

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

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.



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



"To draw the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



Table of Contents

Letter from the board & staff	..... 3
Who we are:	
- QPIRG's Mandate	..... 5
- History of QPIRG	..... 5
- Team & Structure	..... 5
What we do:	..... 6
- Culture Shock 2009	..... 6
- Social Justice Days 2010	..... 6
- Working Group Film Festival- summer & winter editions 2009-2010	..... 7
- More Events...	..... 7
- Summer Stipend 2009	..... 8
o Nikki Bozinoff	..... 8
o Maya Rolbin-Ghanie	..... 8
- Radical Frosh 2009	..... 9
- School Schmool 2009-2010	..... 9
- Resources	..... 10
o Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)	..... 10
o Alternative Library	..... 10
- Discretionaries	..... 11
QPIRG Programming Highlight 2009-2010	..... 13
Working Groups 2009-2010	..... 14
Financial Report 2009-2010	..... 21

Report from the Board

Retreat (or strategic discussion in order to Advance!):

In October we held a joint Board retreat with 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 the organization. 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 mental health and mutual support in our communities. The fall months of 2009 were a stressful time for many in Montreal activist circles, and the discussion at the retreat served as a difficult reminder that we need to recognize and face up to the ways in which mental health and ability issues are silenced in our organizing culture. At QPIRG-McGill, we followed up on some of the issues coming out of the retreat with workshops facilitated by Co-Co on employee-employer relations and conflict resolution.

Staff and Board transitions:

One of the major challenges facing QPIRG this year has been weathering the uncertainty created by staff transitions and fluctuating availabilities and time commitments of Board members. In August of 2009 we sadly said goodbye to outgoing Internal Coordinator Leila Pourtavaf and welcomed Anna Malla. Then, in December, we hired Andrea Figueroa to replace long-serving External Coordinator Indu Vashist. While both new staff members have gone about their work with energy, professionalism, and extraordinary competency, much institutional memory was concentrated in our previous employees. Anna and Andrea have shown an impressive ability to learn the ins and outs of QPIRG while also organizing a steady stream of events.

QPIRG board internal relationships and relationships with working groups:

The Board took on several initiatives in order to support staff in this transitional time, re-instituting the committee system (staff, finance, and events, respectively), as well as appointing a Board member to liaise with each individual working group. We have had mixed success in these efforts, which perhaps points to the impersonal character of relying solely on email to build a relationship with groups. If this system were to be kept intact in the fall, in order to be effective it is suggested that board members make a greater effort to make their presence known; and attend meetings of the working groups they are 'responsible' for. We also felt the impact of Board turnovers and fluctuating time commitments: two Board members resigned in the fall due to time constraints, two graduated or left on exchange in January, and it has been more difficult than anticipated to find replacements. We have had discussions about this internally, and have resolved (Board and staff both) to be more upfront in the future about ability to commit, doing more check-ins, etc. We feel that this situation is in part due to the alienating and stressful nature of student life at McGill, and suspect that this dynamic might shift with increased community participation. All the same, we remind the incoming Board that mid-year recruitment is difficult, and recommend emphasizing an honest assessment of availabilities before committing to the Board or to specific tasks.

QPIRG and McGill campus:

QPIRG took a financial blow during opt-out period despite our strong campaign efforts. While we believe much of this to result from the online-system, it also points to the repercussions of a strong right-wing presence on campus this year. During the fee opt-out campaign, groups such as the McGill Anatomy & Cell Biology Student Society, the Conservative Society of McGill University, Free the Children McGill Chapter, the Student Network for Economic Development, and the Parti Libéral du Québec McGill organized to write an online open letter and create a Facebook group urging and instructing students as to why and how they should opt-out of the QPIRG fee. What is more, and perhaps equally troubling, were the flyers which were spread around the Arts library, disseminating slanderous and false information about QPIRG. Anna and Andrea arranged meetings with Jane Everett the Dean of students in an effort to address these issues and to further discuss the paralyzing and harmful effects of the online opt-out system to QPIRG. In further attempts to strategize, we organized a meeting with other fee-levy groups at the end of the fall semester. While the meeting did not reap concrete results or solutions, it was successful in both creating a supportive space to discuss the opt-out system with other concerned groups and students, and in allowing us to compare and learn from the experiences of others. Some representatives from SSMU were in attendance and were helpful contributors to the discussion. In general, QPIRG had a good relationship with the SSMU this semester.

Report from the Board...cont'd

QPIRG events and referendums:

QPIRG organized many successful panels and workshops this year. Culture Shock was a great success, with very few glitches thanks to Indu and Anna's hard work and organization. Most events were in good attendance, especially the keynote panel: "1947/1948: The Decline of the British Empire, the Rise of Border Conflicts." The week of events culminated in a dance party: Shades of Gay, co-hosted with Queer McGill. In November, Matt Lee organized a beautiful poster display in the hallway between McLellan and Redpath Libraries entitled "21 years of Social Justice" which highlighted the events QPIRG has organized or participated in since its inception. Social justice days also went well this year, highlighted by the panel "Haiti: Then and Now" with Ottawa-based activist Jean St-Vil was co-sponsored by the Alfie Roberts Institute. Some workshops suffered from smaller (or lack of) attendance. Though we did a good job promoting events, the scheduling of many SJD events is usually impacted by midterms and time conflicts with classes.

