

**OPTRC  
mcgill  
Annual  
Report  
2012  
2013**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About QPIRG-McGill	...3
QPIRG-McGill Structure	...4
Report from the Board of Directors	...6
Report from the Staff	...8
Popular Education:	...9
CULTURE SHOCK 2012	
SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS 2013	
ONE-OFF EVENTS	
RAD FROSH 2012	
SCHOOL SCHMOOL 2012-2013	
Research:	...13
CONVERGENCE UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL	
COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE (CURE)	
STUDY IN ACTION 2013: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE	
SUMMER STIPEND 2012: LIFE-AFTER-LIFE	
POLICY	
Resources:	...17
Alternative Resource Library	
Volunteers	
Discretionaries 2012-2013	
Working Groups 2012-2013	...20
Financial Reports 2012-2013	...24

# ABOUT QPIRG-MCGILL

## MANDATE

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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

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In 1970-71, Ralph Nader, in the US, encouraged the formation of the first two PIRGs by university students and their organizing efforts and structures 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 1972-73 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 1988, all McGill undergraduate and graduate students are automatically members of QPIRG-McGill and are entitled to all the organization'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-McGill.

## QPIRG-McGILL BOARD

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

QPIRG-McGill'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.

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Jodie Beck

Amber Gross

Urooj Nizami

Annie Preston

Shyam Patel

Kevin Paul (appointed Sept 2012)

Lily Hoffman-Simon (appointed Sept 2012)

Joan Moses (appointed Jan 2013)

Lena Weber (resigned Aug 2012)

Shireen Soofi (resigned Dec 2012)

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS:

Jessica Blair

Holly Nazar

Becca Yu

Daniel Wolfe

Sami Fink (resigned July 2012)

SSMU REP:  
Robin Reid-Fraser (VP EXTERNAL)

PGSS REP:  
Thomas Fox (MA GEOGRAPHY)

## QPIRG-MCGILL STRUCTURE

### STAFF

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QPIRG-McGill has two core staff members who coordinate the day-to-day operations of the organization. The staff works 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 DEGANE SOUGAL. The OUTREACH AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR was ANDREA FIGUEROA, who will be leaving us on July 2013.

This year our two part-time work-study students were CAROLINE BABB (RESOURCE CENTRE COORDINATOR) and SABRINA GURNIAK (CURE COORDINATOR). We also had an intern via Quebec Subventions Salariales from January 2013 to June 2013: VIRGIL ADDISON (WORKING GROUP AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR). The 2013-13 accountant was DAN LACROIX.

In the summer of 2012, QPIRG-McGill hired two RAD FROSH COORDINATORS: BRAD VAUGHN FOUGERE (community-based) and LISA MIATELLO (student-based); and one SCHOOL SCHMOOL COORDINATOR: MOLLY SWAIN. This summer due to budget cuts we could only provide one Summer Stipend to Life-After-life.

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (CRCC)

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At the Annual General Meeting in April 2012, the following QPIRG-McGill members were elected to the CRCC: MARIA FORTI, NATHALIE COHEN, BITA ESLAMI and ABBY LIPPMAN. The CRCC follows a CRCC policy to address complaints involving QPIRG-McGill members that cannot be resolved by the Board of Directors.

# QPIRG-MCGILL BOARD REPORT

## TRAINING, VISIONING

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In following last year's role model and suggestions, the Board training was held in May, shortly after the 2012 AGM. The training included: the history of QPIRG, developing anti-oppressive skills, conflict resolution, consensus-based decision making, looking at horizontal group structure (with particular relation to employee-employer relations), the political context of McGill and QPIRG on campus, and more. As with last year's recommendations, the Board continues to urge that Board training be held in May. This year, the board held a visioning session in October, looking at QPIRG's plans for the year. The session included talking about ways to make Board meetings more efficient and focusing on avoiding burnout for Board members. There was also discussion based on how to continue volunteer support and involvement. This work has been continued by Virgil Addison, QPIRG's Volunteer and Working Group Coordinator (see below). Finally, the visioning highlighted our criteria for endorsements and created a set of outlines to follow when making the decisions as to whether or not to endorse an event.

## QPIRG SUSTAINABILITY:

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After a tumultuous year last year, a major conversation this year was looking at the long-term survival and sustainability of QPIRG as an organization. We have had many discussions looking into our labor practices and work standards, and talking about how to make them more accessible. The Board has made a number of financial decisions this year with the hope that it will allow QPIRG to exist in a more sustainable way for the upcoming years, ultimately preserving the organization.

Discussions about the sustainability of QPIRG have also lead to a development of more policy. The Policy Committee drafted a number of new policies, which will ideally allow the organization to have more criteria with which to create decisions. The policies created this year are: Board, Staff, and Outreach & Communications. These policies have been approved by the Board and are in the process of being integrated in the workings of QPIRG. The board advises that the development of policies continue next year so that despite Board and staff turnover, the work of the organization remains consistent.

Finally, as there will be a high turnover in the board members, we recommend that there be an extensive training for the board - both to continue current projects and preserve institutional memory. We advise that the incoming board work with the outgoing one to skill share and understand the current context of QPIRG.

## QPIRG ON CAMPUS:

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With a much calmer year on campus, QPIRG was able to host a number of great events this year. The year began with Rad Frosh, an annual alternative frosh event, the publication of School Shmool, and led into Culture Shock. Culture Shock is an annual week of workshops, speakers and screenings. This year, Culture Shock opened with a book launch 'Organize This!', and closed with a panel called, 'Migration, Prisons and Art: Resistance to Borders and the Prison Industrial Complex'.

QPIRG developed a new events series called, The Radical Skills Workshops, offering a workshop every month. In addition to these workshops, QPIRG has offered Radical Walking Tours of Montreal. These workshops have received attendance from both McGill students and Montreal community members, emphasizing QPIRG's presence in Montreal.

In the Winter semester QPIRG again held Social Justice Days in conjunction with SSMU. Social Justice Days included a number of workshops and panels, as well as a party fund-raiser for the Immigrant Worker's Center. Shortly following was Study In Action, an annual joint event with QPRIG Concordia. Study In Action involved students from many different schools and community groups, and allowed QPIRG McGill and QPIRG Concordia to continue their collaborative work.

Compared to last year, the campus politics have been much more mellow. There have not been any significant opt-out campaigns or

# QPIRG-MCGILL BOARD REPORT

smear campaigns. This has allowed the board to focus on the internal development of the organization, as well as hosting events for the community. Overall, QPIRG has been well received on campus this year. Events have been generally well attended, and there has been an effort to offer more events and to broaden the scope of our work - doing more outreach and focusing on publicity.

