

QPIRG at McGill - GRIP à McGill

Québec Public Interest Research Group at McGill University

Groupe de recherche d'intérêt public du Québec à McGill

Annual Report 2010 - 2011

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group At McGill (QPIRG McGill) is a resource centre for students and community members working towards social and environmental justice. We strive to engage students in research, public education and action, and to support grassroots activism around diverse social and environmental issues. We seek to build campus-community alliances and inspire social change through inclusive and non-hierarchical approaches.



QPIRG McGill

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Complete reports for all the sections in this booklet can be found in the Annual Report Binder

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"QPIRG helps to promote vibrant and inclusive discussions of matters of importance to all at McGill and in the broader community."

--Abby Lippman
Chair, Senate Subcommittee
on Women (SSCOW)

Retreat, Training, & Visioning Sessions

Retreat:

October 16-17, 2010 we held a joint Board retreat with the newly elected board of QPIRG Concordia. Discussions and workshops over two full days in the Laurentians included an anti-oppression session, financial training, legal responsibilities, employer-employee relations, and visioning for both organizations. While this weekend retreat is always a helpful opportunity to both build links with the Board and Staff of QPIRG-C and to think strategically about our goals and priorities, this year in particular underlined for us the need to prioritize mutual support and solidarity in the face of external political pressures.

Visioning:

Board and staff participated in a preliminary visioning session on August 31, 2010. A Board-only visioning session also took place, prior to the retreat, on October 3, 2010. It was determined that a board training closer to the election of new board members would be ideal for the coming elections and board turnover.

Training:

Board members requested specific additional training in both conflict resolution and Israeli Apartheid activism/politics.

- *Conflict resolution:* A priority of the incumbent 2009-10 QPIRG McGill Board was to recognize and face up to the ways in which mental health and support/solidarity issues are silenced in our often stressful organizing culture. This remains a priority of the 2010-2011 QPIRG McGill Board, so on November 20, 2010, board and staff members took part in a conflict resolution skillshare in order to follow up on some outstanding issues that arose at the retreat. A three-hour session was facilitated by COCo at the QPIRG Concordia offices.
- *Israeli Apartheid Week (& BDS Conference, general politics, etc.):* QPIRG's support of IAW is often controversial on McGill's campus, and board members wanted to make sure they could articulate our reasons for supporting IAW, as a whole organization. Community activists and allies gave our board and staff members IAW '101' (on November 19, 2010) and '201' workshops (on March 4, 2011).

QPIRG Internally: Staff, Board and Working Group relationships

Board Transition:

One of the particular challenges QPIRG McGill faced this year was our relatively new and inexperienced board membership. Of the twelve board members, as of September, only two were returning for a second or third year. By November, when one board member stepped down from the board in order to take up the Fundraising Co-ordinator position, only one board member had had prior experience on the QPIRG board.

Working Groups

QPIRG funded 19 working groups this year, 15 returning and 4 new. This year, each board member took on a 'liaison' role with one or two working groups, a model that worked reasonably well. This year, the board found it increasingly important to consider how to create stronger connections between working groups and the McGill student community. One outcome of this was a board meeting with Tadamon members present in order to strategize how their presence could be better felt on campus, and to create a forum in which students could glean a more comprehensive understanding of the work that they do. This was deemed as especially significant for Tadamon given the degree to which they, and QPIRG in turn, are often misrepresented by the media and certain groups on campus.

Hiring of Volunteer Co-ordinator One of our long-term volunteers, Taylor, was able to secure Emploi Quebec funding for a volunteer co-ordinator position for first semester, which was great! Taylor offered QPIRG 101 workshops throughout the semester, and built a volunteer base that we have been able to put to use for different events and campaigns throughout the year.

Hiring of Fundraising Co-ordinator We were also able to secure Emploi Quebec funding for Caitlin to become a fundraising co-ordinator, which is especially crucial because of some of the financial problems that have been caused by the opt-out campaign. Caitlin is and has been helping us and working groups secure funding for specific projects and for the organization more broadly.

Having both Caitlin and Taylor around during the year has helped alleviate a lot of stress off the staff and Board and has generally been awesome!

Resolution of internal tensions

In the wake of a very stressful fall opt-out period, some tensions emerged among board members. The decision was made in November to seek mediation in order for the Board to properly address these tensions and move forward. With the help of Helen Hudson, all members of the Board participated in a mediation session in late November, which on the whole was very constructive. This mediation session improved communication and understanding among Board members; the resulting internal Board relations during the Winter semester were positive and productive

External Attacks to QPIRG's Existence

QPIRG and McGill campus: Opt-Outs

The Conservative McGill-organized opt-out campaign was particularly forceful during the 2010-2011 academic year. Their tactics included using campus media to misrepresent QPIRG McGill, presenting a motion to the SSMU Council to launch a referendum to de-fund QPIRG McGill (which was quickly deemed out of order), tabling, flyering, and their yearly online, facebook campaign. In general, the opt-out campaign's messaging strategy ranged from informing students of items they could purchase for \$7.50, to outright smearing and misrepresentation of QPIRG, some of its working groups, and sympathetic organizations.

We believe that the vast majority of students would not (and do not) opt out of their fee given accurate information about the purpose,

activities, and history of our organization. In the face of the opt-out campaign, we realized it was very important that we do as much public outreach as possible to ensure this was the case. This (particularly in second semester) included ensuring accurate representations in campus media, doing public campaigns about all of the opt-outable student services (such as the "Our Campus, Our Community" campaign), extensive facebook and online information campaigns, meeting with student leaders, and so on. It is unlikely that the nature of the opt-out campaign will change in the near future. As such, the 2010-2011 Board thinks it wise for future Boards to prepare for the opt-out campaign in advance using some of the strategies detailed in the Media and Outreach section below, as well as coming up with more creative and effective solutions for reaching the student body. Lastly, we found that it was extremely important that the Board take on as much of this work as possible, as it is essential to QPIRG that Anna and Andrea, along with the other staff, are able to do the ongoing, day-to-day work of the organization.

Testimonials

The creation of the I (heart) QPIRG page on the website has been very successful. As part of efforts to further outreach and connections with the community, Board members solicited testimonials from former QPIRG members, and received lots of support from all around the world. We're hoping to continue this process and make the results more public and visible on campus next year.

Media and Outreach Committee

As part of our work to reach out to as many students on campus as possible, the newly formed media and outreach comm (and its many volunteers) responded to inaccurate information in the campus papers (in second semester), sat down with different councils and student groups (including the SSMU) to ensure a basic knowledge of QPIRG's structure and work by student leaders, put together a display that highlighted some of QPIRG's most important and exciting work over the last 30 years for the hallway between Redpath and McLennan, worked to build engaging and exciting volunteer opportunities outside of the working group structure so that it was easier for students to get involved, and did some radio work with CKUT about QPIRG's history (this was mostly Rae Dooley!). Lastly, the committee co-ordinated the "Our Campus, Our Community" campaign along with the other opt-outable services on campus to educate students about what all of these awesome services do, via a website and some awesome posters.

Policy Work

By the end of the fall semester, with the January opt out period looming, the board and staff strategized new ways of dis/engaging with Opt Out. In the winter term, the board and staff made an explicit decision to 'turn inward', so to speak, and focus our energies on internal work that would help secure the long-term existence of this organization; one of the ways in which we emphasized our internal work was by drafting a number of new policies, and doing major revisions of older policies. Important changes included the creation of a Board policy, which outlines the responsibilities of Board members, as well as the Conflict Resolution and Complaint Committee policy (which outlines our policies for dealing with conflict within the organization), the Living Wage policy, the Elections policy, and the Referenda policy.

QPIRG Events & Programming

Fight the Winter Blues

QPIRG held a well-attended event in January in the ballroom with dinner, workshops, and other fun stuff. It was a great opportunity for students to meet the QPIRG board and staff, as well as fellow members.

Social Justice Days

One big change was that we did more collaborative events with student groups on campus (such as First Nations House, the Black Student's Network, the Muslim Student Association, etc), and though we tried to spread it out over more than two weeks, it ended up happening in the same time frame anyways. We also tried a 'activist fair' for the first time, which is an idea we're pretty excited about but which was not super well attended and might need some re-vamping. The major events were well-attended and the smaller events were less so but all went off really well. A major portion of our board and one of our full time staff was away during a lot of Social Justice Days which was really terrible for Anna, so we've definitely learned not to try to do that again.