In January, QPIRG co-hosted an Open House with CKUT encouraging working groups and students in general to meet board members and working group representatives, see the space and find out how to get more involved. It was a great initiative, but the responsibilities fell primarily on the staff. Though there was a small turn out and only a few working group representatives, we are mindful of the last-minute organization of the event, and aware that the evening would have benefitted from more support and energy in its organization and promotion. The Rad-frosh Reunion at Kaza Maza was a great effort, but encountered similar attendance problems. Very few 'rad-froshers' were there, which similarly, was likely because the event was held shortly after the Winter break and was organized and promoted under time constraints.

After strong efforts our referendum question passed this March which will enable us to change our bylaws through our AGM rather than by a McGill referendum. This will allow us to re-write our constitution and expand our membership to community members. We anticipate some major changes in the fall, since most board members are not returning, but look forward to enriching the constitution of the board to include community members and alumni. Overall, despite turnovers and transitions, the board worked as a tight-knit group and owes much thanks, especially, to Anna, Andrea, Indo and Leila for ensuring these changes did not greatly effect the functioning of QPIRG.

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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
2009-2010

Tania Franco,
Grad Student
Resigned Nov/2009

Meagan Johnson
Law Student
Resigned Nov/2009

Andrea Figueroa,
Undergrad Student
Resigned Nov/2009

Caitlin Manicom,
Undergrad Student
Resigned Dec/2009

Cameron McKeich
Undergrad Student
Resigned Dec/2009

Max Silverman,
Undergrad Student
Resigned Dec/2009

Fred Burrill,
Undergrad Student

Elizabeth Higgins,
Undergrad Student

Matt Lee,
Undergrad Student

Madeleine Ritts,
Undergrad Student

Emma Russell,
Undergrad Student

Reps:
Robin Kelley,
PGSS rep
David Marshall,
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 four committees:

- Staff Committee
- Programming Committee
- Legal Committee
- Finance Committee

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:** Leila Pourtavaf (resigned in August, 2009) replaced by Anna Malla.
- **External Coordinator:** Indu Vashist (resigned in January, 2010) replaced by Andrea Figueroa.

Every year, QPIRG hires 2 part-time work-study students to fill the **Resource Centre Coordinator** and the **CURE Coordinator** positions. The 2009/2010 coordinators were **Raimy Marx** and **Degane Sougal**, respectively.

In the summer of 2009, QPIRG hired **2 Rad Frosh Coordinators:** Anna Mathen (community based) and Erika Pierre (campus based); **1 School Schmoool Coordinator:** Kinneret Sheetreet; and **2 Summer Stipend Coordinators:** Nikki Bozinoff and Maya Rolbin-Ghanie.

The 2009-2010 **External Bookkeeper** was Dan Lacroix.

What we do...

Once again, the 2009-2010 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 Schmool. We also want to highlight some of the very cool resources that we have, the CURE Project and our Alternative Library.

Working Group Film Festival - Summer & Winter Editions

QPIRG McGill holds a bi-annual films series that takes place on McGill campus and in the community. In association with our Working Groups, the program of films tend to deal with a range of issues such as mining, indigenous people's resistance, gender/queer issues, water issues and the environment. All films are screened for students and community members free of charge and are usually followed by informal discussions.

This past year, the film series happened in the summer all around town and during the winter term at McGill University.

Keep an eye open for next summer's Film Series!

2nd ANNUAL SUMMER FILM SERIES 2009:

- July 6th, 2009 - Buried at Sea
- July 20th, 2009 - No More Tears Sister
- Aug 3rd, 2009 - Lilies (with Q-team as part of Pervercite)
- Aug 17th, 2009 - In the Shadow of Gold Mountain

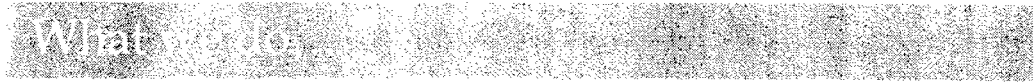
WORKING GROUP FILM FESTIVAL 2010:

- Feb 4th, 2010 - SQUATI (Antigentrification Project)
- Feb 9th, 2010 - Songs of DetermiNATION (Barriere Lake Solidarity)
- Feb 18th, 2010 - Zero Patience (Q-team)
- Mar 4th, 2010 - Food Inc (Campus Crops)
- Mar 18th, 2010 - Blue Gold: World Water Wars (TapThirst)
- Mar 18th, 2010 - Rocks at Whiskey Trench (KANATA)
- Mar 25th, 2010 - The Cove (Greening-McGill)
- Apr 8th, 2010 - Coconut Revolution (FAO & STAC)

More Events....

See the Programming highlights....





Social Justice Days 2010

Intended to stimulate an alternative political culture in the McGill University community, Social Justice Days has been held for half a decade by QPIRG McGill and the SSMU Equity Commissioner. Every winter semester, we've got your fill of workshops, discussions, film screenings, and performances engaging local and global issues.

This year we decided to "look at the past to look at the future." From the war in Afghanistan to the Tar Sands of Alberta; from the legacy of the Olympics to Haiti; from the role of student activism to issues of indigenous self-determination, Social Justice Days testifies to the diversity of

critical political engagement on this campus, and offers McGill students concrete opportunities to get active in their global community.

