



# QPIRG McGill Annual Report

2011-2012 / Montreal, Quebec

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## ABOUT QPIRG MCGILL

### 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 disability. 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.

# QPIRG MCGILL STRUCTURE

As of 2007, all McGill undergraduate and graduate students are automatically members of QPIRG and are entitled to all 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 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. This year the Board formed seven committees: Staff Committee, Programming Committee, Legal Committee, Finance Committee, Outreach & Media Committee, Policy Committee and CURE Committee.

## 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. The FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR was ANNA MALLA, who will be leaving us in April 2012 and will be replaced by DEGANE SOUGAL. The OUTREACH AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR was ANDREA FIGUEROA.

This year our 2 part-time work-study students were JOSH MENTANKO (RESOURCE CENTRE COORDINATOR) and SHAINA AGBAYANI (CURE COORDINATOR). We also had an intern via the Quebec Subventions Salariales from September 2011-February 2012: SARAH WOOLF (POLICY AND RESEARCH COORDINATOR). The 2011-12 EXTERNAL COORDINATOR was DAN LACROIX.

In the summer of 2011, QPIRG hired two RAD FROSH COORDINATORS: CERA YIU (community-based) and ADAM WHEELER (student-based); and one SCHOOL SCHMOOL COORDINATOR: KRISTIN LI. Each summer we also provide two SUMMER RESEARCH STIPENDS for community-based research to FILIPINO SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE's project "BOSES NG KABATAANG: A STORY ABOUT FILIPINO CANADIAN YOUTH" and INDU VASHIST's project "GLOBAL QUEER DESI RESOURCE HUB".

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (CRCC)

At the Annual General Meeting in April 2010, the following QPIRG members were elected to the CRCC: MARIA FORTI, NATALIE COHEN, MATT LEE and ABBY LIPMAN. The CRCC follows a CRCC policy to address complaints involving QPIRG members that cannot be resolved by the board of directors.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Patrick DeDauw  
Camillia Elachqar  
Simone Lucas  
Lena Weber  
Adam Wheeler  
Shireen Soofi

Christian Scott Martone

Mahtab Nazemi  
(RESIGNED AUG 2011)

Reilly MacDonald  
(RESIGNED OCT 2011)

Tyler Lawson (RESIGNED FEB 2012)

Aaron Vansintian  
(RESIGNED MAR 2012)

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

Jessica Blair  
William M. Burton  
Kira Page  
Sarah Woolf (RESIGNED AUG 2012)

SSMU REP

Micha Stettin (RESIGNED JAN 2012)

PGGs REP

Heather Kooistra

# QPIRG MCGILL BOARD REPORT

## TRAINING & VISIONING

As recommended by last year's board, this year, QPIRG McGill held its annual board training in early May, rather than in October. The training includes workshops on anti-oppression, finances, legal responsibilities, consensus decisions, employer-employee relations, and organizational history. Holding the training early on was crucial for the organization, particularly considering the decisions that needed to be made over the summer, and we strongly recommend this continue. We also held a board visioning session in December as a way of refreshing our vision for the organization moving forward, and held additional trainings throughout the year on specific issues (such as conflict resolution, Tadamon!, Israeli Apartheid Week, and so on).

As a high number of our board members are not running for re-election, we would also suggest that the organization prioritize skillsharing and training throughout the summer, to ensure the smoothest transition possible for the new board.

## QPIRG 2011 REFERENDUM

### BACKGROUND

Over the last several years, the online-opt out system (and conservative campaigns that use this system as a way of targeting QPIRG), have caused an incredible drain of both financial and human resources on our organization. After much deliberation, the Board decided that this situation was making it unsustainable for people to work or volunteer at QPIRG, and was making it impossible for us to fulfill our mandate. At the same time, we were being asked to go to referendum by the McGill administration in order to begin negotiations for the renewal of our MOA (this includes our lease, fee levy agreements, and so on). We decided to run a question in the fall that asked students to continue supporting QPIRG through a \$3.75 fee that was not opt-outable online, but rather in person.

### REFLECTIONS

On a number of levels, the campaign was incredibly successful; we had a 130 person campaign team, and extremely well-organized campaign, and the Board felt that both the issue of online opt-outs and QPIRG's work gained a lot of visibility on campus. We also won, with the support of 68.6% of students!! At the same time, running the referendum campaign was incredibly difficult, with an absolutely absurd amount of hours put in by our student board members, particularly the co chairs, Camillia and Adam. At times, the campaign caused internal tensions (which were resolved in group discussion) and put an incredible amount of pressure on everybody.

### FALLOUT

Unfortunately, quite far into the referendum process, the office of the Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning (Morton Mendelson), who is responsible for negotiating our MOA, told us he found the question "unclear". When the results were finally announced, they informed us they were refusing to recognize the results of the referendum. At this point, we entered negotiations with the McGill Administration to pressure them to accept these results. These negotiations were highly unproductive; the Board has not felt that the university was ever willing to negotiate in good faith. They become even more strained, however, when students angry about the refusal of the administration to recognize the results occupied the 6th floor of the James Administration building. QPIRG had no involvement in #6party, but did try to negotiate between the occupiers and the administration to ensure a speedy and just resolution to the occupation. The end of the occupation effectively signalled the end of our negotiations with the administration, who were no longer at all interested in sitting down with us, jeopardizing our lease renewal, ability to collect fees, or carry out our work at all.

At the same time, in late January, we received notice that the results of our referendum question were subject to a Judicial Board case, which was in part claiming that our question was unconstitutional because it asked two separate things

(both our fee renewal and the change in the opt out system). Eventually, the Judicial Board decided that while we were correct in understanding our existence as intricately tied to our fee collection system, the average student voter could not understand this connection, and thus the question was unconstitutional. This meant that the Fall 2011 referendum results were no longer valid.

## QPIRG 2012 REFERENDUM

With the university completely unwilling to begin negotiations on our MOA, and no further recourses left to the organization, the Board decided to go back to referendum. This required SSMU to allow for a special referendum period, which starts tomorrow. The question does not ask students about the Minerva opt-out system, and is limited to the renewal of our fee from students, and the wording was dictated by McGill. To put it lightly, the future of our organization will (once again) be decided in the next week, and we would love all the support we can get.

## QPIRG ON CAMPUS

For the first time in a while, McGill's campus has experienced a large upswing in progressive student mobilization, including the first occupation of the James building in the fall, the various responses to the resulting confrontation between students and the riot police on campus, the mobilization for the ongoing student strike in Quebec, the referendums run by ourselves and by CKUT, and student solidarity with the MUNACA strike that lasted for most of first semester. With regards to this mobilization, the Board decided that our most useful engagement would be as resource center for progressive student organizing. With this in mind, we have tried to make our resources easily available and well known to interested students, have offered skillshares and workshops by our board and staff on request, and were involved in organizing "Reclaim Your Education Week", which aimed to share information students about the nuts and bolts of organizing work and various social and environmental issues. We have tried to offer our solidarity, support and endorsements to the strike by first, MUNACA, and now the various departments on strike at McGill whenever possible.

Generally, the Board felt that our outreach efforts across campus were extremely effective this year. We've built much stronger connections with student organizations and organizers, have worked more often and more collaboratively with them, and feel a much wider and deeper engagement with QPIRG across campus. This work has, at times, come at the detriment of our work with the broader Montreal community, but in the organizational context we're grappling with, as well as with the ongoing mobilizations on campus, we felt that this was important.

