Thinking of changing supervisors?

STUDENT SUPPORT
A 5-STEP PROCESS

1. DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR
2. TALK TO YOUR GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
3. TALK TO THE DEAN OF YOUR DEPARTMENT
4. CONSIDER GOING TO THE OMBUDSPERSON OFFICE
5. CONTACT THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GPS

Student Support Committee of PGSS
ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
If talking with your supervisor did not resolve the issue, then you may consider discussing the matter with your Graduate Program Director (GPD). The GPD will serve as a confidential, unbiased and very valuable source to assist finding the best solution given the differential power dynamics in the supervisory relationship and the vulnerability of students. It is very important that students notify the GPD regarding the supervisory issue as early as possible to avoid further difficulties.

Most of the time, conflicts between supervisor and supervised occur due to miscommunication. Therefore, it is in both parties’ interest to communicate informally, politely and professionally about the matter.
Talk to the Dean of your department

- If you have further questions and the GPD was not able to address all the issues, talking to the Dean of your Department may be helpful.

- The GPD and the Dean of your department are trusted faculty members that may be able to mediate between supervisors and students.

Consider going to the Ombudsperson office

- If none of the above helped resolving the issue, then, communicating with the Ombudsperson's office, as an advocate for a fair process, may be useful.

- For more information visit: https://www.mcgill.ca/ombudsperson/

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The associate Dean maybe the last and most helpful resource to find a solution. They may be able to respond to all your questions while all information stays confidential.

More details on how to contact you Associate Dean are available in the following link:

https://mcgill.ca/gps/contact/gps

Try to seek assistant from the student services. They offer numerous consulting and therapy sessions that may be beneficial if you are going through a tough time.

You may want to contact PGSS student support commissioner (ssc.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca) or member services officer (membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca) to further discuss your problem and possibly find the best solution.

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The student Advocacy centre may be another confidential resource in facilitating discussion and negotiations between University students and academic staffs. You can contact them by telephone (514-398-4384) or send an email to (advocay.law@mcgill.ca). For more information visit: https://mlic.mcgill.ca/site.php?lang=en#

If you feel you have been subject to mental or physical harassment or you have faced discrimination, seek advise from Harassment and Discrimination Assessors: https://www.mcgill.ca/how-to-report/harassment-discrimination/make-complaint

Remember, changing supervisors is a daunting process and may take time. Make the best decision for you and your project as early as possible. The members of the SSC and all PGSS are here to assist you as our main priority is your well-being and success!!

Infographic made by Nasrin Golzadeh and Santiago R Said from the SSC of PGSS