This year SJD happened in the month of February and was collaboration with the Equity Commissioner and the SSMU VP University Affairs Rebecca Dooley.

Some of the main events were:

- Street Clean-ups, Street Protests: Criminalization and Resistance from '76 to 2010"
- HAITI: THEN AND NOW. Featuring David Austin from the Alfie Roberts Institute and Jean St-Vil.
- Moving away from the Ivory Tower: the CURE project and IndyClass

Culture Shock 2009

Culture Shock is a series of events dedicated to exploring the myths surrounding immigrants, refugees, and communities of colour. The events are committed to moving beyond the multiculturalism to illustrate the dynamic nature of these communities. Every fall, QPIRG McGill and SSMU bring you the best workshops, tours, festivals, films and keynote speaker of the semester at Culture Shock.

This year's Culture Shock Coordinator was Elise Eisenkraft Klein. The main events were:

- Panel: "Canada and the Mining Industry: Reflections & Analysis on

the Colonialist Practices of the Mining Industry"

- Keynote Panel: "1947/48: The Decline of the British Empire, the Rise of Border Conflicts"
- Panel: "Migrant Workers and the Crisis of Capitalism: the Economic Crisis & Migration"
- Workshops: "Anti-racism 101"
- Workshop: "A radical Look at Anti-Semitism and Jewish History and Identity"
- Workshop: "A critical Visioning Session for International Development Studies"
- Screenings and walking tours
- Party at Woolf Bar – Shades of Gay!



RadFrosh 2009

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.

This year we hired two coordinators to run RadFrosh, Anna Mathen and Erika Pierre, 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 250 first-year students attended RadFrosh and we were all excited by it!!

School Schmool 2009-2010

School Schmool is a project that started in 1994. It "is a book about breaking down boundaries between McGill and the outside world." The newest versions of School Schmool serve as an introduction of the wider montreal social justice community to McGill students as well as a day planner. It is truly an "agenda-with-an-agenda".

"School Schmool this year was a great success. It was mainly put together by our coordinator, Kinneret Sheetreet, and volunteers that were committed to different aspects of the Organizer.

The Organizer contained a host of articles written specifically for the Organizer that would be relevant and interesting to new students both at McGill and Concordia, returning students, as well as non-students. Although there were a number of articles that were geared specifically to McGill students to become familiarized with campus and neighbourhood politics.

There was a whole section in the Organizer dedicated to groups in the city (on McGill and Concordia campuses as well as off campus) that School Schmool users might want to know about and many of the groups that were included in the listings were able to distribute the Organizers to their membership once they were printed.

The back of the Organizer featured hand-drawn monthly calendars, with information about Montreal events put on by groups listed in the Organizer, as well as information about historical activist dates that were all Montreal-specific.

This year we printed about 1800 copies of School Schmool on 100% recuperated paper and were thrilled at its wide distribution both on McGill campus and across the city.

The time and energy contributed by the great number of volunteers participating in the making of the Organizer is invaluable."

--Words from Kinneret Sheetreet

Summer Stipend 2009

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 2009, the stipends supported two exciting and innovative projects that helped broaden QPIRG's reach in the Montreal Community:

Nikki Bozinoff – Military Research at McGill

The research policy review I undertook with the support of the QPIRG summer research stipend was an important exercise in confirming that McGill's policy on military research was indeed unique, and ought to be strengthened. At the time of my policy review, Demilitarize McGill had seen a draft policy that included a section regulating "harmful research." Although this section did not specifically mention military research, it was felt at the time (both by members of Demilitarize McGill and myself) that this section was reasonably progressive as it called for ethical review of any research with harmful applications. My energy during the summer months thus focused on other areas of the policy that could be improved (funding sources, ethics of Northern research, federal research regulations).

When members of Demilitarize McGill first saw the policy up for discussion in Senate on November 4th, our worst fears materialized: there was no mention at all of harmful research. In the months that followed, Demilitarize McGill staged mainly a media campaign which reflected the fact that we had difficulty

recruiting actual students to join us, as well as my interest in continue to pursue the policy process. In addition to the press coverage outlined below, a number of other actions were taken. I met with Dean of Students Jane Everett to discuss the policy in December; Demilitarize McGill co-presented the event "Opt-in Ethics" with QPIRG in December as well as "Re-thinking Research at McGill" (a live radio broadcast) with CKUT and PGSS in March.

Regrettably, the Research Policy was passed in Senate on March 24, 2010 without mention of harmful or military-related research. Despite this outcome, it is worth noting that the administration reluctantly took steps to strengthen the policy preamble (as recommended in my policy review), they have also indicated that they will adopt my recommendations regarding compliance with federal research regulations.

Maya Rolbin-Ghanie – Missing Justice Project



Resources

QPIRG McGill strives to offer 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)

The Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) is a database by which students can integrate their academic research with the work of local movements and activist organizations. Through the administrative infrastructures already in place at McGill and Concordia University, students may complete a CURE research project as an independent study course, internship, or thesis advised by a departmental professor, or as a term project for an upper-level class.

This year was the first time that QPIRG McGill

hired a coordinator for the CURE project, Degane Sougal. She was able to help us establish connections with QPIRG Concordia, McGill and Concordia Universities, students and many community organizations.