## QPIRG'S WORKING GROUPS

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This year QPIRG was able to sponsor and support 19 working groups. The working groups support a wide range of social and environmental issues - ranging from Radical Reference - a group of 'radical' librarians, to the Filipino Solidarity Collective. The support of working groups offers an especially important link of QPIRG into the community. QPIRG is especially pleased to have been able to help a number of new groups develop and begin their work.

## STAFF

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This year QPIRG has been lucky enough to be able to hire Virgil Addison as our Working Groups and Volunteer Coordinator. Virgil is incredibly knowledgeable and has been an amazing help to the organization. Virgil will continue to work at QPIRG until July, and you can find more about his work in his individual report. QPIRG is extremely grateful to have been lucky enough to have Virgil around.

### SUMMER STAFF:

This year's summer staff, Brad Vaughan Fougere and Lisa Miatello (of Rad Frosh) and Molly Swain and Sves Yeung, includes a number of incredibly smart, capable and creative people. Both Rad Frosh and School Shmool turned out very well and added a lot to QPIRG as an organization. We thank them so much for their work!

The Summer Stipend was given to the new collective, 'Life-After-Life'. Life-After-Life is doing incredible work - both solidarity and through popular education - revolving around de-carceration and de-criminalization. More about their projects in their report.

### PART TIME STAFF:

This year QPIRG has been able to hire a number of part-time staff positions. This began with Seble Samuel, our Culture Shock Coordinator. As previously mentioned, Culture Shock went incredibly well, and she did an excellent job. We also hired Danielle Lewis as our coordinator for Social Justice Days. Although Danielle was hired last minute, Social Justice days went great and it was great to have Danielle's knowledge and skill to help with the coordination.

We also have hired Caroline Baab as our library and resource center coordinator. Caroline has been busy updating the library, advertising and is currently working with other alternative librarians to create a database that connects the libraries in Montreal. Finally, we hired Sabrina Gurniak as our Community-University Research Exchange Coordinator (CURE). Sabrina has done a great deal of promotion and has been able to improve the presence of CURE on campus.

### FULL-TIME PERMANENT STAFF

As always, we are indebted to the work of our full-time permanent staff: Degane Sougal and Andrea Figueroa. Degane and Andrea do so much to ensure the survival of the organization and it would not be able to exist without their efforts. After working at QPIRG for 3 years, and being a Board member the 2 previous years, our external coordinator, Andrea is leaving her position in July to return to school! Andrea holds an incredible amount of institutional memory and has done so much to ensure the survival of QPIRG. Her energy, spirit and knowledge will be missed around the office, and we thank her deeply for all she has done for QPIRG. Similarly, our internal coordinator, Degane will be leaving in August to return to school. Degane has provided a great deal of skill in community organizing, budgeting and has been clearly devoted to ensuring QPIRG survive in the long-term. Degane's warmth and humor will be missed around the office, and the organization has been incredibly lucky to have her around this past year.

Andrea and Degane's replacements will be hired in the coming months.

# QPIRG-MCGILL STAFF REPORT

As QPIRG-McGill staff we work together daily to maintain QPIRG its varied projects, groups, and campaigns. We collaborate with QPIRG members, volunteers, and allies to ensure that QPIRG is active and accessible to both our community and student membership. The Annual Report as a whole reflects that work, and this short introductory message simply shares some highlights as staff from the past year.

In April 2012, QPIRG faced an important transition with Anna Malla, the Finance and Administrative Coordinator since 2009 leaving QPIRG and Degane Sougal, the coordinator since then taking over. We'd like to thank Anna Malla again for all the work and effort she has put into QPIRG-McGill and its growth. Though this transition happened in the middle of a referendum, it was still a smooth transition since both Anna and Degane worked closely to ensure the transition of important knowledge. We had a board training in late April 2012 which was a great opportunity for new staff and the new board to get to know each other right away.

We also enjoyed working with all our part time and contract employees over the past year:

Daniel (bookkeeping), Cleve (Wesbite tech), Caroline (resource library), Sabrina and Kyle (CURE), and Molly and Sves (School Schmoool), Brad and Lisa (Rad Frosh) and Virgil (Volunteer and Working Group Coordinator).

We worked hard this year to ensure QPIRG remains transparent and accountable to its members. This is reflected in our ongoing efforts to provide institutional and financial transparency and accessibility, with monthly financial statements, third party audited financial statements, clear and coherent minutes and documentation,

This year, we have had more working group applications then ever and now have 17 active working groups that keep the space buzzing. We also had the opportunity to collaborate closely with them during our programming events such as Culture Shock, Social Justice Days and Study in Action.

The Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) continues to grow and we're happy to see more and more students take part in the project. In addition, though our library budget is quite small, we still have had the opportunity to have acquire some great additions, we encourage everyone to come check out.

Finally, since winning the referendum in April 2012, QPIRG-McGill has been humbled by the outpouring of love and support of the organization amidst a very difficult year. We look forward to growing from that core of support and building stronger relations with students and community members in the future. On this note, we look forward to the 2013-2014 academic year with enthusiasm!

In solidarity,

Andrea Figueroa, External Coordinator

Degane Sougal, Internal Coordinator



## CULTURE SHOCK 2012

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Culture Shock is an annual event series dedicated to exploring the myths surrounding immigrants, refugees, indigenous people and communities of colour. Culture Shock seeks to bring together members of these communities to engage in dialogue about issues relevant to their lives, as well as to educate non-members around some of the issues faced by communities of colour in Canada and beyond. Every year, QPIRG and the SSMU bring panels, workshops, film screenings and fundraiser parties to McGill students and the broader Montreal community as part of the Culture Shock programming. Culture Shock is co-organized annually by the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at McGill and the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU).

This year was Culture Shock's sixth year and it happened from October 15th to 20th, 2012 on McGill Campus and various other locations in Montreal. SEBLE SAMUEL was the coordinator hired by SSMU, and she worked really hard with the QPIRG-McGill staff to make Culture Shock relevant and an incredible success!