Culture Shock

Culture Shock was a great success with some awesome speakers and events though there was a low turn out at a number of the events. Something that we thought about after Culture Shock and tried (and failed) to apply during Social Justice Days was to spread it out over a longer time period so that people are more able to come.

Love-In for QPIRG

The Valentine's Fundraising Event was taken on by some 'friends of QPIRG' in February which was great and brought us in some extra cash!

Radfrosh 2010

Went well this year, but the Board wasn't heavily involved...

Integrated Orientation

Over the course of the 2010-2011 year, the Student Services Office at McGill in conjunction with SSMU began the process of integrating the university-led orientation with the faculty and SSMU froshes. QPIRG was included in the consultation process. As a result of this reform process, the registration process and the schedule of the orientation period have been drastically changed. Radfrosh will likely now have to compete with part of the Faculty organized part of orientation. QPIRG is still working with organizers from the Student Services to finalize the details such as dates and the registration process for Radfrosh.

Report from the Staff

Once again, the 2010-2011 year has been a very active one for QPIRG McGill. We have seen a year filled with events, structural change, continued challenges with respect to opt-outs, and both internal and external growth. Outlined below is a summary of all aspects relating to board and staff, policy work, opt-outs and finances.

Board and Staff:

Last year's elections saw a huge amount of turnover, with many long-time board members graduating from McGill and moving on from the Board. With newer members, we have seen exciting ideas and changes, though these have, in turn, come with a fair amount of challenges, due in large part to a wide range of experiences and approaches among members of the Board. As the year has progressed, we have managed to develop ways of working together that have massively benefited the organization, in terms of wider membership and reach, the melding of ideas of more and less experienced board members, as well as a diversity of life experiences. As the two coordinators of QPIRG McGill, we can definitely say that we have had the most active, dedicated and committed board either of us has ever seen at QPIRG ~ and that's compared to many years of hard-working boards!

In terms of Core Staff developments, we obtained two grants through Emploi Quebec, which allowed us to temporarily hire both a Volunteer Coordinator, and a Fundraising Coordinator. Taylor Lewis was employed for six months to set up a volunteer program through QPIRG McGill. We had established that there was a need to create meaningful opportunities for members to get involved in addition to the option of joining the board or volunteering at events. Because of Taylor's work, we have greatly expanded our outreach possibilities, and introduced many more students to QPIRG who may never have known about us previously. In collaboration with Josh, our current Resource Centre coordinator, Taylor has been able to create opportunities for members to get involved through the newly created Library collective, which exists to collectively decide which books to buy, how to categorize them, and generally to strategize around our ever-expanding Alternative Resource Centre.

Caitlin Manicom, who is still employed under the Subventions Salariales program of Emploi Quebec, has been working on long-term strategies for fundraising, in particular funding for annual summer positions. This has become necessary to offset the losses from opt-outs, which have been steadily increasing every year. In order for us to maintain the level of programming, research stipends, and all of the other resources that we have to offer all year round, we realized that we would need to secure outside funding, such as government grants, to fund some of the projects we want to continue to prioritize. Caitlin will be working at QPIRG on this project until the beginning of July. Both of these positions have been fully funded by Emploi Quebec, and bear next to no cost on QPIRG.

Opt-Outs:

The Board and Staff at QPIRG have continued to dialogue with McGill and the SSMU about the impact of on-line opt-outs on campus life. We met with the Dean of Students twice this year to address the fact that we are being targeted through aggressive and dishonest campaigns, prior to and during opt-out periods every semester. We again asked that the Dean discuss with the Deputy Provost the possibility for us to control our own opt-out mechanism via the QPIRG McGill website. We are still waiting on a response from the Dean regarding this matter.

This year, our opt-out strategy has primarily been to increase our presence on campus through events and tabling, and also through a wide-reaching poster and web campaign. The "Our Campus Our Community" web

"QPIRG McGill played a vital role during my days in university, and it continues to do so now. I extend my support to QPIRG McGill, as well as my respect to those fighting to sustain it. I invite McGill University students, faculty, and staff, who have not yet done so, to do the same."

Farha Najah Hussain
Working group
member & McGill
Alumni

and poster project was launched at the beginning of the Winter semester, largely spearheaded by our Board. The idea behind the campaign was to bring together all fee-levy organizations on campus in order to increase our visibility both physically on campus and on the internet. We aimed to remind students the importance of fee-levy groups, and hopefully to encourage them to find out about us before opting out.

While these campaigns were largely successful in helping educate McGill students about who we are, we still suffered a very significant financial loss from opt-outs this year. We also are continuing to strategize on how to respond to malicious and misinformed portrayals of our organization on campus by the Opt-Out campaign. We hope to work together with the new SSMU executive and the McGill administration to come up with a longer-term solution to this issue, one that brings the opt-out mechanism back under our own control as an independent student group on campus.

Policy and other Internal Work:

Policy Bank, the collaborative policy-writing initiative between QPIRG McGill, QPIRG Concordia, and the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy, has been active this year with a slight lull during second semester. The reason for this is primarily that it has been more difficult during busy times of year to get together the broader group of people to work on policy, and also because QPIRG McGill has been trying to polish up policies according to our own timeline. We are continuing to work on a variety of internal policies, basing many of them off of organizations across the country with similar structures and mandates. We also plan to put more time and energy into Policy Bank throughout the Spring and Summer.

Finances:

As usual, we passed an audit of our 2009-2010 financial year with no problems. The audited report is available in our year-end report binder, and we have enclosed the main parts of it as an addendum to this finance report. We closed the year with a deficit of \$5,338. When the budget was made for the 2009-2010 financial year at QPIRG, we budgeted for a \$76.49. This unpredicted deficit is largely due to the fluctuating opt-out numbers, which are nearly impossible to budget for.

We began the current financial year (2010-2011) budgeting for a loss of \$2,271. While it is slightly unorthodox to budget for a deficit, we have discovered over the past few years that it is becoming necessary to do so, with the fluctuating opt-out numbers. We are also continuing to fundraise and apply for grants, both for annual programming such as Rad Frosh, and for individual events.

Who we are...

Mandate

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG McGill) is a resource centre for students and community members working towards social and environmental justice. We strive to engage students in research, public education and action, and to support grassroots activism around diverse social and environmental issues. We seek to build campus-community alliances and inspire social change through inclusive and non-hierarchical approaches.

QPIRG McGill is opposed to all forms of discrimination on the basis of: race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and dis/ability. QPIRG McGill is committed to engaging in research and action that are rooted in an anti-oppression analysis and practice.

History

In 1970-1971, Ralph Nader, in the US, encouraged the formation of the first two PIRGs by university students, and their organizing efforts and structure became the blueprint for the hundreds of groups to follow. By 1973 there were chapters on 135 campuses in 19 states across the US. In Canada, the first PIRG was set up in Ontario during the 1972-1973 school year at the University of Waterloo.

In Quebec, QPIRG has been an organization at both Concordia and McGill Universities since 1980. However, it was not until 1988 that a referendum was passed at McGill making QPIRG at McGill the first student-funded, autonomous PIRG in Quebec. There are PIRGs at Concordia University and UQAM.

Historically, Canadian PIRGs in general, as oppose to US PIRGs, have been interested in encouraging grassroots organizing and changing of public attitudes, rather than lobbying the government. The PIRGs' mandate has been to provide a structure within which students and community members can develop the knowledge and practical skills needed in activism and community work. By providing a forum and training ground for people to be engaged community participants, the PIRGs complement the academic structure by linking theory and practice.