Cure organized an Open House at QPIRG Concordia to showcase the research opportunities available to students and encourage new community groups to participate. CURE participated in Study in Action, Social Justice Days and they are working on developing a journal for students' CURE research.

Alternative Library

The QPIRG library is a rare and wonderful resource in Montreal. It offers both students and the general public hundreds of books, manuals, magazines and videos that are hard to come by at the university or public libraries in the city. The resources in the library are offered to students free of charge and include materials that cover a range of topics.


Our library coordinator this year was **Raimy Marx**, and they can help you find materials that are relevant to your field of research or order a book that we are missing. As well, they are responsible for updating the online database.

This year the library added the one

thousandth title to its collection!! And it's continuing to expand the collection.

During Social Justice Days, the library coordinator organized a "tea and Cookies" event to promote the library and introduce it to new users. As well, they are working with the Alternatives Libraries Database Collectives collective to add more libraries to the database and fix some kinks on the website (SACOMSS and the UGE).

They are also compiling a list of suggested titles from the working groups to display in the library, and will hopefully be able to acquire all of those titles.



Discretionary Funding Granted 2009-2010

Date	To	Amount
04/20/2009	- "Hand off Venezuela" Public conference about the financial crisis.	\$100.00
	- Solidarity ID Art Auction.	\$125.00
	- Lecture by Suzie Day & Laura Whitehorn as part of the Festival of Anarchy.	\$125.00
05/12/2009	- Queer and Trans Youth Resistance Zine	\$50.00
	- CKUT National Campus Radio Conference	\$200.00
	- Tadamon! Montreal Bil'in speaking event	\$100.00
06/11/2009	- Indigenous Solidarity Committee & No One Is Illegal Montreal – "Taking back the Land: The Struggles for Self-Determination at Six Nations"	\$100.00
07/24/2009	- Pervers/cite Alternative Pride activities	\$150.00
	- Ethnoculture for "Affirm-Action" Event series	\$100.00
	- IMT for public discussion on Iran	\$100.00
08/19/2009	- QPIRG Concordia "Old School/New School: QPIRG's Alternative Orientation"	\$100.00
09/11/2009	- Kabataang Montreal for Filipino Youth Capacity Building and Community Education Workshop Series	\$200.00
	- The Dominion for the 2009 Fall Special Issue.	\$50.00
	- Alliance Romaine for Awareness Raising Marathon about dam construction on the Romaine River	\$250.00
09/23/2009	- Project Fly Home for their speaking tour with Abdelrazik	\$75.00
	- Kader Belaouni for his album made in Sanctuary	\$75.00
	- Anarchy Alive event by Uri Gordon (Q-team, Montreal Anarchist Bookfair, Institute for Anarchist Studies, etc).	\$50.00
	- Defenders of the Land for producing a DVD of interviews with indigenous organizers	\$50.00
10/06/2009	- Universities Allied for Essential Medicines: McGill for Equitable Licensing Symposium at McGill	\$100.00
	- National Campus and Community Radio Association for an in person board meeting	\$50.00
11/06/2009	- Power Shift for Canadian Youth Delegation to Copenhagen	\$100.00
	- Indigenous Sovereignty week organizing Committee for community tour of Kahnawake	\$200.00
	- VIHsion for Festival VIHsion	\$200.00
12/04/2009	- Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity Organizing Committee for panel "No justice, no peace, Why people leave the police."	\$250.00
01/08/2010	- Ste. Emilie Skillshare for art exhibit	\$150.00
	- People's Commission Network to support Mohammad Mahjoub on hunger strike	\$175.00
	- Sovereign Nations Alliance for native delegation to Convergence 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.	\$175.00
01/22/2010	- Sovereign Nations Alliance for Warrior Flags	\$200.00
	- Apatrides Anonymes for the "Campagne pour denoncer les racistes"	\$50.00
02/05/2010	- Radical Queer Semaine	\$125.00
	- Immigrant Workers Center for Justice for Textile and Garment workers campaign	\$150.00
	- CKUT homeless marathon	\$100.00
03/05/2010	- ATTQ for Trans Pride Day	\$250.00
03/19/2010	- CURE project Fire with Water Art Show	\$125.00

QPIRG Programming Highlights 2009-2010

The following highlights are only a partial list of the many events put on by QPIRG-McGill and its Working Groups. (This list focuses significantly on the educational component of QPIRG's work, and therefore only hints at various types of activism (including physical, legal and emotional support and other types of cultural and community resistance) that happened through and alongside these events.)

June 5-7, 2009

Cultural Insurrection Convention

Three days of workshops, skill-sharing and performance for politically active artistic communities. Hosted by the Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble

June 11, 2009

Beats for Barriere Lake: Rhythms for Algonquin Resistance

Featuring Samian, CerAmomy and members of Nomadic Massive. Hosted by Barriere Lake Solidarity.

June 19, 2009

Lecture: "Israeli Apartheid on Trial"

Featuring Mohammed Khatib and Emily Schaeffers. Hosted by Tadamon!