Culture Shock was a great success and most of the events were well attended. During the week of events, we hosted:

- 4 workshops:
  - o "STRUGGLES AGAINST CAPITALIST COLONIALISM: HOW INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS WILL SAVE THE EARTH AND DESTROY THE STATE" facilitated by Molly Swain
  - o "TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE 101: A WORKSHOP ON THE CHALLENGES & BENEFITS OF CONFRONTING INTERPERSONAL & COMMUNITY VIOLENCE WITHOUT THE COPS OR THE COURTS." Organized by our Life After Life working group.
  - o "ISRAELI APARTHEID 101" presented by Tadamon!
  - o "INDIGENOUS VOICES ON CLIMATE CHANGE" presented by the group Conversations with the Earth..
- 2 Films Screenings:
  - o "THE END OF IMMIGRATION", a co-sponsorship with Cinema Politica Concordia and the Immigrant Workers Centre.
  - o "KANEHSATAKE: 270 YEARS OF RESISTANCE" another co-presentation with Midnight Kitchen.
- The book launch of Aziz Choudry's book "ORGANIZE! BUILDING FROM THE LOCAL FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE".
- 2 art exhibitions:
  - o CLIMATE PHOTO STORIES OF (CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EARTH PROJECTS AROUND SSMU
  - o JUST SEEDS, NO ONE IS ILLEGAL AND FAVIANNA RODRIGUEZ'S EXHIBITION "MIGRATION NOW!" at Le Cagibi.
- Closing panel: MIGRATION, PRISONS AND ART: RESISTANCE TO BORDERS AND THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX featuring Oakland-based artist Favianna Rodriguez, members of No One is Illegal Cera Yu & Andrea Figueroa, and Maria Forti from the Termite Collective.
- A fundraiser party for the Immigrant Workers Centre and Solidarity Across Borders.

For more information please read Seble's full report in the Annual Report Binder.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS 2013

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Intended to stimulate an alternative political culture in the McGill University community and beyond, Social Justice Days marked its seventh year with a week of workshops, discussions, film screenings, and speakers engaging local and global issues. This was the 7th year of Social Justice Days on McGill campus, and we were very excited to have such a wide range of events organized by community and campus groups! We presented on topics ranging from Black History in Montreal to Sex Workers Self-determination, and connecting global (such as anti-colonialism struggles in the Philippines) to local (migrant justice organizing in Montreal) struggles.

Social Justice Days is an annual event series co-organized by the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at McGill and the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU).

This year Social Justice Days happened February 9th to 15th, 2013 on McGill Campus and various other locations in Montreal. Danielle Lweis was the coordinator hired by SSMU, and she worked really hard with the QPIRG-McGill staff to make Social Justice Days relevant to students and community members alike. This year we put an open callout for workshops and panel to encourage more

# POPULAR EDUCATION

collaboration with campus and community group, it resulted in a great week full of a mix of panels and workshops!

Social Justice Days was a great success and all of the events were well attended. We had our first successful fundraiser, raising over \$1000 for the Immigrant Workers Centre and Solidarity Across Borders. During the week of events, we hosted:

- Workshops:
  - "FINDING THE FILIPINA'S PLACE IN FOURTH WAVE FEMINISM" presented by our working group the Filipino Solidarity Collective.
  - "STRUGGLES AGAINST CAPITALIST COLONIALISM: HOW INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS WILL SAVE THE EARTH AND DESTROY THE STATE" by Molly Swain
  - "COUNTER OCCUPY! A NOT WHAT YOU THINK MOVEMENT" organized by our working group Anak-Bayan and the Centre for Filipino Concerns.
  - "THE PERMANENCE OF TEMPORARY WORK" organized by the Immigrant Workers Centre and our working group End Exploitation.
- Film Screening:
  - "DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE" co-presented by the Midnight Kitchen.
- Panels:
  - FROM L'OPÉRATION MCGILL FRANÇAIS TO MCGILL BILINGUE : A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF LANGUAGE AND CLASS STRUGGLES FOR ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY FROM 1969 TO 2013. Co-presented with the Graduate Mobilization Committee.
  - WHERE THE F\*K AM I?! : BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZING AT MCGILL. Presented by our working group C-Unit.
- Co-sponsorships:
  - ROCK AGAINST RACISM MTL #2 - UNE SOIRÉE BÉNÉFICE POUR FAMILIES OF SISTERS IN SPIRIT AND THE CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN.
  - MEMORIAL MARCH FOR MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN
- And a very successful fundraiser party PANDA-MONIUM! TIGER-MONIUM! WOLF-MANIA! A DANCE PARTY FUNDRAISER FOR STRANGE AND QUEER ANIMALS, for the Immigrant Workers Centre and Solidarity Across Borders.

For more information on the full week of events, Danielle's report can be found in the Annual Report Binder.

## RAD FROSH 2012 – LISA MIATELLO & BRAD VAUGHN

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.

Unlike previous years, we decided to work with SSMU's registration system as well as our own. We really wanted to raise enrollment and thought it would be effective to do so with SSMU's help. In total, although we had planned for the 198 people that registered in person, over our own and SSMU's registration system, we had 135 participants. In total, we gave out 4 bursaries, amounting to \$160.

Brad made a beautiful zine-style Froshie Program Guide that you can find copies of in the Rad Frosh office. We handed them out to participants on the Saturday morning during registration/breakfast/bandanna decorating.

This year, participants were primarily supervised by the facilitators. Facilitators were supervising participants throughout the weekend. Their role was to be a social lubricant, active listener, a time/location/direction giver and connector to radical groups, networks and orgs on campus and around the city. The facilitators were super committed and on point and did an excellent job. In the end, we recruited around 40 solid facilitators. This is probably one of the first years that we did not have a single issue with the facilitators during the program. They were truly superstars and we feel an extreme amount of appreciation for them. They said that they found the extra support of the Harm Reduction Squad to be really helpful. I also hope that our attempt to build awareness around the power dynamic between facilitators and participants along with really trying to imbue them with a greater sense of responsibility had a positive effect as well.

## POPULAR EDUCATION

This year was the first year that Rad Frosh had a Hard Reduction Squad, the idea was to have a small group of designated people with previous training and experience in active listening, peer support and/or harm reduction, who are present throughout Rad Frosh's drinking night events.

### PROGRAMMING:

#### PUBCRAWL

The Pubcrawl is an event we co-organize with Queer McGill. This year, we had a pre- pubcrawl meet-and-greet with talk about consent, some basic orientation information (eg how to get ahold of us by phone), juice and MK cake.

#### SCAVENGER HUNT

The Scavenger Hunt is meant to introduce participants to the various lefty and radical organizations and groups on campus. Each froshie group has a list of orgs/groups that they must visit within a two hour time slot.

#### WORKSHOPS/TOURS

The workshops and tours are one of the most important aspects of Rad Frosh. They serve as mini-introductions to a variety of radical and left-leaning issues, movements, organizations, activities, places and ideas. We had 14 workshops in total, 7 on Saturday and 7 on Sunday, running for a maximum of 2 hours each. We had 5 tours on Sunday, running for a maximum of 3 hours each.

Some of the well attended workshops included:

- Fuck Rape Culture: An Introduction to Rape Culture, Power, Sexual Assault and Consent -
- Struggles Against Capitalist Colonialism: How Indigenous Feminisms Will Save the Earth and Destroy the State
- "What's with all the red squares?" An Introduction to the Quebec Student Movement
- International Aid: Who's Really Being Helped?