## SOME BOARD PROJECTS

Some of the outreach projects developed by last year's board were strengthened considerably this year, including the "OUR CAMPUS, OUR COMMUNITY" campaign, which has grown to include the active participation of more and more campus groups, and now includes much more than the original poster campaign. The Board feels like this project has been very exciting and helpful in linking the different student groups targeted by opt-outs. Similarly, the I <3 QPIRG campaign received dozens more letters of support this year, many of which were widely publicized.

## STAFF

### CONTRACT HIRE

In September of 2011, we hired Sarah Woolf for a 6 month contract, funded through Emploi Quebec, as our Policy and Research Coordinator. Her incredible understanding of policy development, the research needs of the organization, and understandings of QPIRG were an immense asset to the organization, and we were so thankful to have her around. More about her work in her report!

## FULL TIME PERMANENT STAFF

Anna Malla, the Finance and Administrative Coordinator for the past 2.5 years, is leaving her position this week, and so this past month we hired Degane Sougal to replace her. We are very sad to see our experienced, knowledgeable, capable, whip-smart Anna leave, but also very very excited for Degane to join the organization in this capacity! Degane is an experienced community organizer who did her BA and MA at McGill, and worked for us in the past as our CURE coordinator. We are happy to say that our external coordinator, Andrea Figueroa, will be staying with us. We are, as always, strengthened by her thoughtfulness, strength, energy, and experience.

Due to the ongoing opt-out campaigns, the J-Board case, the repression of student dissent on campus and unresolved negotiations with the Administration, and the high workload QPIRG staff have in normal circumstances, both of our coordinators, Anna Malla and Andrea Figueroa, have given an inordinate amount of their time and energy to the organization. They worked long and irregular hours, were under constant stress throughout the year, and have poured so much of themselves into their positions. As a Board, we are so often incredibly grateful, inspired, and amazed by Anna and Andrea's work. At the same time, we would like to underscore the importance for next year's Board of creating and ensuring a healthy, livable, sustainable work environment for our full time staff.

## PART TIME STAFF

While their work will be covered in other sections of the AGM, we wanted to briefly mention our wonderful team of part time staff this year. Josh Mentanko was hired for the second time as the Resource Centre Coordinator, and continued his efforts to recruit student volunteers, organize the library and acquire the latest literature on social and environmental justice. Shaina Agbayani was hired as the CURE coordinator. She helped strengthen ties with departments in the Arts and Science faculties, promoted the CURE program, and coordinated with McGill's Internship Office.

## BOARD

### RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

This year, we had 6 resignations from our Board-- Sarah Woolf on August 18th, Mahtab Nazemi on August 29th, Reilly Macdonald on November 14th, Tyler Lawson on February 6th, Micha Stettin on March 27th and Aaron Vansintjan on March 28th. In their place, we appointed Adam Wheeler, who had been a Board member for 2 years previous, Christian Scott Martone Donde, who had been an active volunteer with QPIRG previously, Shireen Soofi, who came to us with experience doing social justice organizing, and Micha Stettin, who had acted as our SSMU representative in the fall. As Micha and Aaron resigned very recently, we have not (and will not) appoint someone to take his place. Our PGSS rep has been Heather Kooistra. We did not replace our SSMU rep after Micha resigned from his position with the SSMU.

While a number of these resignations occurred for personal reasons, it was overall a very trying year for the board. Board members put in countless hours and bore an incredible amount of stress and worry throughout the year, particularly because of the referenda, the difficulties with the McGill Administration, and so on. This often resulted in long and frequent meetings, high pressure environments, and a lot of frustration. To the extent that this is possible, we have been working on building broader support structures for the organization to reduce the strain on the board and staff. Most recently, this has included, in the upcoming referendum, ensuring that the coordination of the campaign does not fall on just our co-chairs, but on a larger group of volunteers. We recommend, as did last year's board, that the board prioritize mutual support and solidarity in the face of external political pressures. All in all, however, this year's board worked very well together and with the staff, and those of us staying on are looking forward to the energy, knowledge, and excitement the new board will bring.

Thanks!

Patrick DeDauw, Camillia Elachqar, Simone Lucas, Lena Weber, Adam Wheeler, Shireen Soofi,  
Christian Scott Martone, Jessica Blair, William M. Burton and Kira Page

## QPIRG MCGILL STAFF REPORT

The 2011-2012 year was, once again, an active one for the QPIRG McGill Board, Staff, and volunteers. Between our regular programming and administrative work (detailed below), opt-outs and the Our Campus Our Community Campaign, a fall referendum, frustrating attempts at negotiations with the McGill Administration, a J-Board case, and now another referendum period ahead of us, we have been extremely busy!

You can read more about what we've been up to in the following sections:

- POPULAR EDUCATION: Culture Shock, Social Justice Days and all the many other events we organize throughout the year.
- RESEARCH: the Convergence Journal, Study in Action and CURE.
- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Opt-Out Campaigning and Our Campus Our Community

Once again, QPIRG faced an aggressive Opt-Out Campaign, in particular during the fall semester. The Opt-Out Campaign appeared to have even more funding this year, with glossy postcard style fliers being distributed not only all over campus --- they were even hand-delivered to students' mailboxes! The fliers gave inaccurate information about where QPIRG's money goes, inflated the amount of money we receive from student fees, and even went so far as to imply that we provide funding to Hezbollah! We did our best to document all of the attacks, and to meet with the Dean of Students to let her know the ways in which these attacks are affecting QPIRG and the rest of the opt-outable student groups.

QPIRG's response to all of this negative campaigning was to be proactive in terms of campus presence through campus media, promotional materials and through a physical presence on campus. We got together with the Our Campus Our Community network for tabling, postering, classroom announcements, and distributing promotional materials about our groups. We organized a BBQ and Open House with CKUT, which attracted a large number of McGill students. We have also continued to actively oppose the McGill Administration-imposed Minerva opt-out system on independent student groups, thus far to no avail.

### THANK YOU!

Despite all of the challenges we have faced this year, we have been very lucky to have such an incredible group of people actively involved in the organization all year long. This includes all of our Board Members --- who have been volunteering just about every minute of their free time to QPIRG --- as well as our wider support base across campus, which is growing every year. In the face of a Conservative backlash on campus and in the broader context, we are heartened by the dedication shown by McGill students to social and environmental justice issues and the organizations, like QPIRG, that support them. We look forward to many more years of working together!

Thank you again for all your support!

Anna Malla & Andrea Figueroa



## POPULAR EDUCATION

### CULTURE SHOCK 2011

We hosted a very exciting week of events on McGill campus in the fall, including a panel and facilitated discussion about art and activism, which featured local and international artists and activists. We collaborated with the SSMU, the Social Equity and Diversity in Education (SEDE) office, QPIRG Working Groups, international advocates for Queer rights, the SSMU Equity Commissioners, and the Montreal City Mission.

Workshops included Anti-Racism 101, Migrant Justice and refugee issues, NGOs and social change in India, issues of race and racism within post-secondary institutions, and the "Arab Spring" uprisings. This year we also collaborated with Tadamon! to discuss and reflect on the Revolutions in the 'Arab World'. As part of Culture Shock, Tadamon! organized a day-long teach-in and a panel discussion with professor Salwa Ismail.

Our main panel meant to bring together two socially conscious artists, Theodore Harris and Sundu Abdul Hadi" to discuss the idea of "Art as a Weapon: Critical Thinking and the Media," with the aim of sparking discussion around how to use art as a tool for positive social change.

Due to the fact that the dates for Culture Shock fell at a very busy time for QPIRG (preparing to go to referendum, and directly following the fall opt-out period), attendance for some of the sessions was slightly lower than in previous years. Those who did participate gave us very positive feedback about the content of Culture Shock, and we look forward to carrying on the tradition of this event series for years to come!

### SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS 2012

This year as part of Social Justice Days we collaborated with campus organizations such as the SSMU, CKUT Radio, Black Students' Network, Queer McGill, Union for Gender Empowerment, Midnight Kitchen, in addition to community groups such as QPIRG Concordia, several of our Working Groups, and Solid'Ayiti.

We had a very exciting week of events, including:

- An opening panel discussion on Access to Public Health and Education today in Haiti,
- 5 workshops and film screenings on diverse issues such as anti-racism within the student movement, the Earth liberation movement and the local struggles of migrants in Montreal.
- A hip-hop show and fundraiser for Haiti organized by Solid'Ayiti.
- A very successful book launch with celebrated trans and immigrant rights activist Dean Spade. Dean Spade joined us to launch his highly anticipated full-length book debut "Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law". This launch was part of a tour of Canadian cities to launch his new book.

Attendance at the events was large and enthusiastic, and we received a great deal of positive feedback from panelists, workshop facilitators and participants alike. Long live Social Justice Days!

## ONE-OFF EVENTS

This year, as always, QPIRG hosted a few one-off events on top of our event series we host every year. In the summer of 2011, we invited the creators of the new film *Secret Trial 5* to Montreal for a film screening and discussion. This film highlights the struggles of Canada's five Security Certificate Detainees, and explains why we should oppose racial profiling enacted through these types of security measures. The film was accompanied by a talk by Adil Charkaoui, a Montreal man who was targeted by Security Certificates.

In September, QPIRG McGill teamed up with QPIRG Concordia to invite renowned anti-racist comedian Hari Kondabolu (brother of rapper Das Racist) to Montreal for a community-based comedy event, held in the Little Burgundy neighbourhood of Montreal. The event was sold out! From the non-stop laughter in the room, it looks like people enjoyed his performance!

In November, we also worked alongside Le Frigo Vert (Concordia) and QPIRG Concordia to host Anti-Colonial Thanksgiving for the fifth year in a row. This event is a staff favourite, with the shared meal, film and discussion that brings together approximately three-hundred people into the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) on St. Laurent. We have recently heard that the NFCM has lost government funding and is at risk of closing its doors --- we encourage you all to find out more and help support this amazing space in Montreal!

## Rad Frosh 2011 - Cera Yiu & Adam Wheeler

Rad Frosh is a 3-day alternative orientation program for McGill and Montreal, coordinated annually by QPIRG McGill. It is a creative, politically progressive experience for first-year students. The program gives students an introduction to community organizing and activism. Through tours, concerts, panels, film screenings, and workshops, students are introduced to social and political issues, movements and organizations in Montreal and McGill.

The 2011 Rad Frosh program was faced with a number of new challenges and opportunities as a result of the 'Integrated Orientation' program implemented by the university to restructure all faculty and alternative orientations. Major changes included requiring that all froshes be held simultaneously over the Labour Day weekend, the downsizing of SSMU Frosh infrastructure used to promote the Rad Frosh program, and decreased registration numbers. Despite this, we worked hard to collaborate with SSMU, the McGill administration, and other faculties to put on a great program.

We had approximately 150 students enrolled in our program. Despite lower enrollment, Rad Frosh was largely successful and participants expressed a lot enthusiasm and enjoyment. We had twelve workshops in total covering a broad range of issues such as 'Feminism for Today', 'Radical Academics', Food Politics, Migrant Justice among others, as well as five social justice oriented tours of the city. On top of workshops, we also hosted evening events such as a concert, a loft party, and alternative non-drinking activities. The concert was very well attended, and featured artists from Montreal and other political musicians. We also raised money for the Immigrant Workers Centre. The loft party encompassed a fun evening of karaoke, DJs, haircuts, and crafts. Other programming included a scavenger hunt to familiarize students to social justice based groups on McGill campus, a trip to the Mountain, film screenings and more. Facilitators also helped us ensure that everything ran smoothly and were a great resource for participants.

From a logistical perspective, we worked very hard to ensure that the program was financially viable for QPIRG. Through increased fundraising and more reflexive budgeting we were able to ensure that Rad Frosh did not run a deficit while still offering high quality programming to McGill students. We were able to increase the range of our funding sources by building new partnerships with McGill departments and on-campus unions, in addition to the variety of student groups that we have worked with in the past. We continued to prioritize making bursaries available to students that subsidized up registration costs, and received positive feedback from participants that this made the program more accessible to them.

## POPULAR EDUCATION cont'd

Overall, the program was a success. We are very grateful to everyone who helped make Rad Frosh possible. Rad Frosh provides a unique opportunity for first year students and we are excited to see what's in store for the future of Rad Frosh.

### SCHOOL SCHMOOL 2011-2012 - KRISTIN LI

Once again, School Schmool made its way across the McGill and Concordia campuses, and throughout the city of Montreal.

The agenda dates back to 1994, beginning as a bi-annual publication from QPIRG McGill that brought together group profiles, articles, and practical resources of use to all students, especially those interested in environmental and social justice issues. It was resurrected as an agenda and resource book in the summer of 2006, and has been connecting together the McGill, Concordia and Montreal communities ever since. Last year, QPIRG Concordia became a regular co-sponsor, and the agenda can now be found on both McGill and Concordia campuses.

The 2011-2012 edition is bigger than ever, with more resources, articles, and beautiful illustrations from a diverse array of contributors. The agenda has been divided into four sections. "The Resources" provides practical tips and recommendations, ranging from cheap eats to affordable mental health support in the city. "The Issues" features introductory articles on a wide variety of topics, ranging from bike activism to building solidarity with international struggles. "The Group" lists profiles from local projects in a thematic order consistent with articles from the previous section. As always, a year-long calendar leaves space to plan our days while the featured historical dates help to archive important moments in Montreal's history—this year, in anticipation of the student strike, we specifically featured dates from the history of Quebec student organizing.

This year, we also made a targeted effort to solicit profiles from a diverse range of McGill campus organizations and services that had not been previously featured by the agenda, including the Mob Squad, Folio Magazine, Le Petit Vélo Rouge, and the Macdonald Student-Run Ecological Gardens. We expanded distribution to include the Macdonald campus and we tabled with the agenda on the downtown campus, at Midnight Kitchen servings and at the crossroads. Upon its release, School Schmool was featured by an article from The Concordian and the CKUT radio show "Dykes on Mikes" broadcasted an interview with the two co-coordinators. With help from QPIRG Concordia and McGill staff, we successfully fundraised to cover all of our printing and additional costs, with a left over surplus.

After seventeen years, School Schmool continues to encourage students and non-students to participate in social and environmental activism across the city. We hope the agenda lives on for many years to come!

## RESEARCH

### CONVERGENCE UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

Convergence, a journal of undergraduate and community research, is a collaboration with QPIRG Concordia Study In Action, and the Community University Research Exchange (CURE). Convergence highlights the contributions of undergraduates, artists, and community members who contributed to either Study In Action or CURE. The Convergence committee was comprised of a large group of student and community volunteers, actively supported by QPIRG staff and board. It solicited content starting in March, just after Study In Action, and continued the process of editing, design, layout, and distribution into September, when the journal was launched. The process of bringing articles and artwork to publication involved many hours of support, and was a collaborative process. We have published 400 printed copies of the journal.

An important addition to Convergence this year is a beautiful new website -[www.convergencejournal.ca](http://www.convergencejournal.ca) - which includes the full print editions of the 2010 and 2011 editions of the journal, along with both web-based and pdf versions of articles and artwork.