July 6, 2009

Film Screening: "Buried at Sea"

Part of the QPIRG Summer Film Series

July 20, 2009

Film Screening: "No More Tears Sister"

Part of the QPIRG Summer Film Series

August 3, 2009

Film Screening: "Lilies"

Presented by Q-Team; part of the QPIRG Summer Film Series

August 6-16, 2009

PERVERS/CITÉ

A collaboratively-organized festival presenting an critical and accessible schedule of activities, aimed at bringing back the radical underpinnings to the pride movement. Q-Team's involvement included:

- "Queering Activism Against Israeli Apartheid"
- "Queer Between the Covers"
- "The Madonna Show: Black Material, White Gurl...A Retrospective"

August 14, 2009

Rally to free Palestinian political prisoner Mohammed Khatib
With participation from Tadamon!

August 17, 2009

Film Screening: "In the Shadow of Gold Mountain"
Part of the QPIRG Summer Film Series

August 26-28, 2009

RAD FROSH

September 10, 2009

Harvest Party/Fête des Récoltes
Organized by Campus Crops

September 17, 2009

Film screening: "Slingshot Hip Hop"
Presented by Tadamon!

September 28, 2009

Artists Against Apartheid IX
Featuring Palestinian Hip Hop ensemble DAM with Iraqi rapper Narcicyst.
Organized by Tadamon!

October 11, 2009

Workshop: "Undermine! Analyse critique de l'industrie minière mondiale et stratégies de résistance."
Presented by FAO-Montreal; part of the Quebec Social Forum

October 25 – November 1, 2009

Indigenous Sovereignty Week Montreal
A series of events around the fight for Indigenous rights, self-determination, and justice. Organized by the Montreal Indigenous Sovereignty Week Organizing Committee. Events included:

- Workshop: "Colonial Canada 101"; presented by the Barriere Lake Solidarity Collective
- ¡Ya Basta!, a Halloween party, Zapatista boot launch and art auction; organized by STAC-Montreal

November 2-6, 2009

CULTURE SHOCK

November 11, 2009

Emergency Teach-in and Open Meeting
A teach-in held about the right to self-governance and legitimate Algonquin leadership in Barriere Lake. Presented by Barriere Lake Solidarity.



November 13, 2009

Film Screening and Directors' Talk: "Criminal Queers"
Organized by Q-Team

November 24, 2009

Screening and Discussion: "Telling Tales: Breaking Rules of Outsider Stories"
Presented by Silas Howard

November 26, 2009

Community Dinner with Adil Charkaoui
Organized by the Coalition Justice for Adil Charkaoui

December 10, 2009

Demonstration: "Flamers Against the Flame!"
A protest linking resistance to the Olympics from Vancouver in 2010 to Montreal in 1976. Organized by Q-Team.

December 12, 2009

Performance: Roots, Rhymes, Resistance: Pinoyville
A Filipino youth arts and cultural show that highlighted the issues and concerns of the Filipino youth. Organized by the Filipino Solidarity Collective.

January 11, 2010

CKUT and QPIRG-McGill Open House

January 21, 2010

Rad Frosh Reunion

January 27, 2010

Workshop: Gentrification Map-Making
Hosted by the Anti-Gentrification Project

January 29-31, 2010

Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity
A Montreal-based collaborative effort by grassroots social justice activists and community organizers for discussion, sharing experiences, and developing strategies in the on-going struggle to live free of police violence. Organized by the Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity.

February 7-17, 2010

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS

February 18, 2010

Film Screening: "Zero Patience"
Presented by Q-Team; part of the Working Group Film Festival



March 4, 2010

Film Screening: "Food, Inc."

Presented by Campus Crops and Midnight Kitchen; part of the Working Group Film Festival

March 4-11, 2010

Israeli Apartheid Week

A series of events educating people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system and building Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns as part of a growing global movement. QPIRG-McGill's involvement included:

- "Resisting Apartheid from Turtle Island to Palestine", a presentation from an Indigenous youth delegation that had traveled to Palestine

March 18, 2010

Film Screening: "Rocks at Whiskey Trench"

Presented by Kanata; part of the Working Group Film Festival

March 18, 2010

Film Screening: "Tapped"

Presented by TapThirst; part of the Working Group Film Festival

March 25, 2010

Film Screening: "The Cove"

Presented by Greening McGill; part of the Working Group Film Festival

March 26-28, 2010

Conference: Uncharted Waters

A weekend of events around water politics and radical environmentalism.

Organized by TapThirst.

WORKING GROUPS 2009-2010

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.

TAPThirst

This group is dedicated to promoting awareness of social, environmental, health, and monetary costs of the bottled water industry. They aim to empower people at a grassroots level by supplying them with the information and tools necessary to question the bottled water industry and its impacts on our environment and communities. TAPThirst is a coalition between TAPThirst McGill and TAPthirst Concordia that shares resources as one group.

Programming Highlights 2009/2010:

- Bottled Free Day at Shatner Lobby
- Bottled Water vs Tap Water Taste Test
- Uncharted Waters 3-day Conference Partner
- Screenings of "Blue Gold: World Water

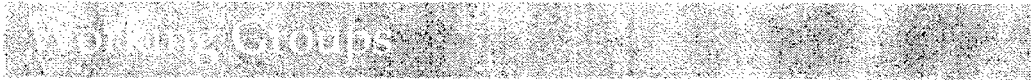
Wars" and "TAPPED"

- "Green Vibes, Spreading Sustainability" Environmental Residence Council Event.
- Bottled Water Free Zones /Events Campaign!! (Ongoing)
- Living the Pledge: Workshop
- "Tributaries of the Water Crisis: Linking the Perspectives of a Growing Movement!" - Panel Discussion.