#### BOOK AND 'ZINE FAIR

We had over 10 different organization, libraries and zine distros distributing material!

#### CONCERT

The concert was at La Plante and included: Rae Spoon, Nomadic Massive (or 13 thereof - "Mini Massive"), and Silent Bones. It was very successful.

#### LOFT PARTY

Our loft party was at Death Church (deathchurchcollective@gmail.com), and featured karaoke (by Evan and Shayla from The Facials), "punkify your vest", and a button maker.

#### NON-DRINKING EVENTS

Our non-drinking event on Saturday night was a catered open mic at Cagibi. We solicited some talented friends to set the mood, bring instruments to share, and ensure that there would be some entertainment even if froshies were nervous. Our non-drinking event on Sunday night was a bonfire/hangout /movie night (Born in Flames) at Ste-Emilie Skillshare.

## SCHOOL SCHMOOL 2012-2013 – MOLLY SWAIN & SVES YEUNG

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Hi Board Members/Friends! Here's a quick report on how things went regarding this past year's School Schmool: Activist Organizer! School Schmool (SS) is a joint project between QPIRGs McGill and Concordia, and has evolved a lot over the years. It started out in 1994 as a radical resource for McGill students, and was resurrected in 2006 as an agenda and resource book. Since 2009 it has been made more relevant and available to Concordia students and Montréal folks as well! Sves and I worked hard on it over the past summer, and think that it turned out pretty well, we're proud of it!

### FUNDING

We were lucky enough with our fundraising efforts to get all of our costs covered, plus a little more. This allowed us to make some changes with the format and materials of the agenda that cost a little more, but we think really improved SS overall (more on that later). We received funding from both QPIRGs, the Midnight Kitchen, the Union for Gender Empowerment, the First Peoples' House (for the first time), AGSEM, MUNACA, AMUSE, SSMU, the Concordia University Small Grants Program, the Frigo Vert, the Concordia

# POPULAR EDUCATION

Sustainability Action Fund, and Queer Concordia.

## THE CHANGES

The most obvious change was the size of the agenda. We decided that we really wanted a more standard-sized publication, because we felt it would be more efficient and useful for people to use and carry around with them. We also decided to cut back significantly on the number of articles and groups to feature in the agenda. Last year's SS made it their priority to have as much information as possible in the agenda, which was awesome, but we decided to focus on keeping the agenda to a manageable size. We also decided to have a theme this year: The Apocalypse Edition. This came out of a series of visioning meetings between Molly and Sves, where we discussed how the various social movements of the past couple of years were starting to bring critiques of capitalism, etc. to the mainstream, but that these critiques and forms of resistance have been known to marginalized groups for ages! We saw the coming "end of the world" as a positive for those of us under the thumb of the current system, and so decided to organize School Schmoool around that idea. It was actually very helpful for structuring SS: the articles, groups, art, and issues we wanted to highlight all played into the Apocalypse theme in some way.

We also decided to make the section dividers into postcards, we thought it would be a cool and interactive way for people to use the agenda, and also spread some local art to a larger audience. And of course the new stone paper covers have been awesome.

## THE WEBSITE - [HTTP://QPIRGMCGILL.ORG/SCHOOLSCHMOOL/](http://qpirgmcgill.org/schoolschmoool/)

Because there is obviously SO much to say about rad projects and groups in Montréal, we also decided we definitely wanted to get a website up and running, in order that we could feature more and expanded articles, and more groups online, so people who were interested could check it out. We had a couple hundred dollars to pay a website designer, and included an issu file that would give the viewer an idea of what the actual agenda looks like, as well as sections devoted to Issues, Groups, and Resources.

## DISTRIBUTION

We distro-ed in many places around both campuses and in Montréal. Distroing was relatively successful, and most of the 2000 copies we printed are in the hands of cool people around the city!

## CONCLUSION

We are really happy to have been able to contribute to the long line of School Schmoools with our 2012/2013 Apocalypse Edition. We hope that QPIRG McGill has enjoyed the outcome and we welcome any questions or comments you may have about the publication or the process! Thanks!

## CONVERGENCE UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

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Convergence is the name we give to an event that unites different people, ideas, and approaches in a common project. As a noun it simultaneously describes the group of students who, together, form the content of this project; the variety of research and educational approaches, from honours theses to political pamphlets or photo essays; and the movement between university work and community activism, not simply by uniting them but by attempting to strengthen one through the other, bringing them into contact.

In its form as a verb, convergence is a taking-on of injustice: where students, approaches, and ideas encounter political and social problems, where research converges on the powerful territory of academia to insist on alternatives. In its simplest, however, convergence is intended as a modest companion piece to the community-university research exchange (CURE) and the Study in Action conference – a kind of archival capsule that, by recording their work, affirms the efforts of undergraduate students. But at the same time we hope this small convergence of people and ideas ultimately takes on a life of its own, encouraging and creating space for intellectual work that is geared towards community and committed to fighting for justice.

Some of the articles and papers published this year include:

- Jullian Sudayan's "Music Education as a Tool in Preserving Dominant Canadian Culture"
- Al Blair's "Disability and the Militarization of Urban Space: configuring radical accessibility and Communities of Support in the context of war"
- Julie Matson's "Police Brutality: A testimonial", part of a panel for Study in Action 2012.
- Excerpts from ASST(e)Q's "Self-referred: a Quebec Trans Health Survival Guide"
- Former QPIRG-McGill Board member paper "The language of Pain: pain as a noun".
- And more...

The Convergence Journal is a joint project between QPIRG-McGill and QPIRG-Concordia. In 2012, QPIRG-Concordia received a grant to hire a coordinator for the journal. Kim Roos, the Convergence Coordinator 2012, in collaboration with the Convergence committee, composed of members of QPIRG-McGill and QPIRG-Concordia, produced vol. 3 of the journal. It is available in hard copy by donation and free online at: <http://convergencejournal.ca/>. Check it out!

## COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE

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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. 2012-13 was a strong year of growth and development as a project.

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 members 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 four 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 2013, as well as in the upcoming Convergence Journal. Both these projects are close allies of CURE, and both are priorities for CURE coordinators and committee members. CURE projects were also highlighted at the social events organized by CURE this year, which again included a "CURE Final" in April, and an introductory CURE "5 à 7" in September. Both events were successful, involving more than 30 people each. CURE members also shared their reflections on community-based research on panels on campus this year, including the closing panel of Study In Action on Radical Pedagogy. CURE was also active on tabling at campus events and in the McGill residencies.

## RESEARCH

This year we had over 30 students at both campuses working on CURE projects, and the CURE committee has been in discussions with GRIP-UQAM to expand CURE to the UQAM campus in the upcoming year.

