

QPIRG McGill

ANNUAL REPORTS

2013-2014



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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 1970-71, 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. Now, there are student-funded PIRGs at Concordia, McGill and UQAM.

Over the course of their thirty year development, Canadian PIRGs have diverged in important ways from their US counterparts. Most importantly, they are interested in encouraging grassroots organizing and changing public attitudes, rather than engaging in government lobbying. The PIRGs' mandate has been to provide a structure within which students and community members can develop the knowledge and practical skills needed for activism and community work. By providing a forum and training ground for people to be engaged members of their community, the PIRGs also provide a bridge between academia and organizing, by linking theory and practice. In the last five years, QPIRG McGill has been instrumental in promoting and supporting progressive movements on McGill's campus, through the formation of events like Culture Shock and Social Justice Days. As well, QPIRG regularly collaborates with other campus groups who are working for social and environmental justice.

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.

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

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 nine committees: Staff Committee, Programming Committee, Legal Committee, Finance Committee, Outreach & Media Committee, the Study in Action Committee, the Convergence Committee, Policy Committee and CURE Committee.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Macho Philipovich

Robin Reid-Fraser

Leah Paul

Elliot Montpellier

Annie Preston

Brooke Nancekivell

Allison Jones

Nicolas Quiazua

Cadence O'Neil

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS:

Amber Gross (Resigned February 2014)

Daniel Wolfe

Jaime MacLean

SSMU REP:

Joey Shea (VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS)

PGSS REP:

Isaac Stethem

Major Thank Yous to our Volunteers: Ella Belfer, Brandon Bertram, Nina Maness, Yunzi You, Simone Steinberg, Caytee Lush, Liam Mayes, Lily Hoffman, Lydia Ould Brahim, Lisa Miatello, Kevin Paul, Keegan, Asher, Bill Motsch, Margaret Gordon, Joel, Catherine, Margot McComb, Emily, Kelly, Viola, Lisa Peterson, Ella Nalepka, Samantha, Malcolm, Evan Henry, Wade Walker, Sophie Davis, Ben Stidworthy, Sean Phipps, Shaina Agbayani, Denice Liu, Diego, Cadence, Rosalind, Maggie, Farah Noun, Alan Merlo, Carolin, Astroboi, Brad, Hannah Feinberg, Sasha, Karine, Cameron Butler, Molly, Chantal and so many others!

QPIRG-MCGILL STRUCTURE

STAFF

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, UNTIL AUGUST 2013, WHEN KAMA MAUREEMOOTOO TOOK OVER. The OUTREACH AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR was ANDREA FIGUEROA, until July 2013, when KIRA PAGE took over. .

This year our two part-time work-study students were SABRINA GURNIAK (RESOURCE CENTRE COORDINATOR) and SHAHIR OMAR (CURE COORDINATOR). We also have had two part time staff join us through the Quebec Subventions Salariales program in March, ALEX MATAK (ARCHIVIST) and AADI NDIR (COMMUNITY OUTREACH). The 2013-14 accountant was DAN LACROIX.

In the summer of 2013, QPIRG-McGill hired two RAD FROSH COORDINATORS: CINDER IKEDA (community-based) and BECCA YU (student-based); and one SCHOOL SCHMOOL COORDINATOR: ARIEL WACKERNAGEL. We funded one summer research stipend, to the anti-colonial solidarity collective to create a workshop module: Decolonization 101. Jointly with the SSMU, we hired BECCA YU to coordinate Culture Shock, and LILY HOFFMAN to coordinate Social Justice Days.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (CRCC)

At the Annual General Meeting in April 2013, the following QPIRG-McGill members were elected to the CRCC: MARIA FORTI, LENA PALECIOS, AND DEGANE SOUGAL. The CRCC follows a CRCC policy to address complaints involving QPIRG-McGill members that cannot be resolved by the Board of Directors.

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TRAINING, VISIONING

Training this year was held on the last weekend of August. It included sessions on PIRG history across Canada, anti-oppressive practice, facilitation skills, consensus-based decision-making, labour standards (in particular developing anti-capitalist and non-hierarchical relationships between board members and staff), finances, and more. Each session was extremely well facilitated by our full-time staff or returning board members, and gave a grounding for QPIRG's work throughout the school year. In previous years, board training has been held in May. While this was impossible because of board members' summer commitments, we highly recommend that future boards hold training in the spring, as a means of ensuring that all board members have a similar base of knowledge when beginning their positions.