Since 2001, QPIRG has adopted an anti-oppression framework, seeking to oppose all forms of oppression as they play out within society at large as well as within our organizing work. In the last five years, QPIRG McGill has been instrumental in bringing progressive voices to McGill campus, and in the formation of Culture Shock and Social Justice Days. As well, QPIRG has collaborated with several campus groups who are working for social and environmental justice.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Maddie Ritts

Undergrad Student

Kira Page

Undergrad Student

Dan K. Thagard

Undergrad Student

Sarah Woolf

Undergrad Student

Sebastian

Ronderos-Morgan

Undergrad Student

Mahtab Nazemi

Graduate Student

Patrick Dedauw

Undergrad Student

Farid Rener

Undergrad Student

Jessica Blair

Community Member

Will Burton

Community Member

Maddie Guerlain

Community Member

Resignations:

Emma Russell

(Aug 2010)

Robin Kelley

(Sept 2010)

Caitlin Manicom

(Nov 2010)

Danielle Holyk

(Jan 2011)

Radney Jean-

Claude

(Jan 2011)

Rae Dooley

(Feb 2011)

Adam Wheeler

(Feb 2011)

Reps:

Nakita Sunar

PGSS rep

Tyler Lawson

SSMU rep

Structure

As of 2007, all McGill undergraduate and graduate students are automatically members of QPIRG and are entitled to all of QPIRG's services by virtue of a refundable semester fee. Community members are eligible for membership if they pay the "community member" fee and complete 15 hours of volunteer work at QPIRG.

QPIRG Board

QPIRG McGill is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Board of Directors is responsible for all the decisions pertaining to the operation of the organization. The Board defines the vision and direction of the organizations, allocates the budget, and also organizes independent QPIRG events.

QPIRG's voluntary Board members gain valuable skills and receive hands-on, practical training in running a non-profit organization. Board members set the organization's direction, sit on organizing committees, support the staff, gain experience with anti-oppression training, financial management, policy development, labour-management relations, community organizing, project development and programming, and consensus building. This year the Board formed seven committees:

- Staff Committee
- Programming Committee
- Legal Committee
- Finance Committee
- Outreach & Media Committee
- Policy Committee
- CURE Committee (shared committee with QPIRG Concordia)

QPIRG Staff

QPIRG McGill has 2 core staff members who coordinate the day-to-day operations of the organization. The QPIRG staff work hard to insure reliability, continuity and skill sharing within the organization. In addition to daily operations, the staff is responsible for programming, finances, outreach, working groups, programs, coordinating resources, volunteers, projects, grant research, and policy development among many other things. This year's staff were:

- **Internal Coordinator: Anna Malla.**
- **External Coordinator: Andrea Figueroa.**

Every year, QPIRG hires 2 part-time work-study students to fill the **Resource Centre Coordinator** and the **CURE Coordinator** positions. The 2010/2011 coordinators were **Josh Mentanko** and **Anais Cadieux Vanvliet**, respectively. This year we also got two interns via the Quebec Subventions Salariales: **Taylor Lewis**, who was our **Volunteer Coordinator** from August 2010- February 2011; and, **Caitlin Manicom**, who is our **Fundraising Coordinator** and started in January 2011 and will be around until June 2011.

In the summer of 2010, QPIRG hired **2 Rad Frosh Coordinators: Judy Grant** (community based) and **Lydia Ould Brahim** (campus based); **1 School Schmoor Coordinator: Kim Roos**; and **2 Summer Stipend Coordinators: Rez Knoppers** and **G-Care**.

The 2010-2011 **External Bookkeeper** was **Dan Lacroix**.

What we do...

Once again, the 2010-2011 year has been a very active one for QPIRG McGill. It has been a year filled with events, structural change, and continued challenges with respect to opt-outs. What follows is a brief overview of the event series we've hosted, supported and endorsed! As well as some of the other things we do such as RadFrosh, Summer Stipends and School Schmoool. We also want to highlight some of the very cool resources that we have, the CURE Project and our Alternative Library.

One-off Events and more...

Summer Film Festival 2010:

We showed three films last summer as part of QPIRG's Annual Summer Film Fest: Maquilapolis (City of Factories); Young Soul Rebels, and The Conflict: Whose Loss, Whose Gain. All screenings took place off campus at le Cagibi

Study in Action 2011:

This year marked our first collaboration with QPIRG Concordia on their annual undergraduate research conference, Study in Action. A very active and hard-working committee was formed, made up of McGill and Concordia students, as well as staff and board from both PIRGs, to pull together an amazing weekend of workshops, panels and undergraduate students presenting their research. We plan on continuing this collaboration in the coming years, and expanding on our involvement and outreach at McGill.

Other Events:

- G20 Fundraiser and Teach-In - June 2010

Leading up to the G20 Summit in Toronto last June, QPIRG McGill worked together with staff and board from QPIRG Concordia, GRIP-UQAM, as well as other individual members of all three PIRGs to organize two events: 1) a teach-in about some of the issues raised around the G20 summit, and 2) a fundraiser party to raise money for the buses headed from Montreal to Toronto to protest the summit.

- La Haine: a public film Screening – September 2010

To kick off the academic year, we decided to screen the French film "La Haine" on campus at McGill, to prompt discussion about migrant communities and police brutality. Originally planned as an outdoor screening, we ended up having to move inside because of the weather!

- Annual Open House with CKUT - September 2010
- Anti-Colonial Thanksgiving – November 2010

This year QPIRG co-presented the annual anti-capitalist Thanksgiving celebration, which celebrates indigenous resistance to colonialism and community. Food, films and speakers. Co-sponsored by QPIRG Concordia and le Frigo Vert

- Film Screening and discussion at McGill Residences: The Fourth World War – January 2011
- Valentines Day Fundraiser Party – February 2011
- Keynote address with Ali Abunimah: "One Country: A bold proposal to end the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" – March 2011

A co-presentation with the organizing committee of **Israeli Apartheid Week Montreal 2011**.

- Artist Talk and Performance as part of the Edgy Women Festival – March 2011, co-sponsored by Studio 303, Queer McGill, and the Edgy Women Festival

“QPIRG-McGill fosters critical reflection on the past struggles for social justice, as well as an active engagement in the ones we currently face, both as students and members of the larger community. By doing so, it constantly reminds us that we have a capacity (and indeed a responsibility) to use the knowledge we garner during the course of our studies to bring about meaningful change. In that sense, it is a true source of inspiration”

Radical Law Student's Association of McGill University (RadLaw)

Social Justice Days 2011

The annual collaboration between the SSMU Equity Officer and QPIRG McGill was a huge success this year, spanning from March 15th to March 24th. Once again, we worked together with a variety of on and off-campus groups, including Climate Justice Montreal (also a Working Group of QPIRG), the Muslim Students' Association of McGill University, First People's House at McGill, and the Social Justice Committee of Montreal.

Some highlights this year included: Fighting the Winter Blues – an evening of food, fun and skill-sharing; the Community Fair, a tabling fair providing students the opportunity to get to know several on and off campus groups working towards social and environmental justice in Montreal; a panel discussion with George Poitras, a former Chief of the Mikisew Cree First

Nation located in Fort Chipewyan, and Ben Powless, Indigenous Environmental Network campaigner and activist, who spoke about the disastrous effects of the Alberta Tar Sands; and a roundtable discussion among McGill students and graduates about tuition hikes, access to education, and how to mobilize at this time of economic austerity measures.

We received a lot of great feedback and the turnout was excellent for the workshops, panels and discussions.

The coordinator for Social Justice Days 2011 was **Derek Lapanno** and **Lyndsey Grosfield** (from Nov to Jan).

Culture Shock 2010

Once again, QPIRG McGill and the SSMU co-organized Culture Shock 2010, from October 3rd – 15th. Highlights included a panel with New Jersey-based Professor and activist Robyn Rodriguez on Migrant Justice work in the U.S. and Canada; a panel discussion as part of the “Community and Resistance” tour, which brought activists and journalists Jordan Flaherty, Jesse Muhammad and Victoria Law from various parts of the United States; a fundraiser concert with the Fat Tuesday Jazz Band and members of Kalmunity Vibe Collective to launch Jordan Flaherty's “Floodlines,” a book about Hurricane Katrina and community resistance, and to raise money for Pakistan flood relief; and a panel discussion with internationally renowned

legal rights activist Ponni Arasu, who spoke about the struggle for LGBTQ rights in India.

The event series was packed full of workshops, panels and fundraisers; many who attended claimed it was the best lineup they had ever seen at a Culture Shock! Unfortunately, because of the focus in the fall in campus media on the opt-out campaign, Culture Shock barely got any publicity in campus papers, and saw a lower attendance than in previous years. Next year we plan to have equally great content but with higher attendance!