Importantly, as with past years, CURE had a visioning process in May, which provided guidance to the future development of the project, and led to a process to update our mandate and other written materials. We have accomplished our goals of updated our “look” and got new publicity materials such a new banner, new posters and new flyers.

Together, these initiatives and events have contributed to the growth of a supportive social justice research community at McGill and beyond.

This year, CURE was coordinated by McGill graduate student Sabrina Gurniak . She was supported by QPIRG-McGill staff, as well as an active CURE committee comprised of volunteers and board members from QPIRG Concordia and QPIRG McGill.

## STUDY IN ACTION 2013: UNDERGRADUATE & COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Study in Action is an undergraduate conference designed to link students and community activism. The conference is a space for undergraduate students to present research, develop greater knowledge of social and environmental issues and build ties with community organizations. Organized by a collective of students through QPIRG Concordia and QPIRG McGill, this academic year’s conference is planned for March 14 – 17, 2013.

This year’s opening panel held on March 14th at the Centre d’éducation populaire de la Petite-Bourgogne et de St-Henri (CEDA) entitled Indigenous Uprising: Decolonizing Canada was extremely well attended. The panel included the following speakers: John Cree, (Kanien’kehá:ka Nation, Bear Clan) – a traditionalist faithkeeper from Kanehsatà:ke, involved in the resistance during the 1990 “Oka” Crisis; Ellen Gabriel (Kanien’kehá:ka Nation, Turtle Clan) – Indigenous human rights activist, former head of the Quebec Native Women’s Association, chosen by the People of the Longhouse and her community of Kanehsatà:ke to be spokesperson during the 1990 “Oka” Crisis; Méliissa Mollen Dupuis (Innu from Ekuanitshit) – involved with Idle No More efforts in Montreal and Québec, storyteller and multidisciplinary artist, exploring contemporary interpretations of Indigenous culture, Clifton Nicholas (Kanien’kehá:ka Nation, Bear Clan) – filmmaker, member of the Kanehsatà:ke Mohawk Community who was involved in the resistance during the 1990 “Oka” Crisis and Khelsilem Rivers (S?wx?wú7mesh and Kwakwa?ka?’wakw) – involved with Idle No More efforts on the Coast Salish Territories (“British Columbia”), active with Indigenous language revitalization efforts, organizing within the framework of decolonization and the restoration of Indigenous land-based culture. One of the milestones of this year’s Study in Action included live streaming of the opening panel, something the organizing committee will look into developing further.

This year, Study in Action also had workshops Against Police and State Repression scheduled on March 15 to coincide with International Day Against Police Brutality. The workshops included: A People’s History of Police Repression Against Social Movements in Montreal, Organizing Collective Legal Self-defense against Criminalization and Street Action 101.

The weekend March 16th and 17th itself included workshops and panel topics such as Radical Pedagogy – The Quebec Student Strike – Migration – Indigenous Sovereignty – Gentrification – Public Space – Food Security – Gender & Feminism – Decolonization – Police & Policing – Alternative Media – Prisons – Language & Culture. All these workshops and panels were held at Concordia University, free of charge, with food and childcare provided. In addition, for yet another year, Art in Action, an exhibition of community and study artworks was held in concurrence with the conference. On March 16th, after the day of workshops and panels, participants enjoyed refreshments and snacks while artists discussed the work they chose to submit.

Finally, the closing panel entitled Culture and Race: Languages of Resistance, on March 17th, was very well attended as well and included the following speakers: Shaina Agabyani (McGill University): The Experience of Racialized Students at McGill, Aaron Barcant (Concordia University): Language and Power: Examples from the Caribbean, Khelisem Rivers (S?wx?wú7mesh and Kwakwa?ka?’wakw)

– involved with Idle No More efforts on the Coast Salish Territories (“British Columbia”), active with Indigenous language revitalization efforts, organizing within the framework of decolonization and the restoration of Indigenous land-based culture and Chelsea Vowel (Métis, Plains Cree from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta) – teaches Inuit youth under Child Protection and blogs as âpihtawikosisân; passionate about law, culture and language, and trying to deconstruct harmful myths with the hope that there can be a restructuring and renewal of the relationship between Canadians and indigenous peoples

This year’s Study in Action organizing committee did not have as many student or community volunteers as in previous years, therefore, the committee would like to encourage the participation of all students and community members in making Study in Action 2014 happen!

## SUMMER STIPEND 2012: LIFE-AFTER-LIFE: COLLECTIVE FOR DECARCERATION

The summer funding from QPIRG McGill was indispensable in allowing us to jump-start and build a foundation for the Life After Life collective. Since June 2012, we have applied for the following grants and engaged in the following activities:

### GRANTS APPLIED FOR:

Because formerly incarcerated people are discriminated against in the labor market and are surviving in the street economy, we made a collective decision to apply for major funding in order to provide living-wage employment for at least five formerly incarcerated girls, women, and trans people. Unfortunately, we understand that we cannot rely on governmental funding targeting mainstream non-profit organizations with charitable status to the exclusion of more radical grassroots, volunteer-run collectives. For the next 2-3 years, we have to re-shift our focus to more grassroots, sustainable funding. Nonetheless, we did apply for the following three grants in 2012:

- Violence Prevention Grant, Canadian Women’s Foundation (\$25,000)
- Fonds des services aux collectivités, Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (\$205,000)
- Status of Women Canada, Setting the Stage for Girls and Young Women to Succeed Grant (\$200,000)

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

#### 1) Community Engagement and Anti-violence Awareness Projects

a) Transformative Justice workshops: Life After Life designs and facilitates workshops on addressing intimate, interpersonal, and institutional violence using Transformative Justice and Community Accountability models. We focus our workshops on the realities of women and trans peoples’ experiences in punitive institutions. We also hold and participate in events, such as book launches, film screenings, discussions, and poetry readings surrounding different issues faced by formerly and currently incarcerated women and trans people, and Transformative Justice.

b) Popular Education workshops: in collaboration with formerly and currently incarcerated collective members Life After Life is creating arts-based popular educational workshops to be delivered at a variety of open and closed facilities populated by incarcerated girls, women and trans people throughout Quebec. Our workshops harness multi-media consciousness raising, offering all participants a chance to experiment with creative writing, digital media, dance, and popular theatre. Inherent in this goal is our desire to help build a space where girls, women and trans people can work to produce, share, and transform, as well as support and mentor each other.

#### 2) Educational Attainment and Leadership Capacity Building

a) Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program course: Our collective is co-piloting an Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program (<http://www.insideoutcenter.org/>) course located at Joliette women’s institution in collaboration with the Faculty of Education at McGill University. Incarcerated women will have free access to a university course on “Harm Reduction and the Social Determinants of Health” co-taught by Life After Life members and McGill University professors. Along with registered McGill students, incarcerated women will earn course-credit towards a university degree. The “Inside-Out” pedagogical model is popular in over 300 US educational institutions for over a decade and is now gaining popularity throughout Canada. Our course will be the first-ever launched in Quebec.