In early February, the board gathered for a visioning session that lasted approximately six hours. The main areas of discussion were reflections on our current context and QPIRG's past, QPIRG's role within McGill and in Montreal, our strengths and weaknesses, our mandate and goals, and our priorities for future years. Visioning provided a space for us to reflect upon our experiences on the board, open up important but time-intensive conversations, assess our priorities and our strategies, and dream big for the upcoming years at QPIRG. We urge future boards to consider and act upon the following points raised at visioning:

Accessibility: QPIRG needs to reassess the accessibility of its space and programming, physically, mentally, socially, and beyond. Our current space is very inaccessible and should be re-evaluated. (More below in "Accessibility" section)

Sustainability: QPIRG has a range of volunteers, board members, and staff dedicating their time, energy, and enthusiasm for the organization's events, projects, and everyday operations. While their dedication is greatly appreciated, we urge future QPIRG boards to examine the sustainability of the workload (particularly for staff members, see the staff section below) and to explore ways to ensure that QPIRG can continue operating as a radical organization for years to come. Further, we urge QPIRG to engage with the difficult questions of how to build and manage our capacity while ensuring that we maintain a radical edge in our organizing.

Board Members: Our board this year reflected a great deal of privilege, including whiteness, secure immigration status, younger age, and enough class privilege to devote hours of volunteer time. We will prioritize recruiting board members from a broad variety of backgrounds and experiences, and urge future boards to likewise make this a priority. We also encourage future boards to recruit outside of student circles.

Balancing and reworking our pillars: QPIRG's three pillars are popular education, research, and working groups. At visioning, many board members expressed desires to see popular education focus more on sharing skills and to take a variety of creative formats. Likewise, we see immense potential for QPIRG to engage more with our working groups, and also foster stronger relationships among our working groups. We also see the possibility of restructuring and reprioritizing programs such as CURE to improve our work in activist research. Overall, we encourage future boards to be critical about how our programs are functioning and be flexible and creative in expanding or restructuring them.

QPIRG ON CAMPUS:

QPIRG's year got off to a start at the end of August with Rad Frosh. Approximately 170 first-year students registered, and around 30 facilitators were present for the weekend full of workshops, tours, and parties. Rad Frosh took participants to different spaces at McGill, various neighbourhoods in Montreal, and up the mountain for some time in the woods. Overall, it seemed like a successful orientation event for the participants, many of whom continue to be present at QPIRG events and are involved in like-minded campus groups.

In October, QPIRG presented a week of events for Culture Shock. It included events on McGill campus as well as off-campus such as at Café l'artère and CEDA. Culture Shock led into the Congress of Black Writers and Artists, which QPIRG co-sponsored and which was organized by members of the QPIRG working group C-uni-T. The Congress was a highly successful example of effective linking of the campus with the wider community.

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At the end of November, QPIRG also co-sponsored and co-presented (along with QPIRG Concordia and the GeoGrads Concordia) a panel on gentrification with Movement for Justice in El Barrio (Harlem, New York) and the Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network (Montreal).

The winter semester brought with it Social Justice Days, which took place in mid-February. Many of its events took place on the McGill campus and were generally very well attended. It culminated with two events on February 14: the Self-Love Cabaret and an Anti-Valentine's Day dance party, which was a fundraiser for Stella, and we raised roughly \$800. The theme of both events was having a good time with or without a romantic partnering, which seemed to be appreciated by many.

Radical skills workshops were less of a focus this year: at the time of writing only one has taken place, which was a collaboration with the Ste-Emilie Skillshare about zine-making. The upcoming programmed workshops include a community radio workshop, contesting P-6 tickets and a workshop on demystifying finances for non-profits and community groups.

As this report is being written, QPIRG is busy with Study in Action, the annual undergraduate and community research conference. Study in Action has historically been a collaboration between QPIRG McGill and QPIRG Concordia, and this year GRIP-UQAM has also joined the event in the context of their 20th anniversary celebrations. We hope for this partnership between the three PIRGs to continue into the future. This year, Study In Action also sought to outline the International Day Against Racial Discrimination by having two workshops on racism on campus, as well as supporting a march against colonialism, racism and the proposed Québec charter of values/Bill 60.