This year's Convergence committee was comprised of: Anais Cadieux-Van Vliet, Noah Eidelman, Camillia Elachgar, Andrea Figueroa, Eryn Fitzgerald, Ashley Fortier, Priya Gandhi, Yuseph Katiya, Sarah Kizuk, Siji Kompanal, Derek Lappano, Anna Malla, Caitlin Manicom, Bruce Manson, Farid Rener, Jaggi Singh, Aaron Vansintjan and Tasha Zamudio.

### COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE (CURE)

CURE's mandate is to facilitate community-directed research collaborations between Montreal university students and grassroots community groups who work on environmental and social justice issues. At its heart, the CURE coordinators and committee made links between dozens of students and community organizations, helping to facilitate important research links. Outreach efforts included dozens of classrooms visits and talks. During the year, CURE outreached to more than 100 faculty at Concordia and McGill, as well as dozens of community organizations.

Overall, CURE has been in touch with hundreds of community organizations in the past two years, and more than 65 community organizations are currently listed on the database, with many more groups who are considering submitting a project. Some final CURE projects were highlighted at the Study In Action conference in March 2012, as well as in the recent Convergence Journal. Both these projects are close allies of CURE, and both are priorities for CURE coordinators and committee members.

AT MCGILL: While there were over thirty students who initially expressed interest in doing CURE projects at McGill and, 18 started the process after I got them in touch with community organizations. The organizations that most of the research projects focused on are (1) Entreaid Verdun community kitchen (2) Solidarity Across Borders, an organization mobilizing around issues of status and non-status migrants (3) PINAY, a Filipina domestic workers' organization and (4) Le Frigo Vert, anti-capitalist food collective.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL: With the help of CURE committee members, we developed a new image of an open book under the city with a cleaner look than the old logo to harmonize with our vision for the new website. This image was mostly developed by Aaron Vansintjan and in addition to the site will be used logos on posters, and handbills. Also, conversation was begun as to the creation of a CURE banner.

WEBSITE: One of the most important tasks completed this year was the overhaul over the old cure website into the new [WWW.CUREMONTREAL.ORG](http://WWW.CUREMONTREAL.ORG) website. In contrast to the old website, the new website included the new image and logo, lovely art for link categories created by artist Alexandra Blair, a more navigable category layout, and an overall much more aestheti-

cally-pleasing platform. .

EVENTS: QPIRG Concordia Radical Research workshop, the fall CURE 5-7, the CURE Coordinator was the moderator in the panel Alternative Pedagogies at Study in Action and she organized a panel on community-based research for the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) Research Week that took place on March 28 2012, which featured QPIRG Concordia staff Jaggi Singh, student Carly Seltzer, community organizer Gabriella Pedicelli, and Concordia professor Kevin Gould.

## STUDY IN ACTION & ART IN ACTION 2012: UNDERGRADUATE & COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The sixth annual Study In Action Conference, presented by QPIRG Concordia and QPIRG McGill, was held at Concordia University in Montreal on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2012. The aim of the conference was to provide an opportunity for students and people outside the academic community to come together to work on and discuss approaches to social and environmental justice, while creating a forum to highlight undergraduate research.

This year, the conference opening panel explored the reclamation of community spaces in diverse ways – including local examples related to gentrification and public art. It discussed how to reclaim and create the commons, in resistance to capitalism & patriarchy. We invited JULIE CHATEAUVERT from the local art collectives Les femmes ont faim, Les delicates Attentions and Artivistic.; SYLVIA FEDERICI, a scholar, teacher, and activist; member of the Midnight Notes Collective and author of *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*; SHANNON FRANSSSEN, the coordinator of Solidarité St-Henri; and SURESH NAIDU, an assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and active participant at Occupy Wall Street.

Building upon the strengths of previous years, the conference was a great success. Over the course of three days, there were:

- o 29 undergraduate paper and community group presentations
- o 30 undergraduate and community visual art installations
- o over 500 student and community member participants
- o student participants from across Montreal, and also from across Canada.

This year we added ART IN ACTION. Art in Action highlights creative expression on social and environmental justice issues through diverse mediums including: drawing, painting, photography, performance, film & video, installation, spoken word, zine, collage, watercolour, poster, and print.

We had a wonderfully successful weekend of conferences, panels, workshops and knowledge exchange this year at Study in Action. With the largest participation since Study in Action first began (we have estimated that approximately 500 people were in attendance over the course of the weekend), and having received extremely positive feedback about the content, we are excited about the growing interest in socially engaged undergraduate research. We had many McGill students involved, both in the planning of the conference itself, and in terms of research papers submitted.

## SUMMER STIPENDS 2011: GLOBAL QUEER DESI RESOURCE HUB (INDU VASHIST)

"The target audience for this project are people who are just coming out in the diaspora and have not benefited from the discourse that exists within the 'home countries' regarding sexuality. The resource website is meant for people in the diaspora to be able to access the incredible amount of material that already exists in south asia. The aim of the project is to link together coherent dialogue among queer desis in the on the sub-continent and the diaspora. The site features resources that aim to break isolation for queer desis as well as share resources and provide support across borders within the region and across the world. This site has essentially come out of the need for a one stop destination for global desi activism.

Concretely, I produced a resource website that collects resources from the South Asia region (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India) – everything from coming out guides to debunking culturally specific myths about gayness and links to existing queer organisations on the subcontinent and in the diaspora. I also compiled a detailed bibliography and filmography on texts that deal with issues around homosexuality and trans issues within a south asian context. Most importantly, I have compiled the most current list of queer organisations in both south asian and North America.

In terms of content, it seemed like most organisations deal had a secular mandate and the question of religion was completely avoided. After careful consideration, I have decided to include a section on religion and commissioned de-mystifying queerness and religion articles by people on the subcontinent.

Queer South Asian organisations in both North America and on the subcontinent itself responded positively and sending interesting suggestions. One organisation in the US called Trikone asked me to collaborate with them because they were planning on creating a similar resource website. So that means that the site now has many different people who are posting resources to it. This is particularly wonderful for the long term health of the project.

Additionally, the link for the site has been passed along in many forums for south asian queers and has been accessed by people who require it. After the launch of the website, the South Asian Women's Community Centre asked me to sit on their 30th anniversary keynote panel to address the gap between how queer issues are dealt within movement spaces in South Asia and in the diaspora. I see this as a step forward towards moving to a more consolidated response to homosexuality for the community."

--INDU VASHIST

## SUMMER STIPENDS 2011: BONES NG KABATAANG: A STORY ABOUT FILIPINO CANADIAN YOUTH (FILIPINO SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE

The following research project identified and discussed the dominant issues faced by Filipino youth in Montreal through a short documentary film. The film specifically showcased the lives of Live-in-Caregiver (LCP) children aged between 11 - 20, and how their experiences are influenced and structured by the LCP. The project's main goals were to (1) educate, organize and mobilize Filipino youth on systemic and day-to-day forms for oppression and marginalization (2) provide a space for youth to discuss everyday barriers and challenges they face in school, their homes and in the community (3) develop skills and capacity/leadership building (4) establish links with progressive and local community organizations, and to (5) educate the broader McGill and Montreal community about the (in)visible issues affecting Filipino youth. As such, this project was meant to be educational and empowering for a section of the Filipino community that has largely been ignored.