## RESEARCH

b) “Young Women Empowered for Change” project: We are developing a new initiative seeking to address the cycle of interpersonal abuse, community violence, and incarceration by working directly with girls in group homes, homeless shelters, and detention centres around key issues identified by the participants. Life After Life aims to offer paid leadership and grassroots fundraising training to formerly incarcerated girls who are surviving in the street economy.

### 3) Collective Knowledge Production

a) Action Research: we engage in research relating to the incarceration of girls, women, and trans-people. As well we are in the process of building and maintaining a list of currently operating correctional institutions for women in Quebec and Canada.

b) Community Network Building: we are focused on connecting with other groups working with formerly incarcerated girls, women and trans people in Canada in order to create a network of mutual support and knowledge sharing.

### FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS:

We have applied for funding from the Canadian Women’s Foundation in order to create a new Life After Life Collective-driven project aimed at hiring, training, mentoring, and collaborating with street-involved and/or formerly incarcerated girls, women and trans people to research, publish and distribute three newsletters and one Resource Guide by, for, and about criminalized girls, women, and transgendered people that seeks to interrupt the “revolving door” of recidivism and the intersecting cycles of interpersonal, intimate, domestic, sexual assault, and systemic violence.

The focus of the resource guide and newsletter, will be two-fold; first, we will aim to collect first-hand perspectives, anecdotes and narratives on the availability and quality of resources available to formerly incarcerated girls, women and trans people; secondly, we will aim to create a safe space where currently and formerly incarcerated girls, women and trans people will be able to share creative insights about their experiences with criminalization, violence and detention.

## POLICY REPORT

This year’s policy committee comprised of two board members and one staff member. This year QPIRG-McGill was in a good position to focus on growth and adding to our organization’s overall function and structure, so we focused quite a bit of energy on policy. The policy committee has reworked the three following policies: the QPIRG Board policy, the QPIRG Finance policy and the QPIRG Outreach and Communications policy. All three amended policies have been approved by the whole board and are available for consulting in the policy binder. The committee, with the help and advice of the Staff committee, is also updating the QPIRG Employee policy, which will be completed this summer.



## ALTERNATIVE RESOURCE LIBRARY

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The QPIRG McGill Resource Centre is dedicated to providing hard-to-find books, periodicals, media, and zines that contribute to QPIRG McGill's anti-oppression mandate and support its working groups. In addition to lending resources to McGill students and community members, the Resource Centre is dedicated to promoting personal development and community building through the sharing and preservation of diverse forms of knowledge, whether they are found in books or learned through skill-sharing.

This year the QPIRG-McGill library participated in the Anarchist Bookfair and co-sponsored most of the book launches that QPIRG-McGill had in the last year!

Some of the new additions to library are

- [What I LOVE about being QUEER](#) compiled and edited by Vivek Shraya, additional editing by Trish Yeo
- [Sick: A compilation zine on physical illness](#) edited by Ben Holtzman
- [Night-Vision: Illuminating War & Class on the Neo-Colonial Terrain](#) by Butch Lee and Red Rover
- FUSE Magazine, Vol 36, Issue 2 (Spring 2013)
- [Learning Good Consent](#) by Riot Grrrr
- [An Activist's Guide to Basic First Aid](#) by the Black Cross Health Collective
- [Paper Politics: Socially Engaged Printmaking Today](#) by Josh MacPhee (editor)
- [Anarchist Pedagogies: Collective Actions, Theories, and Critical Reflections on Education](#) by Robert H. Haworth (editor)
- [Trans/Love: Radical Sex, Love & Relationships Beyond the Gender Binary](#) by Morty Diamond (editor)
- [Mindful Occupation: Rising Up without Burning Out](#) by Occupy Mental Health Project
- [Theory and Practice: Conversations with Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn](#)

To find out what else we have at our library go to [qpirgmcgill.org/library](http://qpirgmcgill.org/library).

## VOLUNTEERS & WORKING GROUP COORDINATOR: VIRGIL ADDISON

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I recently began working at QPIRG McGill in January 2013 through the "subvention salariale" Emploi Quebec program. My position entails working with volunteers and working groups in order to create stronger ties between the daily operations of the organization and the people within our networks. I have interpreted this to also include providing support to the staff and board with programming and event organizing.

The focus of my position has developed and adapted in response to the activities and plans of the organization. I have worked on promotion, logistics, scheduling and set up for the different event series and workshops organized this year (including Social Justice Days, Medic Training, Study in Action). Through successful events, I think that we draw interest in QPIRG and, through the interest generated, draw more volunteers. Accordingly, I used tabling events, such as Activities Night and Midnight Kitchen, to simultaneously promote events and our volunteer list.

Generally, new volunteers get into contact with QPIRG through the form on the website. One of my priorities is to make personal contact with people who fill out the online form, answer their questions and discuss with them where they can get involved. I talk to them about their interests and put them in contact with different coordinators, committees and working groups. Additionally, I held a volunteer orientation that coincided with the Library Open House. The orientation was structured around upcoming events (the Study in Action opening party and the Plan Nord demo) and attendees were encouraged to get involved by helping make decorations for the party and discuss issues concerning the demo in a workshop put on by the Anti-Colonial Solidarity Collective.

With regards to working groups, my aim has been to foster a closer relationship between them and QPIRG by keeping abreast of their activities, offering assistance, answering questions, requesting their reports and discussing their efforts. With the internal coordinator, I helped set up a midyear review potluck to facilitate a friendly discussion between the different groups. I regularly research information for groups and offer assistance on things like resources, finances, and space use. One of my aims is to get working groups involved

## RESOURCES

in QPIRG projects, as well as those of other working groups. Several working groups set up workshops for Social Justice Days and I would like to follow up by having them host events for volunteers in the space. I am also in the process of setting up a messageboard for groups to share resources, events and have discussions. Recently, I have been calling all the groups to send in their annual reports, which hopefully you have received.

## DISCRETIONARIES 2012-2013

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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-McGill'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 and/or environmental events. The maximum for any request is \$250.00

During the 2012-2013 year, QPIRG-McGill gave out \$4060.00!