The Coordinator for Culture Shock 2010 was **Lydia Ould Brahim**.

RadFrosh 2010 – Lydia Ould Brahim & Judy Grant

Known Previously as Alternative Frosh, the Radical Frosh program is part of McGill orientation activities for incoming first year students. Running alongside the SSMU Frosh program, Rad Frosh brings a fresh, political and active approach to introducing new students to student life. The aim of the program is to provide students with useful information about university life, volunteer and activist opportunities, facilitate discussion about social, political and environmental issues, and orient students to the larger Montréal community. With activities such as walking tours, social justice workshops and panel discussions the participant are introduced to a myriad of different issues ranging from immigrant and refugee rights to environmentalist and anti-poverty organizing.

Again, this year we hired two coordinators to run RadFrosh, Lydia Ould Brahim and Judy Grant, as we realized that the work needed to be divided between on-campus and off-campus coordination.

Both coordinators did an amazing job with Radical Frosh!!

This year's program included a Gay Village Pub Crawl, a Scavenger Hunt, Workshops and Tours, a Loft Party and a Final Concert. At least 200 first-year students attended RadFrosh and we were all excited by it!!

School Schmool 2010-2011 – Kim Russ & Julia De Montigny

School Schmool: The Organizer made it's way back into the hands of campus and community members throughout Montreal once again. School Schmool began in 1994 as a bi-annual publication out of QPIRG-McGill that sought to bring together information, groups, and practical tools of use to all students, but particularly those interested in social justice, equity, and sustainability issues. In the summer of 2006, School Schmool was resurrected as a day planner as well as a socially progressive resource book. We're pleased to inform you that we've done it again: this year as a joint project through QPIRG McGill and now QPIRG-Concordia.

This year's shiny new edition featured a diverse range of articles and group profiles to guide students and others towards a more socially and environmentally just Montreal experience. Once again a year-long calendar provided users with the space to keep track of their lives while the featured historical dates helped to archive important moments in Montreal's history. New features included: a larger format to accommodate people's busy activist and academic schedules, a moon calendar (!), thick

divider tabs to that make the guide that much easier to navigate, a small month by month calendar section and extra blank pages at the back for notes and ideas. We've received nothing but positive feedback from community and campus members who love the aesthetics, layout and content.

With the official support of QPIRG Concordia for the first time we managed to distribute nearly all 2,000 copies of the agenda across the city by late September, a first time feat! This year's guide also featured several more Concordia campus groups than previously. With that many more individuals and groups connected we feel that we fulfilled one of the primary goals of School Schmool--to encourage students and non students alike to engage with and participate in the issues affecting them as members of both academic and non-academic communities in Montreal. We hope the project continues to successfully aid School Schmool users to engage with articles, resources and practical tools so that they may participate in social and environmental justice activism and find their place in the city.

-- words from Kim Russ and Julia De Montigny

Summer Stipend 2010

QPIRG's Summer Stipend are intended to provide individuals with a budget/honorarium of \$3,00.00 each to work over the summer doing research leading towards action and change within the Montreal community.

Student's proposals must fit into QPIRG's social and environmental justice mandate and priority is often given to projects, which have barriers to getting funding elsewhere on campus and in the community. It is our hope that research stipends enable important initiatives to emerge during the stipend period, and continue to grow and flourish beyond it.

In 2010, the stipends supported two exciting and innovative projects that helped broaden QPIRG's reach in the Montreal Community:

Rez Knoppers – Children Be Gay Handbook / childrenbegay@gmail.com

The focal point of this project is the creation of a handbook entitled **Children Be Gay: A Handbook on How to Talk to Kids about Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Queer Sexuality**. The goal of the handbook is to help adults engage with kids about these issues in a way that is meaningful and relevant to their worlds, to help counteract messages of shame and guilt, to quell bullying, and to introduce a radical politics of empowerment around gender and queer sexuality.

The intended audience for the handbook is any interested adult –be it a parent, educator, sibling, friend, babysitter etc. In addition to having copies available for individuals, I want to distribute the handbook to social justice organizations and schools.

During Perverscite August 2010, I coordinated a participatory workshop. I presented my research and then we broke off into small groups and discussed issues such as:
-*What types of conversations worked in your childhood? (positive*

experiences with parents, other family, friends, etc)

-If you're a gender non-conforming and/or trans and/or queer adult, how do you deal when interacting with kids (both in relation to what's ok for them and what's ok for you...)

-Our own experiences talking to kids about issues of gender / sexuality

Around 30 people came and it seemed like a great public venue to talk about the issue with people involved in radical queer and trans organizing. I would be interested in coordinating similar workshops in the future.

As another means of sharing what I am learning I would like to host a film screening on McGill campus of "It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in Schools" a 1996 U.S. based documentary as well as "Ma Vie en Rose" a Belgian film about an MTF child. The screening will be followed by a discussion.

G-CARE – Project on Institutional Racism at McGill / gcare.info@gmail.com

The current incarnation of GCARE the graduate collective against racism and for equity is a result of an ongoing graduate student-led push to make visible the issues and challenges that historically marginalized and racialized graduate students encounter, in order to ensure targeted action is taken to address these issues. To this end, GCARE as it is today is a result of several evolutions.

The funding provided by QPIRG-McGill provided GCARE with an opportunity to lay the groundwork necessary in order to ensure our long-term development and sustainability. The strong foundation that GCARE has developed centres the experiences of racialized graduate students at McGill, as well as prioritizing relationship building, critical dialogue and collective decision making.

The process of building a strong foundation for GCARE was a difficult one that took a lot of energy and was at times a challenging endeavour. At the same time, this process was critical and necessary in order to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of a group like GCARE, which often dissolves due to racialized student burn out or co-optation. As many have explained (Henry and Tator, 2009; Bishop, 2005; Galabuzi, 2010), the social and institutional processes which dismantle groups like GCARE are connected to the pervasiveness of white supremacy and institutional racism within the Academic Industrial Complex (AIC).

G-CARE is committed to identifying and addressing institutional racism by implementing anti-racism initiatives on and off campus. It can start with acknowledging that you are not alone. The next step is to collectively ACT! If you are interested in joining the fight against institutional racism, we want to hear from you!

For the complete report, please check the FINAL REPORT BINDER!!

Resources

QPIRG McGill strives to offers students and community members as many resources as possible, and it does so by providing space for meetings, computers, phones and other resources free of charge. QPIRG also has a library that is available for students as a study room or a hang out space. If you are interested in using any of these resources just call QPIRG and they will be very excited to assist you!

Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) – Anais Cadieux-Vanvliet (CURE Coordinator)

Events:

UP YOURS, February 4th: This event was a success, we raised about 500\$ with limited effort required on our part. This fundraising opportunity is particularly useful for CURE as we have limited staff available to support us with planning of events and hands available to make events happen

GPSS CURE 5 a 7: Also a success. The Graduate and Post-Graduate Student Society (GPSS) was awesome in organizing this event.

Study in Action: promotion of CURE through tabling. This year Siji, the Concordia CURE coordinator spoke on a panel during Study in Action, but obviously in the future, it might be the McGill CURE cord's turn to speak at Study in Action.

McGill Career fair s tabling (3): Through CAPS (check-out their website.)

Midterm season hot chocolate and coffee distribution: To promote CURE and QPIRG in general we handed out hot chocolate and coffee while presenting to passer-bys what the PIRG and CURE is all about.

Postering in McLennan. while we tabled in McLennan, posters for CURE projects were exposed in the Redpath hallway(for two weeks

Panel discussion for Social Justice Days: This was a panel on university and activism. I wish I had tried to participate in more such panel as I feel that panels where CURE can talk about how CURE contributes to social justice, activism and a learning space for aspiring activists,

Alternative Library – Josh Mentanko (Library Coordinator)

The first task was to clean up the library itself. The space was pretty non-functional and the dead plants really brought down the energy. I moved around the furniture, got rid of all of the dead plants, cleared the table so it could be used as a workspace, and picked up all of the odd bits and pieces strewn about and gave them a home.

