



**Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) Donor Letter and Brief
Report**

Fall 2024



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1. Overview of Activities

1.1 Educational Kiosks



This fall of 2024, we hosted weekly educational booths in the Student Union Building lobby. Every Wednesday, beginning October 1st, we would set up a table with activities, information pamphlets and pictures on a select topic and invite students and staff walking by to engage in conversation and participate. Each educational kiosk had a different focus; October being Fairtrade month, we built our kiosks based on Fairtrade information, Fairtrade at Bishop's as well as products that follow the Fairtrade certification. November was waste management and reduction month, so those kiosks focused on

overconsumption and how to limit our waste. Individuals who visited the kiosks in November and engaged with the material were then given the opportunity to enter a draw in which they could win reusable items (including silverware, containers, tote bag, water bottle, travel mug, etc.). We hoped that through these kiosks we could engage in conversation with the university community, prompting reflection and a desire for change.

1.2 Bees



As the SD office is currently in charge of the bee hives on campus, we assisted in different stages of their caring. For example, Carley joined Anne in feeding them; we both helped with extracting honey and wax and assisted with the selling of the honey. We also organized a workshop to use the beeswax we extracted in which volunteer participants from the Bishop's community made beeswax wraps as well as lip balms.

1.3 Fairtrade Month

As we mentioned above, October was National Fairtrade Month and our weekly kiosks focused on education around Fairtrade during that time. In addition, we organized a Fairtrade trivia night at the Gait in collaboration with the Happy Hour Club. Participating students had the chance to win a collection of Fairtrade Camino chocolate bars.

1.4 Waste Categorization

As part of the *Semaine québécoise de réduction des déchets* (SQRD), the Sustainable Development Office has an annual waste categorization event where members of the SDO and Bishop's community take part in reorganizing one day's worth of Bishop's waste. We were both involved in weighing the original bags taken from various buildings on campus, opening them up and sorting them as garbage, recycling and compost. Once they were sorted the waste was re-bagged, weighed again and properly disposed of.



1.5 Interactive Workshops

Throughout the months of November and December, we held three interactive workshops in collaboration with the Bishop's Art Lab. The first was a mending workshop where students and community members were invited to bring clothing they needed mended. We had two workshop facilitators as well as two sewing machines, fabric, sewing needles and thread to assist with the mending processes. The goal of this workshop was to encourage mending and upcycling instead of buying new and over-consuming. This was very successful as we had many members of the Bishop's community join us.



The second workshop was our beeswax workshops where students and community members could learn to make beeswax wraps as well as beeswax lip balms. During this workshop we were also able to educate those involved about the bees at Bishop's, the steps involved in procuring the wax and encourage student initiative with Bishop's Bees. Through this workshop we were also

able to make enough beeswax lip balms to sell some at the Bishop's Christmas market.

The third of our workshops was an eco-Christmas wrapping and decoration activity, which the Art Lab led with our contribution and assistance. Community members were encouraged to make Christmas themed crafts using recycled materials, wrapping gifts using fabric scraps and recycled paper, and making cards using recycled materials.

1.6 Exam Care Packages

This fall we were given the challenge to continue the work of our predecessors to find sustainable alternatives to the items included in the SRC exam care packages. This was not easily done as the criteria and budget were quite strict and sustainable alternatives are pricier. We contacted five different local, environmentally conscious suppliers to request information on bulk items that could be included in the packages. We were able to find a few alternatives including lip balms and soaps but none agreed with the current budget of the exam care packages. If our suggestions were followed

there would have been fewer items in each package, which the SRC exam care package committee did not agree with. Therefore, ultimately our items were not chosen. However, we were pleased with their cooperation in our efforts and with their introduction of Fairtrade tea into the packages. If our suggestions were to be taken seriously in the future, the budget would have to change.

2. Thank You

We would both sincerely like to thank the generous donors who made this internship possible. We have both learned and gained so much from this experience that we will take forward with us as we graduate from Bishop's and move on in our careers in environmental education. We feel that in this position we have been able to create positive change on campus and educate our peers on environmentally conscious practices including, but not limited to, overconsumption and Fairtrade. We also feel that in this position we have been able to bring forth our own unique perceptions and approaches to environmentalism and contribute to a positive relationship between the student body and the Sustainable Development Office. Again, thank you so much for this opportunity. We are eternally grateful.

Kindly,

Karen Halliday

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