DATE	TO/EVENT	AMOUNT
04.23.2012	• The Centre for Philippines Concerns / Our Voices Will Not Be Silenced: A Forum on Human Rights Issues in the Philippines	\$50.00
	• Mary Foster / Montreal Stop of Mohammad Mahoub Speaking Tour	\$75.00
	• Immigrant Workers Centre / Status for All Community Dinner	\$175.00
05.07.2012	• No One Is Illegal / Anti-Colonial Victoria Day - Decolonizing Anarchism Book Launch	Free CKUT Radio Cart
	• Steve Baird / Innu Women Walking from Mani-Utenam to Montreal	\$50.00
	• No One Is Illegal / Organizing as Anarchist and Indigenous People of Colour Workshop	\$50.00
	• Stella / Sex Work & Harm Reduction	\$150.00
05.23.2012	• Women's Coordinating Committee for a Free Wallmapu / Indigenous Mapuche and Anarchist Allied Struggle Workshop	\$200.00
06.28.2012	• Words to Fire Press / Betrayal: A Critical Analysis of Rape Culture in Anarchist Subcultures	\$50.00
	• Week Against Prison / Conference with Kim Pate for Prisoner Justice Day	\$175.00
	• Article / QTPOC Montreal	\$175.00
07.19..2012	• ASSTT(e)Q / Self-Referred: A Quebec Trans Health Survival Tool Guidebook launch party	\$150.00
	• Queer Between the Covers / Queer Between the Covers Montreal's Annual Queer Lit Bookfair	\$75.00
	• Anticapitalist Convergence (CLAC) / CLAC Newspaper	\$25.00
08.08.2012	• Pervers/Cité / Pervers/cité 2012	\$100.00
	• Santropol Roulant / The Good Food Revolution: An Evening with Will Allen	\$75.00
	• Laura Ellyn / En Greve	\$75.00
09.04.2012	• Anakbayan / Aklas (Filipino Youth Breaking Free)	\$250.00
09.18.2012	• La Belle Epoque / Community Self-Defense Workshops	\$150.00
	• Pro Choix Mtl / Pro Choix Mtl	\$100.00

## RESOURCES

DATE	TO/EVENT	AMOUNT
10.01.2012	• CLAC Legal Support and Defense Committee / CLAC Legal Defense Fund	\$125.00
	• AGIR / AGIR Skills Building Retreat	\$125.00
10.22.2012	• Art in Action / Art in Action 2012	\$100.00
	• CLAC / Anti-capitalist Teach-in	\$150.00
11.05..2012	• Southwest Solidarity Network / Southwest Solidarity Network	\$100.00
	• La Belle Epoque / Mapuche Workshop and Discussion	\$75.00
	• Mexican@s Unid@s para la Regularizacion / Exposition of photos MUR	\$75.00
11.27.2012	• Aids Action Now! / Aids Action Now! Poster Virus	\$100.00
01.08.2013	• Climate Justice Montreal / Tar Sands Committee Forum	\$160.00
01.25.2013	• Stella / Prison Project	\$175.00
	• CKUT/ 11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Homelessness Marathon	\$75.00
02.07.2013	• Pote Xana / Greek Anti-fascist committee Tour	\$200.00
02.21.2013	• Solidarity Across Borders / Solidarity City Journal	\$200.00
03.25.2013	• Status For All! / Solidarity with Nishiyuu Walkers	\$250.00

# WORKING GROUPS 2012-2013

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. QPIRG-McGill selects working groups once a year and provides them with a budget based on their needs and activities.

For more information on what the working groups have done in the last year, please check out their annual reports in the Year-end Binder. A highlight of events can be found in the Programming and Events Annual Review section.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SAVE PARC OXYGÈNE

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 300.00

For 22 years, local residents have fought to save a precious inner city green space located between Parc and Hutchin- son, Pine and Prince Arthur in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood. The community-built and maintained park is now in danger of being sold to a devel- oper 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 as well as students at McGill who might be in- terested in the issue, raise public awareness through social media and other media, etc.

Contact: parcoxygene@gmail.com

## B. REFUGE

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 0.00

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

## BARRIERE LAKE SOLIDARITY

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 1700.00

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 their traditional governance system. They do popular education, organize demonstrations and direct action, and are developing a community radio station on the reserve.

Contact: barrierelakesolidarity@gmail.com

## C-UNIT (COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY TALKS)

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 700.00

C-UniT is a multidisciplinary collective of students and com- munity members committed to the pursuit of accessible education in- formed by anti-colonial and critical race discourses. Our mission is to create spaces for dialogue between members of the Montreal Black community and members of the McGill community, in which the diversity of experiences and strengths of Black communities are centered.

Contact: c.unit.forum@gmail.com

## WORKING GROUPS 2012-2013

### CAMPUS CROPS

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 100.00

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. They run a volunteer-base garden, as well as workshops, BBQs, and other events in and around McGill's downtown campus.

Contact: campuscrops@gmail.com

### DIGNIDAD MIGRANTE

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 325.00

Dignidad Migrante is a group of Spanish-speaking immigrant workers and their allies. Our goals are to: (1) bring together people of this community in Montreal who face injustice and exploitation in their workplaces and beyond, whether they have legal working papers or not; (2) create a space where people of this community feel safe to express their anger, frustration, or any feelings at all about their situation; and (3) ways of thinking together how to fight their exploitation and injustice faced by many immigrant workers, both in the workplace and in society at large, while making sure that everyone in the group feels safe and comfortable with the actions we take.

Contact: dignidadmigrante@gmail.com

### END EXPLOITATION: TEMPORARY AGENCY WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 1600.00

End Exploitation: Temporary Agency Workers Association 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

### FILIPINO SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE (FSC)

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 1025.00

The FSC is 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 on the everyday experiences of Filipino-Canadians as they encounter systemic barriers related to racism/discrimination, transnational migrant work, women's oppression, and low educational achievement among Filipino youth. These activities help promote their ultimate goal of a genuine settlement and integration of Filipinos in Canada's multi-ethnic and multicultural society.

Contact: Filipinosolidarity@gmail.com

### GREENING MCGILL

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 0.00

Greening McGill is an environmental group dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and activism at McGill. We have participated in Ecolibrium, an eco-friendly radio show, held a campaign for responsible recycling, and hosted winterization workshops and film screenings. We will be holding a zero-waste week for participants and community members to learn how to reduce their waste.

Contact: greeningmcgill@mail.mcgill.ca

# WORKING GROUPS 2012-2013

## KANATA

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 500.00

KANATA is dedicated to providing a safe space and avenue for dialogue with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples on issues pertaining to Indigenous Culture in North America. WE seek to expand Indigenous Studies at McGill by publishing student research papers, artwork, and other content on these topics in our Journal, creating a platform for interactive presentation and exchange in our Peer-to-Peer conference and lobbying for an official minor program in Indigenous studies.

