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March 6, 2023

McGill University School of Computer Science McConnell Engineering Building 3480 Rue University Montréal, QC H3A 2A7

Dear Prof. Blanchette, Prof. Pientka and distinguished members of the faculty,

As a Ph.D. student at McGill and Mila/IQIA conducting research on programming languages and neural-symbolic systems, I have been following the search for a tenure-track professor at the School of Computer Science. Earlier today, at the request of my colleague Avinash Bhat, I interviewed Eric Atkinson for the position formerly held by Prof. Si, whom I recommended three years ago.

I am hereby writing to express my support for Eric's candidacy. Over the last two years, I have interacted with Eric at various conferences and have been impressed by his depth of knowledge and practical approach to probabilistic programming, an interest we both share, and I believe complements McGill's well-known research strengths in programming languages and machine learning.

Common research interests aside, I believe Eric's open-minded enthusiasm and talent for communicating complex ideas clearly are plain to see, and would be a valuable asset to the School of Computer Science. Although your department has ample shoes to fill with Prof. Si's departure, I am confident that Eric is more than qualified for that role and I am happy to recommend him for it.

Sincerely,

Breandan Considine

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