

# Right To Move

Grant Proposal to the Concordia Students Union  
12/12/97

**Right To Move** is a working group of the Concordia Quebec Public Interest Group started by Concordia students interested in the environmental and social justice potentials of bicycles, as well as a love for bicycles and biking in and of itself. It is obvious what environmental benefit increased bicycle use holds in its reduction of CO2 levels and air pollution and in decreasing our society's huge dependence on automobiles. Bicycles are cheap, energy-efficient, pollution-free, quiet, healthy and most importantly, almost everyone can use them.

Almost everyone can use bikes, but obviously not everyone does. We certainly aren't in Canada at the same level of bicycle use and awareness as are countries such as Germany and the Netherlands, which also happen to have large government programs to encourage bicycle use over car use. What are the factors that restrict bicycle use in Montreal? There are a variety, including safety/risk perception, fear of theft, economic barriers and user-friendliness. **Right To Move** is dedicated to working at changing these factors so that the Concordian population has less barriers against using bicycles.

Key to our operation is the workshop space we have created, located on the Sir George William Campus, directly behind Reggies in a basement space. This space was donated by the University and in it we are currently teaching students how to fix their own bicycles as well as fixing donated bicycles. We intend either to sell these bikes for a 'donation' based on a sliding scale according to financial means, or donate the repaired bikes through targeted low income public service groups such as Women's Shelters.

The premise of providing tools and assistance to people who want to learn how to fix their own bicycles works on two levels: it makes for more user-friendly bicycles by demystifying the mechanical workings of the bike, and it reduces the economic barrier that the need for professional repair creates. Often a repair as simple as a flat tire needs only some pointers and moral support for an inexperienced biker to become comfortable repairing the flat themselves.

We will continue to hold bicycle repair workshops for small groups, based on themes focussed on particular areas of bicycle repair as well as more general areas such as 'Winterizing Your Bike' and 'Bicycle Repair for Women' as well as rider-training courses. We have a small resource area in the space complete with how-to manuals, files on community bicycle programs in other city and other bicycle advocacy issues. We hold our weekly meetings in the space where we plan workshops, outreach programs and are currently working on our mandate and policies.

Below is a copy of our Mandate, as it stands:

# Right To Move Mandate

12 December, 1997

*Hand down, Finance, Scheduler*

Our goals are to promote biking as an ACCESSIBLE and ENVIRONMENTAL transportation alternative by providing a space in which to repair, create and learn about bicycles.

- We *Q* *Community Groups*
- are dedicated to facilitating safe, reliable access to transportation by bicycle for everyone, especially those of low income that would not normally be able to afford a bike
  - *Promote* recognize that bicycles do not produce greenhouse gas or other toxins, as cars do
  - accept donated bikes and repair them so they can be used, rather than being put in a landfill
  - reduce the demand for more bicycles to be built under socially exploitative and environmentally disastrous conditions
  - provide mechanical training workshops and drop in repair help in our shop so that bicycles become demystified and their owners become more self-sufficient
  - will provide a defensive driving training program in the future

## Current Shop Hours -- all volunteer operated

Tue 3:30-5:30pm Mar

Thu 2:30-8:00pm Jeu

Fri 4:00-7:00pm Ven

Meeting Thurs 6:30pm

for more info: QPIRG Concordia 848-7585 fax 848-7584 attn Right To Move

We expect this concept and space to flourish come springtime, when students will be dusting off their stored-away bikes and breathing in the fresh air of a new season. As it is the workshop is used frequently, but more resources and time must be put into it for it to achieve its optimum potential. We have a solid working group that is dedicated to Right To Move, and the basis for an infrastructure. Ideally, we would like to evolve to a store front community center/ work shop rather than the hard-to-find basement space we have now.

We have been supported by many other organizations, notably QPIRG (who are yet to finalize their grants), Concordia University (in donating the space), and very importantly Mountain Equipment Co-op, and their generous donation of \$3300 which was designated and used to by the necessary bicycle tools and shop equipment for the space.

We expect to receive money from Concordia QPRIG in order to cover a large portion of our office expenses, which includes miscellanea, and is imperative in order to continue running. However, that is not guaranteed and will likely not cover everything. Also imperative is bicycle parts, so that we may fix the many donated bicycles, being used as models for repair instruction

and to sell at reduced rates. Many Concordia students will benefit from these particular aspects, as well as from the group as a whole.

**We would like to ask for \$400 worth of office supplies (paper, stickers, first-aid kit, etc.) and \$400 worth of bicycle parts (cables, oil, soap, etc.)** Please see the budget on the next page for a breakdown of our expenses.