Contact: mcgillnativestudiesjournal@gmail.com

## LAKAS-PAGGAWA (LABOUR POWER)

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 700.00

Exploitation does not stop at permanent residency. The immigration-sponsored children of former migrant workers (LCP) are joining the work force in Canada. They have become a new source of cheap labor for the Canadian capitalist class. Where will their future take them as they struggle for the economic well being of their families? Lakas Paggawa will pool together young Filipino workers and provide them the venue and resources to start to fight back. Social integration not transformation is the call of the day!

Contact: project.anakbayan@gmail.com

## MONTREAL MEDIA CO-OP

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 500.00

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: cmm@mediacoop.ca

## LIFE-AFTER-LIFE: A COLLECTIVE DEDICATED TO DECRIMINALIZATION AND DECARCERATION

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 1300.00

Life After Life is a community based, intergenerational collective, run mutually by girls, women, queer transgender, and feminists dedicated to de-criminalization and de-carcelation. We specifically encourage formerly incarcerated girls, women, queer, trans and gender non-conforming people to move beyond survival and become leaders and advocates for themselves and other incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.

Contact: lifeafterlife@centre2110.org

## RADICAL REFERENCE

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QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 0.00

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

## WORKING GROUPS 2012-2013

### TADAMON!

QPIRG-McGill allocated budget \$ 1600.00

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.

Contact: info@tadamon.ca

### WOMEN OF DIVERSE ORIGINS

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 1600.00

Women of Diverse Origins are feminists of diverse origins. Immersed in the grassroots, their communities, and wider society, they oppose patriarchy and misogyny in family relations, societal, economic, and political institutions, in culture, and the media. They are committed to human dignity for all and advocate for women’s rights across the globe– they call for an end to all forms of capitalist, fundamentalist and imperialist forms of intimidation and oppression. Contact: wdo.fdo@gmail.com

### YOUTH JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET \$ 450.00

The Youth Justice working group works to increase access to legal information and justice for marginalized youth. In collaboration with local youth and youth justice organizations, we are creating a body of easily understandable information to hang out to youth in the streets, in community centres and youth courts. Recognizing the power imbalance inherent in the legal apparatus, we will develop and implement inherent in the legal apparatus, we will develop and implement a curriculum for a youth focus “know your rights” for youth in conflict with the law.

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-2013

## FINANCES

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After an extremely hectic previous year fighting for survival through referendum, 2012-2013 has been a year of rebuilding for QPIRG-McGill. Last year, during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, we ran a deficit of \$12,856. In this light, 2011-2012 was a year of financial adjustments. We unfortunately had to make difficult decisions and cut our expenses. We cut our office supplies. We also made significant cuts to our alternative library budget, our discretionary request fund. Therefore, the most important cuts came in programming; we reduced the number of events QPIRG would host throughout 2011-2012 and focused on referendums and securing our existence and relationship with McGill University. In addition, we increased our fundraising efforts; and applied for a greater number of grants. These efforts were spearheaded by Anna Malla, the finance and administrative coordinator from 2009 to 2012. In 2012, QPIRG received two Young Canada Works grants to fund summer job positions such as School Schmool and Rad Frosh. In addition, we received one Human Resources and Development Canada grant. One of our objectives for 2013 is to increase these fundraising efforts on McGill campus and beyond. Despite the cuts, we have had to make, winning the referendum on April 13th, 2012 gave us the stability to re-launch exciting programs and projects at QPIRG. During that time, QPIRG hired a new financial and administrative coordinator, Degane Sougal (April 2013).

The very successful Rad Frosh program in the summer of 2012 (which will be discussed in more detail in the report) coupled with the cuts we have made in our budget and being awarded more grants, we finished the 2011-2012 (August 31st, 2012) financial year with a surplus of \$2, 780.00. Since September 2012, the Finance Committee composed of three board members and the finance and administrative coordinator studied the budget and made adjustments for the 2012-2013 fiscal. We've decided to adjust our budget to allow more spending in programming while still reducing our administrative and office supplies fees. Unfortunately, at this time, we aren't in a financial position to adjust the library budget, nor the discretionary request one.

Lastly, opt-outs are still a concern and they affect QPIRG significantly, particularly because they are so difficult to budget for. At the end of the 2012 fiscal year, we lost \$25, 330.00. In 2012-2013, we lost \$23, 707.50 in opt-out fees. Therefore, all things considered, QPIRG-McGill is in a good position to build on. We will continue to increase our fundraising efforts whilst working on keeping our projects alive and vibrant.

## BUDGET

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Below you'll find the budget for the 2012-2013 year, if you'd like to see the audited financial statements please consult the Annual Report Binder or ask one of the QPIRG-McGill Staff members.

### **QPIRG MCGILL**

#### **Budget**

#### **SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013**

#### **2012-13**

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	
	Student Levy	193,051
	QPIRG Events	9,500
	Working Groups	
	Workstudy	5,000
	Radical Frosh	5,500
	Radical Frosh Registration	9,000
	Revenue from Misc sources	250



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-2013

	Summer Stipend 1	-
	Summer Stipend 2	-
	Special Projects	-
	Gov't Grants	20,730
	School Schmool	2,500
	Fundraising	1,000
	Miscellaneous	
	Interest Revenue	200
	Photocopy Revenue	800
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>247,531</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Rent	20,880
	Office Supplies	2,000
	Repairs & Maintenance	250
	Bank Charges	560
	McGill Admin Fee	750
	Opt out refunds	28,000
	Photocopies	2,500
	Audit	2,279
	Legal	1,000
	Accounting	2,759
	Telephone & Fax rental	3,006
	Insurance	2,369
	Postage	150
	Late Fees	100
	Emergency Fund	
	Incorporation	32
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>66,635</b>
	Retreat	150
	Elections	400
	Board and Staff Training	1,000
	Board and Staff Appreciation	100
	QPIRG Events	13,000
	CURE and Convergence	1,000
	Discretionary	4,000
	Library	750
	Translation	300
	Promo Materials	1,500
	Summer Stipend 1	3,000
	Summer Stipend 2	
	Radical Frosh staffing	-
	Radical Frosh Programming	10,500

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-2013

Special Projects	-
School Schmool	3,500
Working Groups	12,400
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMMING</b>	<b>51,600</b>
Internal Coordinator	33,306
External Coordinator	35,172
Intern	10,708
Work Study Library	5,000
HRDC CURE	3,179
Work Study Cure	5,000
Rad Frosh Coordinator	13,614
School Schmool Coordinator	6,807
Provincial Source Deductions	10,014
Federal Source Deductions	2,424
QHSF	-
CSST	970
CNT	-
QPIP	-
Health Insurance	3,894
Staff Benefits	-
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>130,087</b>
<i>Petty Cash Short/Over</i>	
<i>Write Offs</i>	
<i>Suspense</i>	
<i>Depreciation</i>	800
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>- 249,122</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>(1,591)</b>