An outreach strategy for our larger event series (Culture Shock, Social Justice Days, Study in Action) that worked well this year was to have each board member assigned a specific event within the series and for them to take on the majority of the work of promoting it. This included creating a Facebook event and promotion through email listservs in faculties, departments, classes, community organizations, etc. It made the work assigned to each board member manageable, and allowed them to feel involved and invested in the event itself.

However, we recommend compiling and updating a more comprehensive list of community organizations, classes, departments, etc. for promotions to prevent each board member from having to do the research/outreach work on their own. Additionally, more outreach to community organizations around Montreal in general would be useful, in terms of working together to create events that can bring students and non-students alike together. It could be an interesting summer research project, for example, to compile a list of all of the different community/event spaces around the city, with information about their accessibility, capacity, etc. so that our events don't have to be as university-centric and can instead happen where non-students are more likely to attend.

QPIRG'S WORKING GROUPS

Working groups have historically been the heart and soul of QPIRG, engaging in important projects against oppression and domination, and this year was no different. QPIRG welcomed 5 new working groups into the fold, including the Prisoner Correspondence Project, Solidarity Across Borders, The Indigenous Women and 2-Spirit's Harm Reductive Collective, The Inclusive Mental Health Collective, and the McGill Research Group Investigating Canadian Mining in Latin America. They joined 10 returning working groups to help organize a number of important political and social events, both at McGill and in the wider Montreal community, in addition to other work.

During Rad Frosh, Tadamon! gave an introductory workshop on Israeli Apartheid, and MICLA presented about Canadian imperialism and mining in Latin America. As part of Culture Shock, two roundtables took place: one presented by Solidarity Across Borders on building a solidarity city, and the other by Kanata on using spoken word to create social change. In addition, Tadamon! gave a workshop on the struggles of political prisoners in Palestine. Finally, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Black Writer's Congress, C-Uni-T and the Black Canadian Studies Association co-organized the Congress of Black Writers and Artists to coincide with the end of Culture Shock.

In the winter, as part of Social Justice Days, the Inclusive Mental Health Collective organized a dinner and discussion on the topic of

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neurodiversity and mental health; the next day, the Prisoner Correspondence Project put on a film screening of Jean Genet's provocative film *Un chant d'amour*, coupled with letter-writing to queer prisoners. And Tadamon! was active in the weeks that followed, along with a variety of other community groups, preparing for Israeli Apartheid Week, which was held from March 10-17.

Looking beyond the McGill community, the Barrier Lake Solidarity Collective was active in supporting Algonquins in Barriere Lake, who this year won a victory against logging on their territory by having the Quebec government agree to respect a previously negotiated Forestry Protocol. Solidarity Across Borders has had a super busy year, giving a ton of support to folks facing deportation, organizing demonstrations, mutual aid nights, collective dinners, and other fun actions. In January 2014, SAB partnered with No One Is Illegal and RadLaw to host a highly successful panel on citizenship and double punishment, which took place at McGill. And just last week, the Indigenous Women and 2-Spirit's Harm Reductive Collective organized a workshop with Moe Clark on sound creation and rootedness.

Because working groups operate autonomously, there is sometimes a disconnect between their activities and the other workings of QPIRG. In recent years, we have tried to address this distance by having working groups present at QPIRG event series, such as Culture Shock and Social Justice Days. We would recommend continuing this practice, as it is a good way to facilitate connections both between working groups themselves, and between working groups and the wider community. Additionally, we recommend finding other ways to integrate members of working groups into the other activities and doings of QPIRG, whether as board members, volunteers, or in some other fashion. Not only would this bolster their access to and sense of investment in QPIRG, it would also facilitate the sharing of a variety of perspectives with the often student-centric board.