Contact: tapthirstmcgill@gmail.com

Budget '09/'10 from QPIRG McGill:

\$250.00 (New Working Group)



March 8th Action and Coordination Committee of Women of Diverse Origins

This group is made up of feminists who are united in the struggles against patriarchy, capitalism, war, imperialism and other forms of reaction. The committee organized public events to educate and discuss global economic policies and the situation of women locally, to denounce injustices and to demand that everyone be able to live with dignity. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the International Women's Day.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- March 6th Seminar: Back To Basics
- March for International Women's Day on March 8th, 2010 with attendance of more than 500 people.

- Organizing an International Women's Conference with the theme "For a Militant Global Women's Movement in the 21st Century" – August 13-16th, 2010.
- Topics to address: globalization and its impact on women, an analysis of the global economic crisis and women, and women's resistance and alternatives.

Contact: tess.iwc@yahoo.ca

Website: wdofdo.wordpress.com

Budget 2009/2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$1900.00 (Returning Working Group)

Antigentrification Project

From Milton-Parc to St.Henri to the Mile End, university students are in the vanguard of gentrification – the replacement of one population by another, in which ethnicity, class and power play determining factors. Help us enable students to recognize and fight gentrification.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Milton-Parc Walking Tour by Lucia Kowalcuk
- Workshops: "Strategies for Communities Confronting Megaprojects."

- Developed a Research Stipend – Emily Connoly will complete a study about Montreal's policies contributing to gentrification in the Quartier des spectacles.
- Workshop: "Gentrification Mapping".

Contact: antigentrification@gmail.com

Budget 2009/2010 From QPIRG McGill:
\$0.00 (Returning 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 organized according to anarchist principle. We play songs of a political nature in remembrance of worldwide struggles against oppression and to inspire our communities. You are welcomed to join!

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Hosted Montreal Sessions on CKUT – showcased activist street bands and political bands in Montreal.
- Facilitates a workshop and produced a zine on Marching Bands for the Anarchist Bookfair.
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Cultural Insurrection Convention – 3 days of workshops, skill-sharing and

performance for politically active artistic communities.

- Participates in the Journée Autogérée.
- Workshop: "How to start a radical marching band!"
- Participated in Honk! Fest.
- Participated in a documentary trying to demystify anarchism for TV5.
- Participated in countless demonstrations and community/cultural events.

Contact: maggieschreiner@riseup.net

Budget 2009/2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$1,000.00 (Returning Working Group)



Coalition Justice for Adil Charkaoui \$1,500.00

This group came together as a community response to the arrest of Montrealer Adil Charkaoui under a "security certificate" in 2003. Security Certificates allow the government to detain non-citizens indefinitely, without charge or trial, under threat of deportation to torture. The goals of our campaign are:

- 1) The immediate release of all Security Certificate detainees,
- 2) A fair trial (if any case exists),
- 3) An end to deportation proceedings against the five,
- 4) The abolition of "security certificates",
- 5) An end to deportations to torture and
- 6) An end to the racist scape-goating of Muslim and Arab communities.

The Coalition also demands the closure of "Guantanamo North", the high security prison that was opened in April 2006, specifically for people held under security

certificates, further institutionalizing the illegal security certificate regime.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Speaking Tour for Adil Charkaoui from the East Coast to the West Coast.
- In September 2009, the Federal Court removed all Charkaoui's conditions and in October they struck down his certificate!!!

Contact: justiceforadil@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:

\$1,500.00 (Returning Working Group)

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. The focus of this year was to encourage McGill students to become involved in the issues of the Filipino community, particularly in Montreal, QC. Another focus was to raise the awareness of Filipino McGill students and develop interests to participate in community social justice issues.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- "Roots, Rhymes and Resistance: Pynoyville". Filipino youth arts and cultural show.
- Sigaw ng Bayan Radio Show.
- Kabataang Montreal Community Forum on Youth Violence.

- End of Exploitation: March for Liberation. A Political Fashion Show.
- Workshops on issues of migration, antiracism, and history.
- Participated in Justice Education Seminar, Global Health Nursing and Kainan 2010.
- Upcoming: "Roots, Rhymes, Resistance: National Launch"

Contact: filipinosolidarity@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$500.00 (Returning Working Group)

Forum Against Police Violence and Impunity (FAPVI) Organizing Committee

This group is made up individuals and groups organizing against police brutality, profiling and impunity. The purpose of the FAPVI is to bring together people who have suffered/suffer from police violence and those who organize against police violence and impunity in Montreal, to resist police violence and take concrete steps towards building a society based on justice and dignity for all.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- 3-day Forum on Police Violence and Impunity
- Show: "Beats Against the Police" including Rappers, MCs, vocalists, slammers, musicians and

poets.

- Panel: "At Risk Youth? At risk from whom? Police Profiling of street youth and youth of colour.
- Panel: Never Again! Families speak out against police killings and impunity
- Workshop-discussion: The Gender of Police Violence.
- And many more panels and workshops...

