are strict to only cover costs that directly benefit students. If passed, the increased funding will go to support on-campus events and initiatives that provide students with vital professional development, social, and cultural opportunities. By voting for this fee levy, undergraduate students will be supporting an engaging campus. This funding will go to on-campus events and initiatives that provide students with vital professional, social, and cultural opportunities.

Do you agree to increase fee levy of the CSU Clubs Department from \$0.46 per credit to \$0.65 per credit (an increase of \$0.20 per credit), annually adjusted to the consumer Price index of Canada, to be collected from all CSU members and implemented with registration for the fall 2026 term (2262) in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Total Voters: 3566

Abstain: 551 (15.5%)

Yes: 1890 (62.7%)

No: 1125 (37.3%)

Reading Week Referendum Question

Whereas: the Concordia Student Union (CSU) exists to advocate for the best interests of students. The CSU's successful push for a one-week reading break reflects its commitment to making student well-being a priority.

Whereas: Starting Reading Week on Saturday before Thanksgiving would allow students to avoid midterm exams being scheduled on the weekend, which is particularly problematic since students do not have classes on Saturday and Sunday. This change would enable students to travel home without conflicting with last-minute exam schedules, allowing them to spend more time with family and friends during the holiday break, thereby contributing to their well-being and reducing stress.

Whereas: many students book travel for Thanksgiving well in advance, making last-minute changes nearly impossible without financial or personal consequences. Whereas: sudden midterm scheduling shifts create unnecessary problems. For example, this past fall, my professor rescheduled a midterm to the Sunday before Thanksgiving with only two weeks' notice. Many students had to cancel or rebook travel at an expense, with no option for an alternate exam date.

Whereas: it's the CSU's role to address student concerns around scheduling policies, and it has already shown its ability to influence the academic calendar by securing a full reading week.

Be it resolved that: the CSU requests that midterm exams be made available online where feasible, providing students with the flexibility to write exams from home.

Be it resolved that: the CSU requests the administration to move the midterms online, which would allow students to write the exams from home.

Be it resolved that: the CSU requests the administration require professors to offer a mandatory alternative exam date to prevent students from being penalized for scheduling conflicts related to holiday travel.

Do you approve of the academic calendar being adjusted to start the reading week on Saturday before Thanksgiving, implemented with registration for the Fall 2026 term (2262)?

Total Voters: 3566
Abstain: 45 (1.3%)

Yes: 3002 (85.3%)
No: 519 (14.7%)

Do you agree to have Michael Eshayek as JMSB Councillor?

(Restricted to John Molson School of Business)

Total Voters: 526
Abstain: 80 (15.2%)

Yes: 391 (87.7%)
No: 55 (12.3%)

Which candidate do you want for Arts and Science Councillor?

(Restricted to Faculty of Arts & Science)

Total Voters: 1691
Abstain: 425 (25.1%)

Ryan Michon 838 (66.2%)
Safwan Al Mamlouk 428 (33.8%)

Spending During Election Period

Expense	Cost
Polling Clerks, Employed at \$18.00 / Hour	\$3498.00
CEO, Employed at \$22.00 / Hour	\$693.00
Printing Costs	\$10.00
Coffee & Snacks	\$514.70
Total	\$4715

Summary, Issues and Recommendations

Polling Clerks: This year, streamlined to hiring process of polling clerks by hiring based on availability for clearly defined shifts, which made it much easier to both schedule and quickly determine whether clerks would be suitable for the times required. I believe this is a big improvement over previous years, where scheduling and hiring involved much headache and confusion.

Debate at SGW: The debate at the SGW Campus was poorly attended, due in part to the STM strike, which made it difficult for students to access campus, but also most likely related to the relatively low number of candidates nominated. Although some students tried to tune into the debate on CUTV, a technical issue meant that there was no audio feed being broadcast.

For the General Elections, the Election Commission and CUTV should collaborate before-hand on a dry-run of the debate, to insure that there will be no further technical issues preventing student access to the video-feed.

Low Voter Turnout: Low voter turnout is a perennial challenge for CSU elections, and especially for by-elections. This year, the turnout was 11.2 percent, matching almost exactly the turnout of the 2024 by-elections. While by-elections will likely always have less engagement than General Elections, there are certainly many improvements that may be easily implemented for future election periods.

I would like the Elections Commission to work more closely with the CSU in generating an “Election Game-Plan”, well in advance of the upcoming General Elections, something I was unfortunately unable to do as effectively as I would have liked for the by-elections, due to the relatively short time between my being hired and the by-elections themselves.

This would involve collaboration between the Elections Commission, the Communications Dept, the Student Life Coordinator, and the Graphic Designers at the CSU, on a clear vision and timeline for promotion and the effective proliferation of information to the student body.

Late Ballot: The ballot was sent out at 3 P.M., rather than 9:00 A.M, on the first day of the polling period. To account for this, I extended the polling period until 3 P.M. the next day.

This was due to some confusion over the wording of particular ballot questions, my receiving the questions relatively last minute—and my own inexperience in operating the SimplyVoting platform. I think this should be easily avoided next election.

Bad Emails: There are always a number of bad-emails flagged by SimplyVoting, which interfere with certain electors ability to vote. This is essentially unavoidable—however it is easily addressed by the CEO, and I was able to respond relatively promptly to electors having these issues and resolve almost all of them.

No DEO: I did not feel I had time before the By-Election to hire and train a DEO, which meant that I was responsible for many tasks, the burden of which would otherwise be shared by three individuals. This certainly impeded my ability somewhat to effectively manage the Elections Commission as efficiently as I would have liked. For the upcoming General Elections, I intend to hire two DEOs, in order to split up some of these responsibilities and allow me to focus more on some of the shortfalls I have noted during this Election Period.