Second task was to make room on the shelving units for the zines. When I first arrived, the zines were being kept on the shelving unit that now contains new books. I put several magazines into temporary storage, shifted and consolidated the resource readings and other magazines, and freed up enough space and boxes to hold the zines on a regular shelf. The shelving unit that used to contain zines now holds new books, which is excellent for display and doesn't do long-term damage to the books as they are less fragile than the zines and circulate quicker..

One of the tasks brought to my attention by the hiring committee and the outgoing library coordinator was the need for an updated classification system. I proposed a final draft for a new classification system and consulted with former library coordinators, board members, the external and internal coordinators of QPIRG McGill, as well as with representatives from other alternative libraries in Montreal at a meeting we had in October. All of the books and media materials will be classified according to the new system and the project should

be completed by the beginning of March.

One of the first realizations I had was the need for increased participation by patrons and other interested parties in the activities and goal-coordination of the library. Currently, the collective is composed of 5-10 people (there is a "core" group of volunteers and several others who participate less often but are consulted in decision making). Volunteers have received training in the online database and physical re-cataloguing. The collective is also the seat of purchasing power, with every member allocated a certain amount of money to buy materials for a chosen subject area. We will have our purchases finalized during a discussion at the beginning of March. Collective members have also helped with the QPIRG history display at the McLennan library, which I also took part in, and their assistance has sped up the cataloguing process considerably.

Quotidian activities of running the library have not taken a back seat to all of these special projects

Finally, I am in discussion with the coordinators of the Alternative Libraries Database to get Queer McGill's collection uploaded to the database

Interns

QPIRG's Summer Stipend are intended to provide individuals with a budget/honorarium of \$3,00.00 each to work over the summer doing research leading towards action and change within the Montreal community.

Student's proposals must fit into QPIRG's social and environmental justice mandate and priority is often given to projects, which have barriers to getting funding elsewhere on campus and in the community. It is our hope that research stipends enable important initiatives to emerge during the stipend period, and continue to grow and flourish beyond it.

In 2010, the stipends supported two exciting and innovative projects that helped broaden QPIRG's reach in the Montreal Community:

Volunteer Coordinator – Taylor Lewis

My involvement as volunteer and outreach coordinator with QPIRG McGill kicked off in August 2010 and is coming to an end within the next 3 weeks. During the month of August, I spent most of my time researching the organization by reading old volunteer manuals and board training booklets and the website. Along with researching the organization, I started working a lot on a volunteer guide in my first few weeks of work and then started to help out with my first event, Radical Frosh. For the Rad Frosh bags, I printed bilingual flyers outlining what QPIRG McGill does and encouraging people to get involved.

Increased visibility on campus was especially important in the time leading up to and during student fee opt-out periods (September 14 - 28 and January 19 - 31). I helped to organize tabling at the Street Festival for first-year students on August 24th.

QPIRG 101s were another type of event that I planned. They were geared at fostering volunteer involvement through educating people on the working groups, and what various member's experiences with them have been. I wanted an easy and relatively brief way to introduce potential volunteers to the

essentials of QPIRG McGill in a laid-back but informative way.

Since the QPIRG 101 events were geared at getting more QPIRG members to become active with the organization, at the end of each workshop I would get the contact information of whoever wanted to be on the events and volunteer listservs. I got a lot of emails for the volunteer and events listservs this way.

Kira, Patrick, Sebastian and I started a Media and Public Outreach sub-committee in October. Our short-term goals involved the creation of a group of students who were willing to directly respond to campus media that falsely represented QPIRG to promote media accountability. The last two projects I'm working on for the year are a volunteer guide (on the specifics of how to get involved) and an exit report. I have had meetings with Josh, the library coordinator, and Anais, the CURE coordinator about how volunteers can get involved with these initiatives.

Fundraising Coordinator – Caitlin Manicom

Once I was hired as Fundraising Coordinator I worked specifically with the Internal Coordinator to gain a broader understanding of QPIRG McGill's financial picture in order to fundraise appropriately. I then applied for government grants already within the purview of QPIRG McGill's fundraising efforts and researched other possible grants and fundraising strategies. A large part of the job consisted of doing research into the different ways in which an organization such as QPIRG McGill – an organization without charity status – can conduct fundraising endeavors and with which groups/organizations it is particularly important that we build ties. In the past few months the tasks of the Fundraising Coordinator have included extensive grant writing in order to gain funding for projects such as the Study in Action Conference, Social Justice Days, summer stipends and summer job positions. Additionally, I have worked on longer term grant proposals to create new and sustainable projects at QPIRG McGill, taking into consideration funding offered through McGill bodies such as the Sustainability Projects Fund. With help from the Board of Directors, I also organized a small fundraising party and hope to plan another similar event later a few months from now.

Discretionary Funding Granted 2010-2011

Date	Event/To	Amount
04/16/2010	- Safer Wheels – Telyn Kusalik (Safer Wheels Project)	\$250.00
04/30/2010	- Queer Zine Archival – Qteam - Recon Cure Project – Liza Miatello - Yapping Out Loud – Daniel (Ste-Emilie Skillshare)	\$100.00 \$150.00 \$ 50.00
05/17/2010	- Citizens' General Assembly for Parc Extension – Holly Nazar (Citizens' Committee of Parc Extension) - Nailbiter Zine: Anxiety Zine 2 – Rochelle Ross - Queerriot – Felicia Fierce - CSIS Video – People's Commission Network (CSIS Watch) - Vivre à l'échelle locale – Isabelle Monast-Landriault	\$ 50.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00
06/02/2010	- Aboriginal Day Celebration – Gretchen King (CKUT Radio) - "The Face of Apathid in Palestine & Canada's Role in it" – Jesse Rosenfeld (The Dominion & The Daily Nuisance)	\$150.00 \$ 50.00
06/16/2010	- CSIS Video # 2 - People's Commission Network (CSIS Watch) - Project 10's Summer Camp for LGBTTIQ youth – Project 10 - Witness Canoe Trip on the Romaine River – Alliance Romaine - Alternative Media Centre G20 – G20 Alternative Media Centre	\$ 50.00 \$100.00 \$ 50.00 \$100.00
06/30/2010	- Pervers/cité Promotion and panel - Jordan Arseneault (Pervers/cité) - Lickety Split Smut Zine – Julie Alsop (Lickety Splut)	\$125.00 \$125.00
07/28/2010	- The Prisoner Solidarity Working Group – Jeff Lynch (Against Prison Collective) - Quebec Climate Action Camp – Cameron Fenton (Climate Justice Montreal) - Prisoner Justice Day Noise Demo – Emma Strople (Affiliated with Open Door Books)	\$100.00 \$ 50.00 \$100.00
08/13/2010	- Sense Project Animator Training – Julia De Montigny (Head & Hands)	\$250.00
08/23/2010	- Wild in the Streets – Sarah Fahie (CKUT)	\$150.00
09/07/2010	- Ehtnoculture 2010 – Ed Lee (Ethnoculture)	\$150.00
09/23/2010	- Sandrine Support – Tessa Vikander, Aaron Lekoff and Taylor Lewis (Solidarity Across Borders) - Nuit des Sans-Abri – Ricky Kelly-Shepard (Collectif de Nuit de Sans-Abri)	\$ 50.00 \$150.00
10/15/2010	- Quebec-Canada Conference on BDS Campaign – Justyn Teed (BDS Organizing Committee & SPHR McGill)	\$250.00
11/01/2010	- Kabataang Montreal 10 year Anniversary – Illyan Ferrer (Kabataang Montreal) - Third Assembly of Migrants and Refugees – Malcolm Sacks (International Migrants Alliance) - Listserv upkeep - Riseup	\$150.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 50.00
11/17/2010	- Full-length documentary film project: "Et si l'anarchie? Chroniques d'une mouvance libertaire" – Fernando Garcia Blanes - VIHsion Festival – Jordan Arseneault (VIHsion Collectif Organisateur) - "The Prognosis" Journal on Global Health – Tyler Wilson (The Lancet Student Montreal)	\$ 50.00 \$100.00 \$100.00
01/10/2011	- "Haitian Youth and Education in the Era of Reconstruction" A Panel discussion with members of Nomadic Massive and writer Jean St. Vil – Tasha Anestopoulos (Solid'Ayiti) - "An evening with Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha" – Rachel Berger (Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University) - DIRA Anarchist Library – Blandine Juchs (DIRA) - Project 10 Winter/Spring Retreat – Carly Boyce (Project 10)	\$100.00 \$100.00 \$100.00 \$200.00
01/21/2011	- Comite Azkintuwe Booklet – Sam Bick (Comite de Apoyo al Pueblo Mapuche) - 2011 Homelessness Marathon – Gretchen King (CKUT)	\$150.00 \$150.00
02/18/2011	- Solidarity Across Borders Community Dinner – Amy Darwish (Immigrant Workers Centre) - Radical Queer Semaine 2011 – Jordan Arsenault (RQS) - Undocumented Info Workshop – Woo Jin Edward Lee	\$250.00 \$200.00 \$ 50.00
03/18/2011	- Fierté Trans - Danielle Chénier (Association des Transsexuels et transsexuelles du Québec) - Canadian Prisoners Advocacy and Outreach Coalition – Anita Schoepp (Stella)	\$150.00 \$100.00

TOTAL \$ 4850

WORKING GROUPS 2010-2011

What are working groups?

