



GENERATIONS PACT

Situation at hand:

On November 17th, 2007, the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) launched its fourth report, *Climate Change 2007*, demonstrating the importance of countering the effects of global warming – a threat that jeopardizes international peace and security. Clearly, such threat affects and will affect various aspects of the world's societies. In light of these global realities, all the different imperatives and structures that hold societies together – ecological, cultural, social, political and economic – must fuse and adapt themselves to the increasing complexities of global warming in order to mitigate the potential irreversible impacts that our systems could inflict on the ecosystem.

Problem:

The dualist and opposing objectives and roles of the aforementioned societal imperatives and structures have led contemporary global populations to separate themselves from nature and act in disjointed and individualistic ways. How can we, as global citizens, develop common, systematic and ethical approaches that will reconcile these societal imperatives and structures?

Mission of the Generations Pact:

The creation of new societal synergies in Quebec, based on unity, sustainability and fairness, will in turn inspire the implementation of such approaches at the international level. Clearly, this approach will provide an international network that will lead to insightful research, innovative ideas, concrete solutions, technological advancement, and lucrative projects that will provide relevant and necessary information to actually understand the urgency of the issues at hand.

Overview of the Generations Pact:

Inspired by the “sustainable development funds” spearheaded by Concordia University and McGill University, as well as by student-led initiatives to counter global warming, The Generations Pact aims to establish a unique collaboration between the Government of Quebec and the university student community.

The Regroupement des jeunes chambres de commerce du Québec, Oxfam-Quebec, Sierra Youth Coalition, and the Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec, are collaborating to provide a common, ethical approach that will mobilize students here and abroad, provide an extensive network that will lead to insightful research, and incite students to unite in order to collectively counter the ravages of climate change.

Objectives of the Generations Pact:

1. Mobilize university students.
2. Conduct a sustainability assessment report at the universities that do not have one yet.
3. Develop a sustainability fund at every university in Quebec in order to support student-led initiatives.
4. The Government will match dollar for dollar any additional student funds set aside for green projects.

The Generations Pact is the direct result of the environmental crisis inherited from past generations. In this new era of environmental awareness, it has fallen into our hands to break the trend by changing our practices and taking action in order to protect future generations. In this humanistic spirit, the Generations Pact seeks to develop local, national, and international projects backed by the government with the collaboration of university students. This unity is a call to awaken the consciousness of the generations of all the nations, in light of the urgency to act together.

I/We,....., support the Generations Pact in order to protect and help future generations.