A resolution stating the support of the CSA for Carleton College to purchase and sell certified and organic Fair Trade products whenever possible

CSA Senate voted to endorse this resolution 7 November 2005

Whereas, Members of our Carleton community strive to find more socially conscious and environmentally responsible ways to conduct their lives, ways that ensure reasonable protection for people, animals and the environment; and

Whereas, A majority of the world’s farmers and artisans receive market payments for their products which are less than the costs of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt; and

Whereas, Intensive farming also leads to environmental problems, such as pesticide pollution, deforestation and the extinction of some bird species through habitat destruction; and

Whereas, Fair Trade works to correct these imbalances by guaranteeing a minimum wage for the producers’ harvest, as well as encouraging the cultivation of crops without the use of pesticides or damaging farming practices; and

Whereas, With the profit generated from receiving a fair wage, farmers and artisans are able to invest in such areas as health, education, and environmental protection; and

Whereas, As a purchaser of goods and services, Carleton College has a responsibility to ensure that funds are spent in a manner consistent with decent ethical and labor standards, and purchase goods made in the most responsible manner when possible; and

Whereas, The purchasing of fairly traded products will bear positively on Carleton College and its students, by setting an example in the community and furthering education about responsible consumption; and

Whereas, Over 90% of college and university students that participated in MPIRG’s “Student Knowledge and Support of Fair Trade” survey conducted in 2004 said that having vendors on campus stock Fair Trade items was of importance, and 83% of students said that it was of importance for their college or university food service to provide students with Fair Trade options as a part of their student meal plans, and 64% of students said they would definitely be willing to pay more for Fair Trade products; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the CSA Senate endorses and supports the purchase of Fair Trade products, ensuring that farmers and artisans receive fair and decent compensation for their work; and

Resolved, That the CSA Senate encourages Carleton, whenever possible, to purchase Fair Trade Certified and organically grown products to be frequently and consistently available for consumption on campus, including but not limited to snack bars, dining halls, bookstores, and maintenance; and
Resolved, That the CSA Senate encourages other college, university, and community leaders to adopt a similar policy to promote social and environmental responsibility; and

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Dining Services, the President of the College, the Vice President and Treasurer, the Dean of the College, the Dean of Students, and any other purchasing services or administrators.

i According to TransFair USA.