



MEMO

From the office of the...

President

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Jovan Popovic
SUBJECT: Revised Soup & Bread Initiative Referendum Request
DATE: November 12, 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly,

As part of my re-election platform, I committed to combating food insecurity by promising a referendum that I called the Soup & Bread Initiative. While the initial referendum to implement this program did not meet quorum, the student engagement demonstrated—just shy of the 10% threshold—underscored the importance of this initiative. Recent feedback, along with enhanced student interest, compels me to revisit this matter. Therefore, I am proposing to re-run the referendum with your support, incorporating updated fiscal feasibility data and a refined operational framework.

Updated Costing and Feasibility

Based on revised calculations provided by our TwelvEighty Kitchen Manager, Wesley Chaplin, the cost per portion will be **\$1.86**. This includes:

- **Chicken Noodle Soup:** \$0.75 per 12 fl. Oz
 - Dairy Free, Halal, Contains Gluten,
 - Ingredients: Chicken, Carrots, Onion, Celery, Garlic, Oregano, Basil, Cavatappi Pasta, Pepper, and Salt.
- **Vegetable Lentil Soup:** \$0.72 per 12 fl. Oz
 - Dairy Free, Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten Free
 - Ingredients: Carrots, Celery, Onion, Garlic, Red Lentils, Cumin, Oregano, Pepper, and Salt
- **Slice of white bread:** \$0.19/piece
- **Sandwich bag for the bread:** \$0.07
- **Soup Container with Larger Lid:** \$0.80
- **Soup Spoon:** \$0.04
- **Napkin:** <\$0.01

To meet demand, this program will require two additional part-time staff members at a cost of approximately \$15k a year:

- One staff member from **7 AM to 1 PM** for preparation, packing, and distribution.
- A second from **9 AM to 3 PM** for packing, distribution, and cleanup.

Additionally, we would need to invest in kitchen equipment to sustain high-volume production, including:

- 2 x **18" Stock Pot Ranges** (\$549 each)
- 2 x **120 Qt. Stock Pots** (\$518 each)
- 1 x **53" Stainless Steel Mixing Paddle** (\$53.15)
- 2 x **40' Utility Carts** (\$230 each)

Why a Referendum Re-run is Necessary

In the previous referendum, voter turnout reached **9.4%**, indicating robust interest. This close margin, coupled with new student-led campaign efforts, presents a strong case for another attempt. Suspending Bylaw 7, Section 3.5.1 (which limits similar referenda within the same academic year) has allowed us to honour our democratic commitment, as the potential benefits—serving over 75,000 portions annually—address a critical student need.

This initiative, modeled after successful programs like Dalhousie's Loaded Ladle, is a tangible step towards alleviating food insecurity at McMaster. I urge the Assembly to approve this motion to empower our students and further our shared commitment to addressing basic needs.

Additional Notes

- **Cost Variability:** The proposed costs are based on current supplier rates and are subject to fluctuations. To address this, the \$6.50 fee may increase with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and potential labour costs to reflect the changing student population.
- **Staffing:** While two part-time staff members will suffice, we are also evaluating the potential addition of a full-time staff member for kitchen operations.
- **Portion Estimates:** This program would be able to distribute approximately 75,000 to 90,000 servings per academic year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm Regards,

Jovan Popovic
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