

## **Camille Thompson's biography**

*First biography 461 words*

My name is Camille Thompson; I am a fourth-year student in Political Science and Economics. I am running for external affairs coordinator as part of the team SPEAK UP!

I want to be the external affairs coordinator for many reasons. Primarily I believe deeply that small, local actions are key for successful and long-lasting changes. In the international arena, a student union might not have great political weight, but it does have the power to bring meaningful changes to the lives of many students. In my position as a CSU councillor, I have expanded my knowledge of the student union structure, as well as the work involved in student unions. Through this work, I also reinforced my belief that student involvement is invaluable in bringing change to society.

During my time as a Concordia student, I have been heavily involved in community organizing. I have been a board member at QPIRG Concordia for two years, which gave me firsthand experience with consensus-based decision-making within an organization. This position also permitted me to be involved in other grassroots movements, helping me understand the importance of acknowledging my privileges, the importance of working together, and decentralizing power structures. I also have knowledge of what this position entails since I have worked as a coordinator for a community center before I became interested in being part of the CSU.

If elected the CSU's external affairs coordinator, I have two main goals. First, I want to bring back to the table campaigns left behind to make room for fresh political campaigns in the future. The fight for Concordia to divest from fossil fuels is far from over, having paid internships is not yet the reality for many students, and the fight on racism and discrimination stays an ongoing battle. Of course, I am very aware that the external team does not have the capacity to fight on

all those fronts, which leads me to my second goal: decentralizing campaigning platform. To be able to continue the work that those campaigns have started, I plan on creating small discussion and action groups, such as the one started by the Divest campaign.

A task force consisted of John Molson and Engineering students for example, would bring a greater vision of where the unpaid internships campaign should go; while the BIPOC committee could contribute greatly to the campaign fighting racism and discrimination. Expanding upon these groups would provide a broader and more accurate depiction of the issue, create valuable networks between students, lead to a greater share of tasks and permit the CSU to work on more campaigns simultaneously.

I hope to bring my energy and ideas to the CSU and to open the doors of the student union to those who want to take part in change.

*Following is the second biography of 66 words*

Team Speak up!

As external coordinator, Camille would want to let groups and students speak for themselves and create multiple task forces for each campaign. This would permit student involvement and an intersectional depiction of the issue.

Over her time at Concordia, Camille was involved in many fee-levy campaigns, has been on QPIRG's board of directors for two years and has represented students at CSU Council.