



MacHall dispute: what students need to know



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Impact to students:



What student ownership of MacHall means

As students, we can move new ideas and initiatives forward – like opening a food bank on campus, creating nap rooms, offering halal food options, and holding candidate forums for the federal elections because we have control of the space. Students (and NOT the university) should have the opportunity to choose how to use their own space and the ability to make decisions about innovative plans for future space.

What is in danger of being lost?

Students are often unaware that some of their favourite events, programs, services, and businesses are actually run by the SU. It is the legacy of investments made by students who came before them which help make these initiatives possible. Here are a few examples, but you can look for more throughout MacHall:

- SU Clubs Spaces
- The Den
- The Q Centre
- Volunteer Services
- Information Centre/Lost & Found
- SU Campus Food Bank
- Bound and Copied
- Stor
- La Taqueria
- That Empty Space

Why we served

- The SU has managed the majority of the building for more than four decades and the pending expiry of our management agreement prompted a renegotiation of the contract. For over two years now the SU and the university's administration have been engaged in negotiations.
- At the first negotiation meeting in 2013, the university referred to students as a "tenant" in the building. Their position challenged students' rights to manage and make decisions about MacHall. So, we began digging through old files to gain a better understanding of our role and the total investments students made in the building.
- We found many documents, including the original building agreement, clearly stating that the students paid for and owns 55% of the building.
- In October 2013, when we brought our evidence of student ownership of MacHall to the university's current administration, they responded by saying the topic was a "non-starter" – they wouldn't even discuss it and reiterated that any future agreements would list the SU as a tenant and the university as the owner. They dismissed our evidence out of hand and would not provide any substantial evidence or reasoning as to why they refused to discuss the building's ownership.
- In September 2014, administration informed the SU that the current management agreement would terminate on Dec. 9, 2015. Recently, they have said they will take over the management of MacHall including taking over all revenues generated from the building (including revenues from Students' Union allocated space that we use to fund student programs). This is in attempt to force us to negotiate under duress and an attempt to make us give away student ownership rights.
- To protect over 60 years of student investment in the building, on Oct. 21, 2015, the SU served the University of Calgary and the Board of Governors with our lawsuit related to student ownership of MacHall.
- We'd hoped that we could have negotiated a fair agreement without serving the lawsuit, but we exhausted all of our options with the university administration and they still won't discuss ownership with us. They left us no choice but to resolve the ownership dispute before the courts.



The History of MacHall

| | 1969 | 1988 | 2002 | Total Investment |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Students' Union | \$ 1,925,000.00 | \$ 4,000,000.00 | \$ 13,100,000.00 | \$ 19,025,000.00 |
| Alberta Advanced Education | \$ 1,632,300.00 | \$ 5,000,000.00 | | \$ 6,632,300.00 |
| Government of Alberta Matching Endowments | | \$ 5,800,000.00 | | \$ 5,800,000.00 |
| Olympic Secretariat | | \$ 4,000,000.00 | | \$ 4,000,000.00 |
| University of Calgary | | | \$ 3,500,000.00 | \$ 3,500,000.00 |
| Parking Revenue Fund | | \$ 1,900,000.00 | | \$ 1,900,000.00 |
| Faculty Club Contribution | | \$ 950,000.00 | | \$ 950,000.00 |
| Support Staff Contribution | | \$ 600,000.00 | | \$ 600,000.00 |
| Graduate Students' Association Contribution | | \$ 250,000.00 | | \$ 250,000.00 |
| Total | \$ 3,557,300.00 | \$ 22,500,000.00 | \$ 16,600,000.00 | \$ 42,657,300.00 |