Contact: forumcontrelaviolencepoliciere@gmail.com

Budget 2009/2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$550.00 (New Working Group)

Campus Crops

Campus Crops is urban gardening initiative on McGill University's downtown Montreal campus. We aim to procure space (be it roof tops, back yards etc.) to create vegetable and herb gardens for the campus and surrounding community. It is a volunteer driven, non-hierarchical group dedicated to educating and providing opportunities for those interested to learn about and partake in an organic, community gardening endeavor.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Harvest Party/ Fête des Récoltes with Santropol

Roulant and Midnight Kitchen.

- 2 Canning Workshops at Midnight Kitchen.
- Screening of "The Private Life of Plants" & "Food Inc."
- Sprouting Project
- Trying to procure more land from the McGill Administration.
- Workshop: "Indoor Growing and Soil Making"

Contact: campuscrops@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 From QPIRG McGill:
\$100.00 (New Working Group)

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.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Group trip to Barriere Lake traditional territory for yearly summer gathering and celebration.
- Perron Report Analysis – Media Activism

- Barriere Lake Logging Road Blockades – financial support, media activism, filming, endorsements.
- Radio Rapid Lake - radio training.
- Indigenous Sovereignty Week
- Emergency teach-in about the Canadian Government Section 74 Indian Act band election threat.
- Screening of "Songs of DetermiNATION"
- Radio Camp Training in Barriere Lake. Plans for fixing up a trailer for permanent radio station.

Contact: barrierelakesolidarity@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$1,900.00 (Returning Working Group)

KANATA

KANATA focuses 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 a minor program in Indigenous Studies, utilizing academia, and going beyond its wall by acting as a portal to student's studying these topics seeking out other forms of knowledge, organizations, and activists groups.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Journal: Volume 2: "Story Teller" with Hayden King
- Journal: Volume 3: "Post-Oka Kinda Women" with Francine Lemay.
- Advocating a Minor Program at McGill University.
- Participated in Aboriginal Affairs Workgroup Focus Group.
- Participated in the Principles' Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community.
- Screenings of "Rocks at Whiskey Trench", "Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance", " No Address", and more...

- Consultant to Borderless World Volunteers' National Development Committee.
- Special Projects: Jamie Ross attended the Algonquin Paper Conference in Montreal, QC.; Pamela Fillion presented at the American Indian Workshop in Prague, Czech Republic; and Paumalu Cassiday will attend the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- In the works: "Peer-to-Peer Conference"; " MUSIC: McGill Undergraduate Symposium on Indigenous Cultures"

Contact: mcgillnativestudiesjournal@gmail.com

Website: kanata.qpirgmcgill.org.

Budget 2009/2010 from QPIRG McGill
\$250.00 (New 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. Greening McGill's events and campaigns of the past year have mostly focused on the broad theme of sustainability with a specific emphasis on 'principled purchasing'.

find such things in the future.

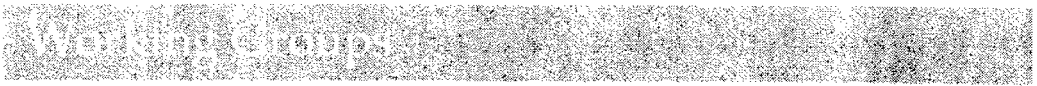
- Panel Discussion: "The Aftermath of the Recent Climate Talks in Copenhagen."
- Annual trip to Gault Nature Reserve.
- Several film screening including "The Cove" with Animal Liberties.
- Upcoming: Environmental Trivia Challenge.

Programming Highlights 2009 - 2010:

- Organized Car-Free Day in the fall.
- "From Fields to Feast" project.
- Held another 100-Mile Diet Challenge larger than last year.
- "Iron Chef" of local cooking workshop/challenge
- Started selling "Green Kits" containing products such as environmentally friendly dish soap and information on how to

Contact: greeningmcgill@mail.mcgill.ca

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$1,000.00 (Returning Working Group)



Montreal Indigenous Sovereignty Week Organizing Committee

The Montreal Indigenous Sovereignty Week Organizing Committee is a group dedicated to organizing educational events around Indigenous struggles in Canada. We take our direction from Defenders of the Land, a network of indigenous communities spanning all three coasts, united in opposition to policies of dispossession, assimilation, marginalization and criminalization, and united in support of Indigenous peoples' rights to their traditional land.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Organized the first-ever Indigenous Sovereignty Week (October 26-31st). Events included:
- Workshops: "Colonial Canada 101"; "Indigenous

Solidarity from a 'No Borders' Perspective"; "Cross-Cultural Training"; "The Struggles Against the Lower Churchill dam".

- Panels: "Defenders of the Land: Overcoming Canada's Colonial Agenda"
- Screenings "Muffins for Granny" and "Experimental Eskimos"
- Anti-colonial Thanksgiving and a Party!

Contact: courtnewyorkby@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$500.00 (New working Group)

Indyclass Collective

The Indyclass Collective facilitates the creation of student-run independent-study classes inside and outside of Montreal universities. These classes attempt to create an alternative to normal academia, allowing for autonomous collective self-education while striving to make education socially relevant and open to all.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- A course on "Indigenous Solidarity and Decolonization"
- Article: "Indyclass: Making student-run

Education a Reality" (McGill Daily)

- Collaborate with QPIRG & CURE on "Moving Away from the Ivory Tower" as part of Social Justice Days.