## OUTCOMES OF PROJECT

As expected, this project was able to generate significant benefits. In both the short-term and long-term, this project allowed youth to develop both research and practice skills. In the former, youth participated in workshops exploring their history of migration into Canada; as well as video and editing workshops. These were very important opportunities given the paucity of safe spaces in which to learn of and openly discuss these topics. Given that issues affecting Filipino-Canadian youth are seldom discussed within families, or in schools, youth participants were free to express their own experiences of migration, and issues/barriers related to educational success. With regards to practice skills, youth participants filmed and interviewed themselves; developing tools which will no doubt be applied in their future endeavors. Interview skills such as learning how to develop open-ended questions, and editing software such as Final Cut Pro were some of the specific skills that participants were introduced to. Moreover, they were able to learn about various software editing skills. From a community organizing standpoint, this project will be an excellent organizing tool in KM's future workshops and orientations. KM is currently in discussions, with the ultimate objective of showing the finished product to schools in the Cote des Neiges area. Possible schools include Lavoie High School, James Lyng High School, etc. KM and the FSC is also planning to have film showings for QPIRG, FAMAS (main Montreal Filipino cultural/social centre), and the FSC.

## POLICY AND RESEARCH: SARAH WOLFF (COORDINATOR)

"From September 2012 to February 2012 I joined QPIRG McGill's staff as Policy & Research Coordinator; the position was funded through the "subventions salariales" Emploi Quebec program. As the job title suggests, this coordinating position largely focused on the policy and research components of QPIRG's mandate, in addition to providing support to the Internal & External coordinators and the Board of Directors.

A lot of work was done to prepare QPIRG to run the Fall 2011 referendum campaign and to do so with minimal interruption to the organization's regular services. As part of that effort, I researched and compiled documentation on QPIRG, SSMU, and Elections McGill referendum history. In the lead-up to the referendum, I also helped plan, write and edit the referendum question.

Another focus of the Policy & Research position was to prepare QPIRG for the renegotiation of its Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with McGill. I compiled past documentation on McGill MoAs, and helped research, review and explore possible MoA edits. I also bottom-lined communication with QPIRG's legal counsel, the office of the Deputy Provost Student Life & Learning and the Dean of Students.

With regards to policy work, I bottom-lined the writing of QPIRG's Refund Policy and edits to the Working Group Selection Policy. Minor work was undertaken on the Conflict Resolution & Complaints Committee Policy and on general visioning for the organization and formatting of QPIRG's policies.

Miscellaneous tasks also included participating as an active, non-voting member of QPIRG's policy committee and legal committee, assisting QPIRG McGill's Internal and External Coordinators with relevant tasks, holding office hours, co-writing and/or editing articles and letters for the Daily and Tribune & co-writing and/or editing press releases."

## RESOURCES

### ALTERNATIVE RESOURCE LIBRARY - JOSH MENTANKO

Our year began with an open house, where we welcomed new volunteers and library patrons into our space and introduced them to the library and its function within the broader mandate of QPIRG McGill. This initial visit was soon followed by a meeting between old and new members of the library committee. I have also conducted individual tours of the library for students, community members, and visitors from outside of Montreal over the course of the year. I promoted the library on a radio program aired on CKUT. This winter, we welcomed a group of students from the Women's and Gender Studies Department for a discussion on cataloguing zines and the role of alternative libraries. In addition, I have maintained links with the Alternative Libraries Collective, holding frequent meetings with QPIRG Concordia and updating current and potential members on changes to our website.

A substantial project that our committee tackled this year was to catalogue the zines. The first step involved designing a classification system that took account of the unique difficulties of organizing zines and aimed to organize them in a way that made sense to patrons. The designs for the new system were approved by our committee, and we began physically cataloguing the zines by the end of November. I provided instructions on how to do this, and volunteers were able to come into the library whenever they were available to help complete the project. I then added all of the records onto the online database. This project has made all of our zines searchable online for the first time, and it also allows patrons to sign out zines as they would DVDs or books. With the help of several library volunteers, I purchased a used pantyhose display rack for use as a zine shelf. After cleaning it up, we installed it in the library. Because of this new shelf, the zines are better preserved and generally more visible than they were previously.

Our library has received a significant number of donated books this year. One of the largest donations was made by a former McGill Professor and included a dozen boxes filled with books on Marxism, sociology, history, economics, etc. Guided by our purchasing policies and the anti-oppression mandate of QPIRG, I went through all of the boxes and selected books that were appropriate for our collection. Thanks to this donation and others, we were able to add over fifty items to our library at no cost. Open Door Books, an organization that provides books to prisoners, stepped in to take the rest of the books, which they will either donate to prisoners or sell as part of their fundraising efforts.

This was also the year that QPIRG External Coordinator Andrea taught me how to use Wordpress. This marvellous skill has allowed me to update the Resource Centre webpage with information on new books, links to author interviews, as well as news on events and opportunities to support us. One of our most dedicated volunteers took some really sweet photos of the library, which we spaced randomly throughout the website. They are really effective in promoting the overall sweetness of the library space to potential members.

### FUNDING: DISCRETIONARIES

QPIRG McGill funds action-oriented research that supports our mandate of social justice and environmental activism. We provide several avenues for securing funding and support, enabling a diversity of groups and actors to participate.

Each year QPIRG's Board of Directors sets aside an amount of money to fund external projects. Campus and community groups are encouraged to apply to this discretionary fund when planning any goal-oriented social justice or environmental event. The maximum for any one request is \$250.00.us.



## DISCRETIONARIES 2011-2012

DATE	To/EVENT	AMOUNT (\$)
15.04.2011	- Pervy Zine / Calendar - Ste. Emilie Skillshare / Art Auction - ENDCIV / Film Screening	\$100.00 \$150.00 \$50.00
30.05.2011	- Commission Azkintuwe / Livret - Artung Public Space - CKUT / Aboriginal Celebrations Day	\$150.00 \$80.00 \$220.00
12.05.2011	- Too Asian / Through Slated Eyes - CKUT / Autonomous Media Room - Maria Forti / Zine on Polyamory	\$75.00 \$100.00 \$75.00
09.06.2011	- Open Door Books / Voices of Inside Prisons - Fredy Villanueva Support Committee / March Commemorative - Immigrant Workers Centre / Project Balikpapan	\$50.00 \$150.00 \$50.00
22.06.2011	- Dignidad Migrante / Doc Presentation	\$250.00
07.07.2011	- Queer Riot / Queer Riot 2011 - SAWCC / Feeling Safe in Park Ex.	\$100.00 \$150.00
21.07.2011	- CKUT / Morning After Programs	\$100.00
12.08.2011	- ASSTT(e)Q / Taking Charge Handbook	\$250.00
30.08.2011	- Farah Najah / Grrrlz	\$250.00
30.09.2011	- Prochoix / Soutien - 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy / Missing Justice Andrea Smith - Ethnoculture / Solidarity	\$50.00 \$75.00 \$200.00
19.10.2011	- GRIP UQAM / Journal L'Interet Public	\$200.00
04.11.2011	- Meryam J. / Documentary	\$250.00
13.12.2011	- CLAC / Newspaper - Centre for Philippine Concerns / Human Rights Day - Philosophy Dept McGill / Conference	\$150.00 \$200.00 \$150.00
13.01.2012	- MUR / Campaign - CKUT / Homelessness Marathon	\$150.00 \$100.00
13.02.2012	- Radical Queer Semaine - Noone Is Illegal / Teach-In - The Plant / Raw Art	\$75.00 \$125.00 \$50.00
08.03.2012	- IWC and CKUT / Migrant Voices - CLAC / May Day Newspaper - Jim Lund Dental Clinic / Clinic - Bill Van Driel / Anarchist Currents in Egypt	\$200.00 \$75.00 \$200.00 \$25.00
23.03.2012	- ATQ / Fierte Trans Pride	\$250.00

## WORKING GROUPS 2011-2012

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

### B. REFUGE - RETURNING

B.Refuge combines volunteerism and campus outreach on refugee issues to break down social barriers between asylum seekers, refugees, McGill students, and the greater Montreal community. Their volunteer buddy program matches McGill students with asylum seekers and refugees in order to facilitate language and culture exchange, as well as encourage active engagement with the greater Montreal community.