QPIRG McGill's activities are primarily conducted through its working groups. These are autonomous organizations, made up of students and community members, who undertake action and research into issues at the core of QPIRG McGill's mandate.

Once a year, we call for and select a new batch of working groups. These are student-led projects and organizations that require long term, stable funding, in order to engage broad issues of vital importance. Working Groups also receive dedicated use of the office for organizing and holding meetings, computer and photocopier use, and holding events.

All working groups receive their status for no more than one year at a time. They *must* re-apply to maintain their status. Working Groups also have responsibilities to participate in QPIRG McGill's programming and organization. Usually, new working groups receive smaller budgets than returning working groups.

B. Refuge

Volunteer Buddy Program

At the beginning of the semester, eight students were paired with six refugee claimants. Both, student and refugee claimant participants reported being happy with the buddy program despite the completion or not of their volunteer placements.

Events and Activities

On-Campus

Our first two events on campus this year including a boundary workshop training for all student members. This was followed up by a presentation on the asylum claimant process by Janet Dench, Executive Director of the Canadian Council for Refugees. During the Fall semester, we hosted a film screening for *The Lost Boys*. Our second campus event was a post-card writing campaign on the Hidden Costs of Transportation Loans for government-sponsored refugees.

Our two big winter events included hosting David Thompson, a Montreal lawyer who specializes in how medical conditions can affect the refugee or asylum claimant process. Our second major event, taking place the week of April 4th, is a Photo Exhibit in the McLennan-Redpath Library Bridge, displaying photos taken by both students and claimants along with text highlighting Refugee Rights Day.

For more information, please refer to the complete report in the Final Report Binder.

Contact: brefuge.montreal@gmail.com

Budget '10/'11 from QPIRG McGill:
\$200.00 (New Working Group)

March 8th Coordination and Action Committee of Women of Diverse Origins / Femmes de Diverses Origins

The March 8th Coordination and Action Committee of Women of Diverse Origins are feminists of diverse origins. Immersed in the grassroots, in our communities, and in the wider society, we oppose patriarchy and misogyny in family relations, societal, economic, and political institutions, in culture, and in the media. We are committed to human dignity for all and advocate for women's rights across the globe—we call for an end to all forms of capitalist, fundamentalist, and imperialist forms of intimidation and oppression.

This year, on March 5, 2011, WDO organized "The Slaves of the Slaves Rise Up!" a day of lectures and exchanges regarding the victories and challenges faced by member groups of the Women of Diverse

Origins coalition while taking to the streets on March 8th for a demonstration and march to commemorate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

As WDO members played an integral role in the coordination of the Montreal International Women's Conference of 2010 (it was hosted by Women of Diverse Origins), we will follow up on the foundation of the International Women's Alliance (IWA) by attending and joining the First General Assembly of IWA this July in the Philippines.

Contact: wdo.fdo@gmail.com

Website: wdo.fdo.wordpress.com

Budget 2010/2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$1655.00 (Returning Working Group)

End Exploitation: Temporary Agency Workers Association

During 2010-2011, the temporary agency workers association has been active in working with low wage placement agency workers by starting a public awareness campaign about the conditions of placement agency workers through organizing press conferences and working with journalists to produce documentaries on the conditions of low wage placement agency workers.

In addition, information sessions and workshops were held at the Immigrant Workers Centre on the rights of placement agency workers, bringing out immigrant workers from a variety of sectors including low-wage manufacturing, domestic work, and the hospitality sectors. These workshops were held with labor lawyers from the Commission du Normes Du Travail. The IWC also conducted outreach about their rights in front of different workplaces such as the Dollarama warehouse, which employs approximately 500 immigrants through a placement agency, along with other neighborhoods that use large numbers of placement agency workers.

Contact: iwc_cti@yahoo.ca **Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:** \$500.00 (New Working Group)

Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble

Born for the May 2006 "Status for All" demo in Montreal, the Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble is an activist street band that organizes according to anarchist principles. We play songs of a political nature in remembrance of worldwide struggles against oppression and to inspire our communities.

In June we traveled to Toronto and participated in various G20 demonstrations. In the fall we went to St. Remi and played music for temporary agricultural workers, something we had done twice before (2008 and 2009). *For a complete list of demos and events, please see the table in the Final Report binder.*

One new and ongoing project is a collaboration with the Intertribal Youth Centre. Members of the marching

band were invited to instrumental jam sessions with the youth at the centre

After spending a few months focusing on music and new songs, we are hoping to make a recording. The group is discussing the feasibility of this project.

Contact: andreaemnr@gmail.com

Budget 2010/2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$950.00 (Returning Working Group)

Right to the City (formerly the Antigentrification Project)

This year was encouraging in that we were able to bring together a larger group of people to discuss the group's direction and underlying philosophy. The members present at meetings during the summer agreed to change the name of the group to Right to the City to reflect a useful school of thought in urban planning, and to move away from the concept of gentrification. This is because gentrification is often conceived of in terms of aesthetics and does not reflect the dynamics of cultural, class, and/or racial discrimination involved when people are displaced from their homes or when their quality of life is reduced because of changes in the city. The group also shifted its focus to work in Parc-Extension, reflecting the interests of members.

Activities

-Research Stipend June-August 2010

Emilie Connolly, a McGill student at the time, was funded by RTC to research and write a paper explaining the situation around the Quartier des Spectacles and how prevailing urban planning theories have affected the direction of the development.

-Citizens' Assembly with the Comité Citoyen de Parc-Extension January 2011

RTC interviewed and hired two community organizers to help promote the CCPE's citizen assembly through posterage outside and in businesses, flyerage at the metro and elsewhere, and speaking to residents. They also helped CCPE with the logistics of the event.

Filipino Solidarity Collective

The Filipino Solidarity Collective is a anti-racist, anti-imperialist student group which takes a multi-sectoral approach towards social activism by focusing on human rights issues in the Philippines, Filipino migrant workers in Canada, women's issues, and the Filipino community in Montreal.

Activities:

Feb-Apr 2011 – MUFASA Mentoring in collaboration with Kabataang Montreal.

Mar 2011 – Philippine Women Centre (PWC) of Quebec celebrates IWD "Change through the revolutionary road towards genuine women's liberation" – FSC helped moderating the event and provided logistical assistance to the PWC of Quebec.

Sept 2010-Mar 2011 – Sigaw ng Bayan Radio Show

Sept 2010-Dec 2010 – Kabataang Montreal 10 years anniversary.

-Training Session in Parc-Ex with Movimiento por Justicia en el Barrio March 2011

RTC is assisting with organizing a separate training session for Montreal community organizers to be held in Parc-Ex and is donating money to the event.

-Support for Café de l'Artere March 2011

RTC is helping with photocopying and promotion for an upcoming 'Open University' event there on the agreement between the city and Université de Montréal that has just been signed to develop a new campus south of Parc-Ex.

-Presentation of research and follow-up on the Quartier des Spectacles April/May 2011

We intended to present the research from summer 2010 on the Quartier des Spectacles at an event in February but the other panelists we were hoping to have speak were not available and the student who was interested in co-organizing was overworked. So we have postponed until after the end of the school year, but do intend to present the research to the public and get comments from community groups working around the Quartier des Spectacles.