Contact: indyclass@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$250.00 (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 to form links with other struggles against similar Canadian mining projects around the world.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- "Stake the Mountain"
- Demonstration for International Day Against Open Pit Mining

- Workshop: "Undermine! Critical Analysis of the Canadian mining Industry and Resistance Strategies"
- New Gold, the mining operating in San Luis the Potosi, Mexico, was closed following a ruling by the Highest Mexican Administrative Court. FAO Members made a large effort to get media coverage and parliamentary attention on the mine closure and to publicize information from San Luis. The mine is now operating illegally!

Contact: cerrosanpedro@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill:
\$350.00 (Returning Working Group)



McGill Global Aids Coalition

McGill Global AIDS Coalition is an HIV/AIDS advocacy group dedicated to the eradication of HIV/AIDS and to the realization of the universal right to health. We are committed to helping to create an effective student advocacy network in Canada and to educating the McGill and Montreal community on global health issues.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Panel Discussions: World Tuberculosis Day Panel, Reforming Canada's Access to Medicine's Regime, Equitable Licensing Panel.
- Protest outside Marc Garneau's office.
- Outreach program to high school students to educate them about HIV/AIDS students in developing countries

• World AIDS Week

- Film screening with MSF
- Panel on the Criminalization of HIV/AIDS
- Panel on HIV/AIDS in Montreal
- Variety Show with Soulstice a cappella, Effusion a cappella, Inertia Dance Collective, Barn Owls (band), jazz band
- Keynote: Donna Barry from Partners in Health

Contact: director@treatthepeople.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill
\$200.00 (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.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Panel: "Trespass This!" with Lynnee Breedlove and Silas Howard.
- Workshops with Loree Erickson on anti-ableism and a screening of the film "Want".
- Fundraising Party "Mythical Creatures' Missed

Connections" for Missing Justice.

- Screening of "Criminal Queers"
- Screening and discussion on the Resistance to the Olympic Games Vancouver 2010.
- Fundraising Party "Green is the New Gay" for FAPVI.
- Book Launch "The Canadian War on Queers"
- Screening of "Zero Tolerance"
- Participates in IAW with Kate Raphael (QUIT)

Contact: qteam@riseup.net

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill
\$1,500.00 (Returning Working Group)

STAC - Montreal

STAC (Students Taking Action with Chiapas)-Montreal stands in solidarity with the struggles of indigenous peoples in Mexico (particularly the Zapatista movement in the southern state of Chiapas) through education, direct action, and fundraising.

Programming Highlights 09-10:

- Transported a shipment of Boots from Oventic, Chiapas Mexico.
- Organized a party for Indigenous

Sovereignty Week.

- Selling boots from Oventic at Frigo Vert.

Contact: stacmontreal@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill
\$400.00 (Returning 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.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Countless Film Screening including "Palestine Blues"; "Slingshot Hip Hop"; "The Trials of Norman Finkelstein"; "To Shoot an Elephant"; "Checkpoint Rock "
- Countless lectures including "Israeli Resistance to Apartheid featuring Schachaf Polakow of Anarchists Against the Wall"; "Israeli apartheid and the international movement for BDS"; "Radical movements from the Weather Underground to Prisons to Palestine"
- Radio show on CKUT radio Report featuring leading journalists on the

Israeli attack on Gaza

- Israeli Apartheid Week.
- Solidarity with Bil'in photo exhibits, actions, film screening, speaking tours, fundraisers, and rallies.
- Artist Against Apartheid Concert Series.
- Demonstrations and Pickets.
- BDS Campaign

Contact: info@tadamon.ca

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill

\$1,900.00 (Returning Working Group)

Tar Sands Free Zone Montreal

Montreal's biggest refinery is now owned by tar sands giant Suncor. A proposed pipeline project would bring 200,000 barrels of tar sands oil to Montreal. Meanwhile, communities downstream are watching their loved ones die of cancer and rare diseases. In solidarity with downstream communities, Tar Sands Free Zone Montreal aims to shut down the tar sands, starting in Montreal.

Programming Highlights 2009-2010:

- Promoted a very well-attended film screening of H2Oil
- Held a workshop discussing strategies to shut

down the tar sands (30+ in attendance).

- Made connections in the town of Dunham in the Eastern townships, where we organized a demonstration against the proposed Trailbreaker pipeline (50+ in attendance)
- Co-organize "Bike to Fight the Pipe!", an action opposing the Trailbreaker pipeline.
- Present a talk about Offsetting Resistance, a report discussing the effects of foundation funding on affected communities.
- Present a public talk by George Poitras, former chief of Mikisew Cree First Nation.

Contact: dru@dru.ca

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill

\$500.00 (New Working Group)

Young Jews for Social Justice

Young Jews for Social Justice is a group of Montreal Jews who take action on racism, inequality in our communities, and injustice in the Middle East, and participate in cultural and artistic activities. YJSJ feels the broad spectrum of opinion among Jews is not represented by existing organizations, and they provide a safe environment for young Jews to express their views without fear of marginalization or charges of ethnic disloyalty. YJSJ carries out popular education and advocate for an end to the Israeli military occupation, dismantlement of settlements, respect for international law, and self-determination and security for Israelis and Palestinians.

Contact: youngjewsforsocialjustice@gmail.com

Budget 2009-2010 from QPIRG McGill

\$450.00 (Returning Working Group)