Contact: [brefuge.montreal@gmail.com](mailto:brefuge.montreal@gmail.com)

BUDGET- \$

### BARRIERE LAKE SOLIDARITY - RETURNING

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.

Contact: [barrierelakesolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:barrierelakesolidarity@gmail.com)

BUDGET- \$

### CAMPUS CROPS - RETURNING

Campus Crops is a collective dedicated to sharing skills and knowledge to grow fresh produce in the city, and to think critically about the politics surrounding food production and land use.

Campus Crops hosted a Welcome Party BBQ in our terrace garden space to recruit new volunteers and welcome back past ones in May 2011. We assisted Midnight Kitchen in catering for the 2011 Montreal Anarchist Bookfair. We organized a bike tour of four community garden projects throughout the city of Montreal. We visited Santropol's rooftop garden, a squat garden in the Mile End, a community garden in NDG, and a land-share arrangement in NDG (July 2011) We also coordinated several workshops during the past year including the Trellis-building Workshop (May 2011) the Fermentation Workshop (June 2011), a panel presentation by the Immigrant Workers Centre (July 2011) and during Rad Frosh, Campus Crops collective members facilitated two workshops: Food Politics 101 and Permaculture 101 (September 2011). Finally, We have begun to accumulate literature to create a Campus Crops Urban Agriculture Library. We increased the height of our raised beds in the terrace garden to be more accessible to folks who use wheelchairs. Outreach and publicity was conducted through the Office for Students with Disabilities at McGill and at Concordia to raise awareness about this change in our gardening technique. We changed the formation of our beds to fit a permaculture design. This move was made to enhance the ecological design of our gardens.

CONTACT: [campuscrops@gmail.com](mailto:campuscrops@gmail.com)

BUDGET- \$

## CHAOTIC INSURRECTION ENSEMBLE - RETURNING

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. All are welcome to join!

Contact: [marchingband@vichama.org](mailto:marchingband@vichama.org)

BUDGET- \$

## CLIMATE JUSTICE MONTREAL - RETURNING

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.

Throughout 2011 Climate Justice Montreal continued our focus on working with allies from frontline communities in the fight to stop the eastward expansion of tar sands pipeline infrastructure. We remained in close contact with community organizers in Southeastern Quebec, especially those in Dunham, to support their work to stop the construction of a pumping station in their community – a campaign that was recently won when the Pipeline company's permits were revoked, a decision the company chose not to appeal. Members of Climate Justice Montreal were closely involved with the organizing of the October 2011 Tar Sands Action in Ottawa, and helping to coordinate with Montreal based student groups to spread information about the event. Climate Justice Montreal organized a community educational event with Gitz Crazyboy, a Dene youth organizer, about tar sands expansion and the impact on frontline communities.

We also worked to develop the strategic capacity of Climate Justice Montreal and other ally groups throughout the year. We organized an environmental justice based "Power Summer" training weekend near Montreal in collaboration with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, which included participation from a number of McGill students, as well as involvement of McGill Alumni as trainers, facilitators and organizers. Climate Justice Montreal members shared skills with campus and community groups from McGill and across Montreal through organizing and facilitating Non-Violent Direct Action trainings, strategy trainings and strategic media and messaging trainings. We worked to support the anti-shale gas movement in Quebec, mobilizing members to attend their events and support their actions

Contact: [Dru@dru.ca](mailto:Dru@dru.ca)

BUDGET- \$

## DIGNIDAD MIGRANTE - NEW

In November 2011, we organized a Coalition Breakfast to build alliances with other Mexican groups we hosted a breakfast and discussion. We hosted a successful fundraising party called Beats Against Deportations to raise money for our upcoming activities in January 2012. During Social Justice Days, we presented the documentary Como se llama la obra? The film explores the trajectory of Dignidad Migrante as an activist collective dedicated to community organizing among Spanish-speaking immigrant workers. It also chronicles the individual experiences of members of Dignidad Migrante, focusing specifically on peoples' experiences in the "informal" job sector, namely working for recruitment agencies. The documentary situates these problems in a larger context of Canada's immigration system. We are continuing our Bi-weekly radio show "Radio Dignidad Migrante on Radio Centreville" that speaks to many of the issues that meet our mandate as well as announcing actions and events. We are co-organizing many events such as the Status for All! March on May 26th 2012, the Campaign for Paola Ortiz with Solidarity Across Borders and the Temporary Agency Worker Campaign with the Immigrant Workers Centre.

Contact: [dignidadmigrante@gmail.com](mailto:dignidadmigrante@gmail.com)

BUDGET: \$

## FILIPINO SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE - RETURNING

The Filipino Solidarity Collective is a student group dedicated to promoting solidarity and education with grassroots groups in Canada on the political, economic, and cultural struggles of transnational Filipino-Canadians. Their primary mandate is to raise awareness of the everyday experiences of Filipino-Canadians as they encounter systemic barriers related to racism/discrimination, transnational migrant work, women's oppression, and low education achievement among Filipino youth. These activities help promote their ultimate goal of a genuine settlement and integration of Filipinos in Canada's multiethnic and multicultural society.

CONTACT: [filipinosolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:filipinosolidarity@gmail.com)

BUDGET: \$

## GREENING MCGILL - RETURNING

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.

CONTACT: : [greeningmcgill@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:greeningmcgill@mail.mcgill.ca)

BUDGET:\$

## JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF POLICE KILLINGS - RETURNING

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. The Justice for the Victims of Police Killings Coalition currently involves the family members and friends of Anas Bennis, Claudio Castagnetta, Ben Matson, Quilem Registre, Gladys Tolley and Fredy Villanueva, all of who died as a direct result of police actions and interventions. We continue to reach out to other victims of police killings.

CONTACT: [22oct.mtl@gmail.co](mailto:22oct.mtl@gmail.co)

BUDGET: \$

## THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS' CENTRE: TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS CAMPAIGN - RETURNING

The Temporary Foreign Workers Campaign is a workers collective actively engaged in connecting foreign and temporary agency workers to unite against workplace injustices. They work to end unfair temporary agency practice and ensure quality workplace standards that foster respect, equality, and security for foreign/temporary agency worker communities.

CONTACT: [iwc\\_cti@yahoo.com](mailto:iwc_cti@yahoo.com)

BUDGET:

## KANATA- RETURNING

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

CONTACT: mcgillnativestudiesjournal@gmail.com

BUDGET: \$

## LES GRRRLZ - NEW

Les Grrrlz is a group of young Womyn who are concerned about various forms of violence against Womyn. The group aims to further develop physical, mental and emotional skills in order to defend ourselves and to be able to express our opinions in a coherent and effective manner amongst ourselves and to the public. We aim to mobilise youth in our neighbourhoods with respect to this issue and we strive to build a society against systemic violence, and one that is based on social justice.

CONTACT: : les\_grrrlz@resist.ca

BUDGET:

## MARCH 8TH ACTION AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF WOMEN OF DIVERSE ORIGINS - RETURNING

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.

CONTACT: wdo.fdo@gmail.com

BUDGET: \$

## MILTON PARC AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SAVE PARC OXYGÈNE - RETURNING

For 22 years, local residents have fought to save a precious inner-city green space located between Park and Hutchison, Pine and Prince Arthur in the Milton Parc neighbourhood. The community-built and maintained park is now in danger of being sold to a developer who plans to destroy it and turn it into condos. The community group needs help to mobilize local residents, other community groups, as well as students at McGill who might be interested in the issue, raise public awareness through social media and other media, etc.