Contact: antigentrification@gmail.com

Budget 2010/2011 From QPIRG McGill:
\$150.00 (Returning Working Group)

Nov 2010- Philippine Women Centre of Ontario
"Creating, Strengthening and Nurturing the Filipino Canadian Women's Struggle for Genuine Liberation and Empowerment" WORKSHOP

Sept 2010- Ehtnoculture 2010

Our primary objective is to fundraise with local community organizations such as Kabataang Montreal and the Philippine Women Centre of Quebec; and to educate and outreach on the issues that affect the Filipino Canadian community.

Contact: filipinosolidarity@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$715.00 (Returning Working Group)

Justice for the Victims of Police Victims (formerly FAPVI)

This initiative came out of the Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity in January of 2010, during which the families of people killed by the police expressed their desire to come together to remember their loved ones and strengthen their respective struggles for dignity, justice and the truth. The symbolic date of October 22 was subsequently chosen for a family-friendly march to commemorate the victims of police killings to coincide with the National Day of Protest in the United States organized by the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, which has been mobilizing every year since 1996.

Contact: 22oct.mtl@gmail.com

Budget 2010/2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$715.00 (Returning Working Group)

Campus Crops

Campus Crops is a group of people dedicated to building the skills and knowledge to provide ourselves with healthy food, grown in our own backyards (or campuses). Throughout the year we hold film screenings, workshops, potlucks and other events to share ideas, questions and knowledge about plants, urban agriculture and food politics. During the growing season we coordinate two volunteer-run garden spaces on the McGill downtown campus where we grow as much food as possible.

Since the last AGM, during our regular growing season we designed, built and implemented a self-watering container garden behind the James Admin building, we hired our first staff member and applied for more funding to do it again (the job callout was posted this weekend). In addition, we held a series of workshops on food politics

and DIY knowledge over the summer, in conjunction with Midnight Kitchen. Some of the topics included herbal gynecology, botany & colonialism, build your own self-watering container, growing indoors and urban agriculture 101 at RadFrosh. Throughout the summer we had a great turnout at the workshops and volunteer hours in the garden. We loved working with MK throughout the summer and maintained this momentum into the fall by donating our produce to their meals. During the rest of the school year we also held workshops on permaculture, general food fermentation and beer making.

Contact: campuscrops@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 From QPIRG McGill:
\$100.00 (Returning Working Group)

Greening McGill

Greening McGill is an environmental group dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and activism at McGill. We do this by organizing annual events such as Car-Free Day, as well as working on long-term projects such as the 'Principled Purchasing' campaign to promote sustainable and ethical purchasing habits.

Regarding our activities this year, last semester we mainly designed an apartment winterization workshop, which was held in November. This went quite well and in the future it is the sort of event which could easily be held again; we did in fact hold another such workshop at the start of this semester.

This semester we also held a film screening of *King Corn* (on the role of corn in the American food system and the

effects it has had on communities there) and have at least one more film screening planned before the end of the semester.

Contact: greeningmcgill@mail.mcgill.ca

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$250.00 (Returning Working Group)

KANATA

KANATA is focused on creating a space and a vessel for conversations that affect native-newcomer relations in Canada. We seek to expand Indigenous Studies at McGill by publishing student essays and research papers on these topics, lobbying for a minor program in Indigenous Studies, utilising academia and going beyond its walls by acting as a portal to student's studying these topics seeking out other forms of knowledge, organisations, and activist groups.

ADVOCATION OF MINOR PROGRAM

KANATA continues to advocate for a minor program on campus. As a result of lobbying, the AUS passed a unanimous motion this year to support the program. KANATA is hopeful that a program will come to fruition have questions about courses having to do with topics relating to Indigenous Peoples as well as resources on campus.

JOURNAL

In 2010/2011, KANATA focused mainly on the fourth volume of its journal in terms of production and fundraising. The journal highlights works produced by McGill undergraduates as well as KANATA community members. Artwork and other nonacademic submissions are also included so as to broaden the dialogue

Barriere Lake Solidarity

A volunteer collective that supports Barriere Lake, an Algonquin community 4 hours north of Montreal, which has been trying to regain control over their traditional territories, protect their forests from clear-cut logging, and fend off the Canadian government's interference in of their traditional governance system. We do popular education, organize demonstrations and direct action, and are developing a community radio station on the reserve.

Some highlights from BLS Activities in the past year:

- Ongoing contact with leaders in the community throughout the year. Response to various requests for support including help with press releases, financial support for costs incurred during political activities, etc.
- Support for community members facing various legal difficulties and criminalization, including helping with access to lawyers
- Support to a demonstration by community members in Ottawa, June 15th and a feast and celebration of traditional governance the night before
- On-line campaigning throughout the year : sending on-line messages to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs while building up a larger network of supporters
- Co-organization of a human rights delegation to the community in August . Co-organizing was done with the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa (IPSMO) and Barriere Lake Solidarity (BLS) Toronto.

within the pages.

LAUNCH

The fourth volume of the journal will be launched around April 7th. The launch serves to distribute and celebrate the publication but also to showcase other forms of knowledge transmission that could not be included in the pages of the academic journal. This includes storytelling, poetry readings, exhibiting artwork, musical performances and more.

13 DAYS TO HONOUR ABORIGINAL WOMEN

KANATA collaborated on the ALA's 13 Days to Honour Aboriginal Women. During the series of events, KANATA promoted the series and co-hosted two events:

"Voicing the Earth Body": A performance and workshop by Moe Clark

Film Screening of "For the Next 7 Generations"

For more information, please read the whole report on the Final Report Binder.

Contact: mcgillnativestudiesjournal@gmail.com

Website: kanata.qpirgmcgill.org.

Budget 2010/2011 from QPIRG McGill

\$250.00 (Returning Working Group)

-Support for community members' successful efforts to get the Assembly of First Nations to pass a resolution in support of the community's resistance to the imposition of section 74 and for their later proposal to INAC of a joint fact-finding mission.

-Re-organization of the website (barrierelakesolidarity.org)

-Co-organization of a demonstration in Ottawa, Dec 13th (along with activists from the IPSMO and BLS Toronto). Bus from Montreal to Ottawa for the demonstration.

-Organization of a training event in Ottawa, March 28th, along with community members and activists from IPSMO.

Contact: barrierelakesolidarity@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:

\$1,895.00 (Returning Working Group)

Radical Reference

Radical Reference is a collective that supports activists communities, progressive organizations and independent journalists by providing experienced research support, education, and access to information. Services include online reference, workshops and training, and street reference.

Activities

- * Supported October 22 commemorative march against police brutality (<http://22octobre.wordpress.com>)
- * Presented conference poster about radical reference at the Congrès des milieux documentaires du Québec
- * Answered information/research queries received from general members of the public, social activists, and victims of social justice. This involved providing factual information or compiling lists of resources
- * Participated in answering queries on the international

Radical Reference website: <http://radicalreference.info/>

- * Facilitated internet skills workshop for the ReCon working group
- * Formed contact with various groups whose missions fit with our mandate for future support and collaboration
- * Began designing research workshops to be offered in spring 2011
- * Introduced graduate students to the group's mission
- * Created a website, which includes lists of research resources (<http://radrefmtl.wordpress.com/>)

Contact: radrefmtl@riseup.net

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$250.00 (New working Group)

Project Fly Home

- * **11 December 2010.** March in Montreal and other cities. Project Fly Home organized a march on international human rights day. Around one hundred people marched in Montreal in solidarity with Abousfian Abdelrazik to various institutions complicit in the UN 1267 blacklisting regime.
- * **10 December 2010.** Just Work. The Canadian Labour Congress invited Abdelrazik to speak at their Rise up! conference in Ottawa. Hassan Yussuff presented Abdelrazik with a "sanctions-busting salary". The five hundred and forty labour activists from across Canada then joined in by contributing to the Just Work fund, in one of the biggest civil disobedience actions of the decade. In total, almost \$6000 was handed over to Abdelrazik to provide financial support for his efforts to make other Canadians aware of his story.
- * **22 November 2010.** Delegation to Harper's office in Calgary. Project Fly Home organized an unannounced delegation to Stephen Harper's home office in Calgary South

with Abdelrazik and a dozen supporters from Calgary. Abdelrazik delivered a letter which he was promised would be delivered to Harper without fail.