STAFF

This year marked a big change in our core-staff as we welcomed two new staff members: Kama Maureemootoo and Kira Page. Kama began working at QPIRG in August of 2013, as our new internal coordinator, taking over from Degane Sougal. Kama brings many years of experience in community organizing, as well as excellent financial insight—a skill very relevant to their position! Kama's enthusiasm and thoughtfulness shine in their work with the board, and the entire member-body. The other half of this duo is Kira Page who began work in June of 2013 as the external coordinator; the position previously held by Andrea Figueroa. Besides her involvement in other community organizations, Kira brings a strong institutional memory of QPIRG, having been a board member for several years. Kira's critical insight and outreach skills have been incredibly useful to QPIRG. The board would like to extend our sincere thanks to both Kira and Kama who continue to take on exciting projects and work endless overtime. The organization would not be here without you! QPIRG-McGill is lucky to have both Kira and Kama returning for the upcoming year, especially as they both continue to make QPIRG a more stylish place to be.

QPIRG has been lucky enough to have two part-time work-study staff this year: Shahir Omar and Sabrina Gurniak. Shahir is the current Community-University Research Exchange Coordinator. Shahir's artistic knowledge, community-centered mindset and strong grasp on anti-oppression has made them an excellent member of the QPIRG team. Sabrina, who worked last year as the CURE coordinator, returned to QPIRG as the current Library-Resource Coordinator. Sabrina has worked hard this year to recruit a number of volunteers as well as update our book collection; her outreach and organization skills have been a great match with the position. Becca Yu was also hired as our Culture Shock coordinator! Her strong knowledge of QPIRG (previous board member/Rad Frosh coordinator) and critical lens led to an awesome coordination of Culture Shock that stuck true to the mandates of QPIRG. For our winter programming, Lily Hoffman-Simon was hired as our Social Justice Days coordinator. Lily also brings a great deal of QPIRG experiences, having been a previous board member herself, which has allowed for super community outreach and programming to be developing during Social Justice Days. It was a pleasure working with both Becca and Lily; a huge thank you to you both!

Cinder Ikeda and Becca Yu were our Rad Frosh coordinators for 2013; they worked together to do an amazing job. Rad Frosh incorporated a lot of new students and really created a great space for them, full of a wide variety of events. It was super amazing to have them on board. Our School Shmool coordinator was Ariel Wackernagel. Their work on the journal was really incredible and very much appreciated by the board.

QPIRG's most recent hires include Alex Matak and Aadi Ndir, both of whom have been hired with Emploi Quebec grants that began in late February and will run for six months. Alex has been hired as our Archive and Catalogue Coordinator and Aadi as the Outreach

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and Community Development Coordinator. It will be great to see the exciting work that they bring in the next few months.

QPIRG-McGill is extremely lucky to have had a year of very devoted staff. However, the workload again proves to be too much for two core staff people. Heading into next year, we strongly recommend that the incoming board initiate a serious discussion with staff to ensure their workload is made sustainable, whether by finding ways to provide them with more robust support, by raising funds to hire more part-time staff during busy periods, or by reducing programming.

CURE could also use review, which the current or next coordinator could be instrumental in seeing through. The CURE program could benefit from a clearer description of the coordinator position, from closer cooperation with and more support for the coordinator, and from a division between the internal and external roles and tasks.

There is a general need for a more robust system to support QPIRG staff other than the current board's staff committee on its own, especially the part-time staff. It often falls to full-time staff to support part-time staff in their work (especially because the work in part-time positions is so independent). The board needs to seriously reflect before hiring new staff to ensure they will be able to mobilize adequate internal institutional support. The incoming board should ensure that formal or informal systems exist to regularly check in with staff about their needs and that the staff's feedback is contended with, particularly by the staff committee. Finally, although it is staff committee's responsibility to liaise between the staff and the board, all board members should make concrete efforts to reduce the workload of the board to the best of their abilities and capacities. This can manifest in very basic ways with regards to a responding to emails in a timely manner, volunteering to do basic promo tasks, and offering to bottomline one-time endorsed events. If the board is able to pick-up more of this work it could help to alleviate some of work placed on the core staff. All that to say, this warrants a comprehensive discussion in next year's training.

OUR BOARD, OURSELVES

No one was more surprised than the board that meetings were always enjoyable and relatively free from stress, even though they occasionally went on for quite a few hours. This is reflected in the fact that board meetings were always well-attended and in the very low turnover rate.

QPIRG-McGill's board had only one resignation, late in this year. The board accepted Amber Gross's resignation when she accepted a position as president of the Association of McGill University Sessional Employees (AMUSE). We were sad to see Amber go, but are stoked about the work she is now doing with AMUSE.