CONTACT: parcoxygene@gmail.com

BUDGET: \$

## MONTREAL MEDIA CO-OP/COOP MÉDIA DE MONTRÉAL - RETURNING

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.

CONTACT: [ccm@mediacoop.ca](mailto:ccm@mediacoop.ca)  
BUDGET: \$

## PROJECT FLY HOME - RETURNING

Project Fly Home is a solidarity campaign in support of Montrealer Abousfian Abdelrazik, another survivor of Canadian outsourcing of torture. Project Fly Home supports Abdelrazik's struggle to hold Canadian official involved in having him detained, tortured and exiled to account. They also support his struggle to have his name removed from the UN "1267 blacklist, and international mechanism that arbitrarily imposes a travel ban and complete asset freeze on listed individuals. Opposing all such state listing mechanism, Project Fly Home calls for Canada to withdraw from the 1267 regime immediately.

CONTACT: [projectflyhome@gmail.com](mailto:projectflyhome@gmail.com)  
BUDGET: \$

## RADICAL REFERENCE - RETURNING

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.

CONTACT: [radrefmtl@riseup.net](mailto:radrefmtl@riseup.net)  
BUDGET: \$

## RIGHT TO THE CITY – MONTREAL - RETURNING

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 race, class and power play determining factors. As students, alumni, and community members, Right to the City Montreal bridges the divide between students and community through research and organizing.

CONTACT: [antigentrification@gmail.com](mailto:antigentrification@gmail.com)  
BUDGET: \$

## TADAMON! - RETUNING

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. Some Tadamon events for 2011-2012:

- Saturday April 2, 12h, METRO MONT ROYAL, DEMONSTRATION: FREEDOM FOR PALESTINE
- Wednesday April 27, 19h, BISTRO ARAUCARIA: REFLECTIONS ON UPRISINGS: TUNISIA TO EGYPT
- Friday April 15, 18h-20h CORNER OF PEEL AND RENE LEVESQUE: SYRIA SOLIDARITY VIGIL
- Friday April 29, 430pm at CONCORDIA: DEMONSTRATION IN SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIA
- Friday May 6, 18h at MCGILL: REASING EDWARD SAID IN SOUTH AFRICA: A LECTURE BY SALIM VALLEY
- Saturday May 7, 2pm, NORMAN BETHUNE SQUARE, PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF THE REVOLUTIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD
- Wednesday May 11, 7pm at MAISON DE LA CULTURE COTE DES NEIGES, FILM SCREENING KA FER KASSEM
- Sunday May 15, 1-4pm at METRO MONT ROYAL: RALLY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAKBA
- Sunday May 22, 11h-1245, at COMITE D'EDUCATION AUX ADULTES DE LA PETITE-BOURGOGNE ET DE ST. HENRI: ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE ONGOING REVOLUTIONS (AS PART OF THE ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR)
- Monday May 30, 20h, at KAZA MAZA: IMAGING APARTHEID BENEFIT
- Wednesday June 1, 7pm, at CENTRE ST. PIERRE: BUILDING SOLIDARITY FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO PALESTINE
- Wednesday June 8, 1-3pm, at Sala Rossa: SHADIA MANSOUR 'EXISTENCE IS RESISTENCE': FILM PREVIEW AND DISCUSSION
- THURSDAY JUNE 9, 8PM, AT SALA ROSSA: ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID XVI: SHADIA MANSOUR
- Wednesday July 20, 830pm, Bibliotheque DIRA: FILM SCREENING ARNA'S CHILDREN
- Thursday October 20, 7-9pm at Café Arterre: SALWA ISMAIL "REFLECTIONS ON THE REVOLUTIONS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA"
- Sunday October 23 12-4pm at CONCORDIA, SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ON THE ARAB REVOLUTIONS
- Friday October 21, 20h at Sala Rossa: ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID XVII: ERIC DROOKER
- Monday November 14, 19h at Concordia: SCREENING OF ROUGE PAROLE ON TUNISIAN REVOLT
- Sunday November 13, 13h, SQUARE VICTORIA: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY RALLY AT OCCUPY MONTREAL
- Saturday November 19, 16h, METRO BONAVENTURE: SOLIDARITY PROTEST TO SUPPORT TAHRIR INTIFADAH
- Saturday December 10, 13h-17h at St James United Church: AGAINST POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT AND STATE IMPUNITY: PANEL DISCUSSION AND VIGIL ON POLITICAL PRISONER STRUGGLES AROUND THE WORLD.
- Saturday March 10, 3pm at Cafe Arterre: THE ONGOING EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION: A DISCUSSION WITH DEENA GAMIL AS PART OF IAW
- Monday March 12, 630pm at Concordia: THE SYRIAN UPRISINGS AND THE QUESTION OF RESISTANCE: A LECTURE BY BASSAM HADDAD AS PART OF IAW
- Sunday March 11, 20h at O Patro Vys: ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID XVIII AS PART OF IAW
- Thursday March 22, 13h at St. Catherine/Peel: SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENT STRUGGLES FROM QUEBEC TO PALESTINE
- Friday March 30, 12-2pm at Westmount Square: COMMEMORATE PALESTINIAN LAND DAY: BDS GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION

CONTACT:: info@tadamon.ca

BUDGET: \$

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2011-2012

Coming into the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the QPIRG Board had a very difficult task ahead of them: to figure out how and where to cut expenses in certain areas and how to boost fundraising efforts in order to make up for losses in on-line opt-outs. We cut funds from QPIRG Events, Library, Rad Frosh, Special Projects and Working Groups. We also budgeted for a great deal more fundraising, both for specific events and event series (such as Culture Shock and Social Justice Days), and in terms of larger grants.

We passed our 2010-2011 Audit with no problems. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, we ran a deficit of \$12,856. This deficit was the result of a few major factors. Firstly, on-line opt-outs are continuing to seriously impact our ability to accurately and properly budget for the year. In the 2010-2011 year, we had budgeted to lose \$27,000 in opt-out refunds, which we considered to be an overestimate of what we would lose. We base this amount each year on the amount lost in opt-outs the previous year, plus a percentage increase slightly higher than the percentage increase the year prior, adjusted to the number of students enrolled. When the academic year was over, we had lost close to \$30,000 in opt-out refunds.

Another part of this deficit was the result of updating our accounting practices to accrue unused working group funds as payable amounts to these groups in the next fiscal year, thus removing all accumulated surplus dating back from the last couple of years (\$8,675). Another reason is that Rad Frosh, one of our biggest event series of the whole year, happens during our year-end, resulting in revenues and expenses being incurred before and after the event. We had accrued some revenues to come in post year-end 2011 (ie. Predicted certain amount of revenues to come in after August 31st) and, as is commonly the case with projected revenues, some of those accrued funds did not come in, resulting in us having to remove that income from the 2011 budget.

Overall, QPIRG continues to be in a financially stable position, although the unclear future in terms of negotiations with the McGill Administration leaves our organization in an extremely vulnerable position. We have come up with an emergency financial plan, which would come into place if McGill refuses to negotiate a new Memorandum of Agreement (which would result in them no longer collecting our fees until a new agreement can be reached). We are hoping for the best and planning for the worst!