- * **17 November 2010 to 26 November.** Project Fly Home organized a five-city speaking tour that took Abdelrazik and Project Fly Home member Mary Foster from Saskatoon to Vancouver
- * **16 September.** Internal Briefing. Project Fly Home organized an internal briefing meeting with close allies in Montreal to update them on the campaign and brainstorm on strategies and actions.

For more information, please read the final report!

Contact: projectflyhome@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$500.00 (New working Group)

FAO-Montreal

FAO-Montreal is a Canadian section of the Mexican *Frente Amplio Opositor*, which is struggling to defend the ecologically and historically important site of Cerro de San Pedro from destruction by Canadian mining company New Gold (formerly Metallica Resources). FAO-Montreal works in coordination with the rest of the FAO to stop the mine, and also works in solidarity with other struggles against this particular form of Canadian imperialism.

This year we took a leading role in establishing the Abya Yala anti-mining network. Abya Yala was born out of a request made at the 2010 Mining Injustice conference when representatives of various mining-affected

communities in Latin America suggested that solidarity groups in Canada form a stronger network to better share and spread information between themselves

Outside its work within the Abya Yala network, FAO-Montreal planned to embark on a workshop tour through various CEGEPs, universities, and community centres, presenting the case of Cerro San Pedro

Contact: cerrosanpedro@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:
\$400.00 (Returning Working Group)

Montreal Media Co-op / Coop média de Montréal

The Montreal Media Co-op provides grassroots, democratic coverage of politics, social movements and community initiatives in Montreal. They want to engage mass participation in media production, contributing to a coast-to-coast media network that can challenge the corporate and state media. They also publish The Dominion, a grassroots national newspaper.

Since receiving support via the QPIRG McGill Working Group Program, we have successfully accomplished several components that has assisted with the Montréal Media Co-op's establishment and will ensure our development and sustainability: A) develop a set of founding principles; B)

establish multiple ways for community members to get involved; C) establish collaborative relationships with other alternative grassroots media; D) established a bilingual website to be launched in May; E) contacted community groups throughout the city; F) created various membership categories to help sustain the CMM and offer divers membership options.

Contact: martin@mediacoop.ca

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill
\$350.00 (New working Group)

Q-Team

QTeam is a radical queer collective that aims to address the intersections of oppressions and consciously unsubscribe from the corporate versions of queerness that devalue queer realities. We are committed to anti-imperialism, anti-racism, short shorts, queering activist spaces, the downfall of single issue politics, raging queer pervy dance parties, destroying all prisons, opening all borders, burning pink dollar\$, and keeping on keeping on.

In May, we threw our 3rd annual Glamarchist Lookfair queer dance party fundraiser during the Anarchist Bookfair. It was a huge success, and we raised funds for DIRA, the accessibility fund for the Bookfair, and an anti-racism training program at Project 10. We also tabled at the Anarchist Bookfair with zines, as well as queer fashion merch (tshirts we screenprinted) and our new poster series.

This summer we were also thrilled to put together the archive zine *Queers Made This*, co-organized by Qteam members Kat and Emma. *Queers Made This* was a huge success, and we launched the zine at an event collaboration with QPIRG McGill during *Pervers/Cité*, having a launch then film screening for QPIRG's film festival, at Cagibi, where we had also set up a month-long *Queers Made This* queer poster exhibit.

Most recently, we participated in a panel at Radical Queer Semaine on queering body image, and presented a workshop at Study in Action about *Queers Made This* and archiving our movements

Contact: qteam@riseup.net

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill
\$855.00 (Returning Working Group)

Milton-Parc Ad Hoc Committee to Save Parc Oxygene

Here is what we have done since we became a QPIRG Working Group this Fall:

1. Produced several hundred copies of a bilingual leaflet giving an update on the fight to save the park which we distributed door-to-door in the Milton Parc neighbourhood;
2. Held a public information meeting in the neighbourhood with a Power Point presentation about the battle to save the park;
3. Undertook a lot of liasoning with other community groups in the area (housing coops, citizens groups, residents associations, etc.) handing out flyers, getting petitions signed, asking for their support, etc.;
4. Conducted a lot of lobbying of elected borough representatives to try to secure their support;
5. Organized many internal committee meetings in the

- community to continue strategizing and mobilizing support;
6. Continued research into our rights on the legal front with Legal Aid;
7. Kept in touch with the owner of the land in question, preparing for the eventual day when we sit down to negotiate with him;
8. Started fundraising to allow us to pursue other avenues to somehow secure the park;
9. Researched the history of the land ownership and servitudes on the property;
10. Assembled a negotiating team made up of representatives from local environmental and community groups which is now preparing to meet with the owner

Contact: parcoxygene@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill:\$250.00 (New Working Group)

Tadamon! (Arabic for “solidarity”)

Tadamon! (Arabic for “solidarity”), is a Montreal-based collective which works in solidarity with struggles for self-determination, equality and justice in the ‘Middle East’ and in diaspora communities in Montreal and beyond. Tadamon strives for a world in which every human being is free to live and flourish in dignity and justice.

April 16, 2010- Film Screening: Neither here nor there @ Immigrant Workers Center

May 11-12, 2010 - Palestine Perspectives VI: A selection of documentaries about the Nakba and its aftermath @ Cinema du Parc

May 16, 2010- Nakba 62nd Anniversary @ Lafontaine Park

June 3, 2010- Solidarity with Bil’in Appeal at the Quebec Court of Appeal

June 3, 2010- Solidarity with Bil’in Conference with villagers from Bil’in and Israeli lawyer

June 21, 2010- Tadamon! Open meeting

July 4, 2010- Give Apartheid a Red Card! *Tadamon’s Anti-Apartheid Soccer Tournament!* @ Parc Jeanne Mance

July 22, 2010- Artists Against Apartheid XIII @ Sala Rossa (Public launch for Montreal artists declaration in solidarity with Palestine, featuring Samian, Amerythmes, and the Kalmunity Vibe Collective)

September, 2010- QPIRG McGill Rad Frosh workshop: Apartheid 101

October 22, 23, 24, 2010- BDS Conference Montreal (*see attached document*)

November 15, 2010- Cinema Politica: Aisheer: Still Alive in Gaza

November 19, 2010- Anarchists against the Wall: Noam Lekach

December 15, 2010-*Holiday dinner party to celebrate five years of successes in the Quebec BDS movement!* @ Alternatives

January 31, 2011- Imaging Apartheid Concert @ Kaza Maza (featuring performances from Jason Sharp and the Erik Hove Trio)

February 2,3,4, 2011- Montreal daily Picket outside Egyptian Consulate

February 10, 2011- We will not forget Jawaher (*Global Day of Action for Jawaher Abu Rahmah & Palestinian Popular Resistance*)

February 28, 2011- Cinema Politica: John Greyson: Sex, Song and Segregation

March 8-15, 2011- 7th Annual Israeli Apartheid Week (including keynote speaker Ali Abunimah, and a lecture entitled ‘From Revolt to Change’ with Rachad Antonius and Harun Bouazzi)

March 2011- Launching of “Structures of Oppression: Why McGill & Concordia Universities must sever their links with Technion University”

Contact: info@tadamon.ca

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill
\$1,800.00 (Returning Working Group)

Climate Justice Montreal (formerly Tar Sands Free Zone Montreal)

Climate Justice Montreal/Justice Climatique Montréal is a group that brings a social justice perspective to climate organizing. Rejecting false solutions that address only on CO2 emissions, we make connections with communities that are directly affected by climate change and fossil fuel infrastructure and work in solidarity with them.

Contact: dru.oja.jay@gmail.com

Budget 2010-2011 from QPIRG McGill
\$715.00 (Returning Working Group)

We have done ongoing campaigning in alliance with our contacts in Dunham against the trailbreaker project. We have held several direct action trainings, and two community dinners. We organized to bring George Poitras, former chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation in Fort Chipewyan, to Montreal.