We made no appointments to the board this year. The SSMU board representative this year was Joey Shea, and the PGSS representative was Isaac Stethem, both of whom were very present and extremely helpful.

As previously stated, the incoming board should prioritize continuing to recruit members of identities not currently well-represented on the QPIRG board. This includes those that self-identify as: not-white, not anglophone, community members (who are not recent McGill graduates), Trans*/genderqueer, and many others. These members should be heard, respected and welcomed into the board. One aspect that became increasingly present on the board in 2013-2014 was a gendered division of labour. Continuously at board meetings, people who identify and/or present as women and/or use the pronouns "she and they" were handling more of the "leg-work" - sending emails, answering letters, completing tasks typically considered "menial". Often when searching for someone to take on a task, there would be a moment of silence before a person who identifies and/or presents as women and/or uses the pronouns "she and they" stepped up to take it on. Additionally, there were numerous requests from the Core Staff with regards to helping clean the office. Despite hanging up a sign where board members could sign up to complete the tasks, the results - and those who completed the tasks - strongly reinforced traditional feminine work roles.

Further tensions within the board occurred surrounding dynamics around board meetings. Within board meetings certain voices were continuously privileged and respected more than others. Specifically, voices of men and those who had been around "radical/activist" circles longer were often valued over the voices of others. This often most visibly presented when deciding what projects the board should be prioritizing for discretionary requests and other forms of support.

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Next year's board needs to deliberately consider these dynamics and create avenues and channels where these issues can be directly, and openly addressed. It would be great to create spaces within the CRCC whereupon these discussions pertaining to power relationships could occur, and the accountability of board members to their own personal "radical, anti-oppressive" politics can be bettered. Although considered a "radical" organization, board members of QPIRG need to continuously remember that even if they identify as "anti-racist" and "feminists" and "interested in smashing patriarchy and being super rad etcetera" there are many instances within QPIRG organizing during which board members will profit from white supremacy and patriarchy, amongst other privileges.

We, as an organization, need to be continuously working to address these power dynamics within QPIRG, especially to make it safer for future board members coming in. One of QPIRG's strengths is that it has long held a role as an alternative space at McGill, in contrast to the more conservative campus, which has allowed for students to grow and learn about radical politics and anti-oppression. In order to preserve this, there need to be continued processes of checking-in about the actuality and reality of the politics which QPIRG seeks to promote. Some questions to ask are:

Who is accessing the space safely? Who is not? Why and why not?

What kinds of people are able to engage in QPIRG at the board-level? At the volunteer-level? Why and why are certain others not able to be more involved?

Which identities are privileged on the board? Who is listened to? Who's opinion is taken seriously and respected?

Which identities and issues continue to be left out of our programming focus? How can the topics of our workshops, panels, and overall events continue to grow inclusively?

How can we ensure that our programming and involvement in our organization is also made accessible to people with a range of physical, mental, and social dis/abilities, knowledge levels, and previous experiences?

VOLUNTEERS

As always, volunteers are an essential part of QPIRG-McGill and we wouldn't be able to do our work without the ongoing contributions of our volunteers. This year we had volunteers helping with general tasks, as well as participating on committees. Volunteers made huge contributions at Rad Frosh this year, on the collective in the months ahead of the event and during the weekend we had many facilitators and a phenomenal safer space team. The Outreach Committee worked towards making volunteer recruitment more transparent by hosting a Volunteer Orientation shortly after the Winter Activities Night in order to introduce more potential volunteers to the organization and offer opportunities to participate. In the past the introduction and orientation of new volunteers has been shouldered by the core staff which can be a strain on their workload and the committee aimed to hold a more informative and social recruitment.

We thank our volunteers for their many and diverse contributions - QPIRG-McGill would not exist without you!

ACCESSIBILITY

This year, the board decided to make Accessibility an important long-term priority. We created an accessibility committee for the first time. So far much of their work has been finding resources, discussing ways to improve with accessibility organizers throughout the city, and working with the library committee to diversify our resource materials to include large print and audio materials. We also set aside funding in our annual budget for an accessibility audit and for future costs related to larger changes we expect to make in order to increase the physical accessibility of our space. Our office presents numerous accessibility challenges for people with limited mobility. During our board visioning session in January we discussed the possibility of renovating our space or moving offices in order to increase accessibility. We hope that next year's board will continue to consider what are the best options for increasing the physical accessibility of our space.