### QPIRG MCGILL BUDGET -2010/11

	<b>SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011</b>	<b>2010-2011 Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>	<i>ITEM</i>	
	Student Levy	178,000
	QPIRG Events	11,000
	Working Groups	
	Workstudy	5,265
	Radical Frosh	5,500
	Radical Frosh Registration	10,000
	Revenue from Misc sources	1,600
	Summer Stipend 1	
	Summer Stipend 2	
	Special Projects	
	Gov't Grants	14,380
	School Schmool	4,000
	Fundraising	3,000
	Miscellaneous	
	Interest Revenue	319
	Photocopy Revenue	1,500
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>234,564</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Rent	20,089
	Office Supplies	3,000
	Repairs & Maintenance	500



QPIRG MCGILL BUDGET -2010/11 CONT'D **2010-2011**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011** **Budget**

Bank Charges	450
McGill Admin Fee	750
Opt out refunds	27,000
Photocopies	2,500
Audit	2,000
Legal	1,000
Accounting	2,709
Telephone & Fax rental	3,000
Insurance	2,100
Postage	100
Late Fees	250
Emergency Fund	
Incorporation	32
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>65,480</b>
Retreat	1,000
Elections	1,000
Board Training	400
Board and Staff Appreciation	500
QPIRG Events	15,000
Discretionary	5,000
Library	2,000
Translation	1,250
Summer Stipend 1	3,000
Summer Stipend 2	3,000
Radical Frosh staffing	8,000
Radical Frosh Programming	14,000
Special Projects	1,000
School Schmool	6,000
Working Groups	12,500
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>73,650</b>
Internal Coordinator	32,419
External Coordinator	32,235
Intern	9,120
Work Study Library	5,265
Work Study Promotion	5,265
RRQ	3,344
EI	1,641
QHSF	2,276
CSST	750
CNT	60
QPIP	531
Health Insurance	3,000
Staff Benefits	1,000
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>96,905</b>
<i>Petty Cash Short/Over</i>	
<i>Write Offs</i>	
<i>Suspense</i>	
<i>Depreciation</i>	800
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>236,835</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>(2,271)</b>

## QPIRG MCGILL BUDGET -2011/12

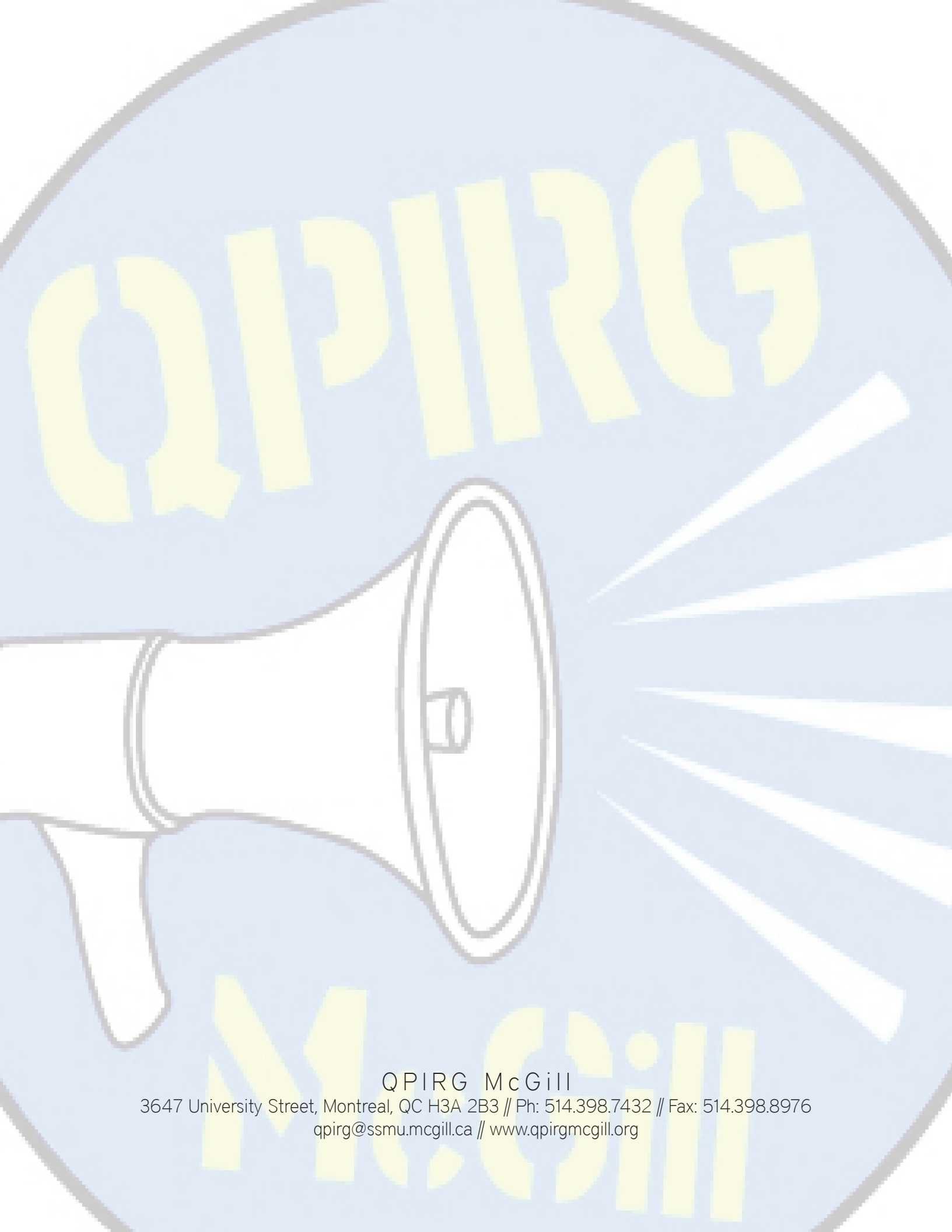
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012****2011-12**

<b>REVENUE</b>	<i>ITEM</i>	
	Student Levy	190,650
	QPIRG Events	9,000
	Workstudy	5,000
	Radical Frosh	5,500
	Radical Frosh Registration	9,000
	Gov't Grants	34,513
	School Schmool	4,000
	Fundraising	3,000
	Photocopy Revenue	750
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>261,413</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	Rent	20,556
	Office Supplies	2,000
	Repairs & Maintenance	250
	Bank Charges	450
	McGill Admin Fee	750
	Opt out refunds	33,000
	Photocopies	2,500
	Audit	2,136
	Legal	2,500
	Accounting	2,734
	Telephone & Fax rental	3,006
	Insurance	2,346
	Postage	100
	Late Fees	100
	Incorporation	32
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>72,460</b>
	Retreat	250
	Elections	750
	Board and Staff Training	1,000
	Board and Staff Appreciation	500
	QPIRG Events	9,000
	CURE	750
	Discretionary	4,000
	Library	750
	Translation	400
	Promo Materials	1,500
	Summer Stipend 1	3,000
	Summer Stipend 2	
	Radical Frosh staffing	-
	Radical Frosh Programming	12,000
	Special Projects	-
	School Schmool	4,500

## QPIRG MCGILL BUDGET -2011/12 con't

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012****2011-12**

Working Groups	12,500
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>50,900</b>
Internal Coordinator	36,918
External Coordinator	33,989
Intern	20,800
Work Study Library	5,000
Work Study Cure	5,000
Rad Frosh Coordinator	13,753
School Schmool Coordinator	6,876
Provincial Source Deductions	10,711
Federal Source Deductions	2,626
Health Insurance	3,000
Staff Benefits	1,000
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>139,673</b>
<i>Depreciation</i>	800
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>- 263,833</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>(2,421)</b>



QPIRG McGill

3647 University Street, Montreal, QC H3A 2B3 // Ph: 514.398.7432 // Fax: 514.398.8976

[qpirg@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:qpirg@ssmu.mcgill.ca) // [www.qpirgmcgill.org](http://www.qpirgmcgill.org)