We have also been made aware that we should take into account and envision our accessibility with regards to the needs of persons who may not have visible disabilities and/or who may have mental health issues. Besides physical spaces, sound levels, type of lighting, how cluttered/open a space might be etc. can affect stress levels and how accessible a space can be. We intend to integrate this in our understanding and practice of accessibility.

We host many of our events in the SSMU building or on campus, and aim to find physically accessible locations for people with a va-

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riety of mobility needs. This is an ongoing challenge, as McGill campus is not very accessible generally, but we encourage next year's board to continue grappling with this and looking for new options.

Because becoming an accessible organization is a process rather than a goal, we also welcome suggestions, new ideas, criticism, and help in increasing our accessibility. If you have any needs that we are currently not meeting or dreams that you'd like us to work on, please get in touch with us.

QPIRG-MCGILL STAFF REPORT

STAFF REPORT

Last summer saw a turnover in core staff as Kira Page took over Andrea Figueroa's position as External Coordinator and Kama Maureemootoo took over Degane Sougal's position as Internal Coordinator. We first of all want to thank our predecessors for the time, energy and work they have put into QPIRG, and for making sure that we both had adequate training to carry our tasks and responsibilities to the best of our abilities as core staff.

We have worked well together in maintaining QPIRG's mandate and carrying forward QPIRG's numerous groups and campaigns, all of which you can read about in greater detail in the Annual Report. We want to highlight the outstanding support of the 2013-14 Board: Board members have been present in our physical space on a daily basis and have provided us with much (political, moral, spiritual) support and kindness without which we wouldn't have been able to fulfill QPIRG's our responsibilities to the fullest.

We have also been privileged to work with a wonderful team of coordinators and part-time staff throughout the year: Shahir Omar (CURE coordinator) and Sabrina Gurniak (Library coordinator), Cinder Ikeda and Becca Yu (Rad Frosh coordinators), Noam Lapid and Ariel Wackernagel (School Schmoool coordinators), Becca Yu (Culture Shock Coordinator), Lily Hoffman (Social Justice Days coordinator), Alex Matak (Archive and Catalogue Coordinator), Aadi Ndir (Outreach and Community Development Coordinator), Dan Anderson (IT), and Dan Lacroix and Stephen Kemp (our accountants).

We have spent a considerable amount of energy in building connections and potentially lasting relationships with different individuals and groups. Amongst others, we regularly work with the staff, Board and volunteers of QPIRG Concordia, and we also reached out to GRIP UQÀM while organizing Study In Action. We have also actively collaborated with various groups on campus including CKUT, The Union for Gender Empowerment, Queer McGill, Midnight Kicthen (to name a few), and off-campus groups such as the Aids Community Care of Montreal, Stella, The South Asian Youth Collective (to name just a few). This has allowed us to create more visibility for QPIRG. Consequently, we have been receiving an increasing number of requests for resources and workshops. Our space has also been constantly used for meetings or workshops by different campus-based groups including our own working groups.

As always, QPIRG continues to function as a hub for knowledge sharing and skill building particularly around issues of anti-oppression and consensus decision making. This past year, we were honoured to be asked to help train, among others, CKUT, Aids Community Care Montreal, the SPOKES conference, the AUS Equity Committee, the Midnight Kitchen, the staff at Service Point and the floorfellows at McGill Residences, the Canadian Association for Education and Outreach, and the participants in Community Engagement Day.

Besides our regular annual programming, we have also worked on different mobilization campaigns on and off campus including, McGill's Sexual Assault Policy, anti-Charter mobilization and mobilization around voter suppression.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to QPIRG, as well as fellow-staff at QPIRG Concordia: Christina Xydous, Noah Eidelman and Jaggi Singh. You are all such inspirations <3

In solidarity,

Kira Page and Kama Maureemootoo

POPULAR EDUCATION

CULTURE SHOCK 2013

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS 2014

RAD FROSH 2013 – BECCA YU & CINDER IKEDA

SCHOOL SCHMOOL 2013-2014 – ARIEL WACKERNAGEL & NOAM LAPID

POPULAR EDUCATION

CULTURE SHOCK ANNUAL REPORT

Collaboratively produced by Culture Shock Coordinator Becca Yu, along with QPIRG staff Kira and Kama, and QPIRG McGill Board of Directors

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 we had 7 workshops, 2 roundtables (in the same night), an art exhibit, an opening panel, and a closing keynote spread over 9 days. Though this was a lot (a lot!) of events, they were largely very well attended. These were:

Rhythm: From Not Racist to Anti-Racist, with Kai Cheng Thom
 Canada Behind Bars: On the Incarceration of Indigenous Communities
 Indigenous Feminisms and Decolonizing Indigenous Queer Identity
 Ongoing Colonization: Addressing Systemic Violence Against Indigenous Women
 Roundtable: Building a Solidarity City: Community Groups in Practice, with SAB
 Roundtable: Spoken Word for Social Change, with Kanata
 Unsettling and Decolonizing: An Introductory Workshop
 Race at McGill, with Shain Agbayani
 Political Prisoners' Struggles in Palestine, with Tadamon!
 Teach-in on the Quebec Charter of Values
 Film Screening of Gold Fever, with MICLA
 Keynote: Collage and Conflict: Manifestos on the Politics of the Visua with Theodore Harris
 Art Exhibition: Our Flesh of Flames/ Facts on the Ground, by Theodore Harris, Amiri Baraka

We also co-organized a zine launch for Midnight Kitchen that happened at Cagibi, and served as a hangout spot amongst of Culture Shock and the Congress of Black Writers and Artists go-ers.

The budget for this year ended up being bigger than expected, but with support from some other campus groups we pulled it together. Recommendations for future years are mostly logistical, as we thought that content-wise this year was superb. We would advise that QPIRG takes care of the booking for rooms, transport etc. for the guests and speakers, as this makes it easier to keep track of and predict costs. Working with SSMU is very, very difficult, and this year was no different. Bookings were a disaster, as well as equipment. Book with more buffer time before events are starting, and try to book ASAP and have schedules and events confirmed ASAP. Also, it could make things so much easier to not rely on SSMU equipment. Maybe rent or borrow a projector and screen (QPIRG-C or AMUSE?) and don't rely on SSMU to provide these things.

Overall, Culture Shock 2013 was successful and engaging and wonderful!

For the full report from Culture Shock 2013, please see the 2013-2014 binder!

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAYS ANNUAL REPORT

Produced by Lily Hoffman, Social Justice Days Coordinator

Social Justice Days is an annual series of events in collaboration with the SSMU. This year, the week took place from February 9-14, and included panel discussions, workshops, film screenings, a Self-Love Cabaret, and a dance party! The theme of this year's Social Justice Days was "Lovers and Fighters."

This year, Social Justice Days continued in the tradition of soliciting workshop proposals from community and campus groups in developing its programming, which gave us a wide variety of events. The series began with the launch of a zine and panel presentation about the experiences of Muslim women in Montreal. The event was well attended, and drew an interesting link between grassroots projects and contemporary politics in Montreal/Quebec. The week continued with workshops on mental health, accessibility in Montreal, fatphobia, HIV disclosure, and anti-oppressive self-care. There were various film screenings, including films on squatting in Spain, incarcerated queers, and depression amongst gay black men. The week culminated in the Self-love Cabaret, a performance night at Café L'Artere, and then the best anti-Valentines Day dance party of the winter, Riding Solo.

Life Stories, On Being a Muslim Woman in Montréal: Struggles and Solidarity!
 Neurodiversity and Mental Health: an Open Dialogue
 Films: Honour Your Word and Seeking Netukulimk
 Accessiblize Me Baby!
 Squatting in Spain : From Anti-System Politics to Everyday Resistance
 Fat-phobia 101
 Incarcerated Queers: Film Screening and Letter Writing
 HIV Status Disclosure: In Bed...
 You Are Not Alone: the Documentary
 Self Care: Critical Perspectives on Oprah, Capitalism, and Happiness
 Annual Memorial March for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
 Self-Love Cabaret: l'amour se conjugue à la première personne
 Riding Solo: An Anti-Valentines Day Party! Benefit for Stella

This year was the first in a while where Social Justice Days had a theme., which gave some guidance in helping the organizing committee in choosing events for the week, as well as gave cohesion to the series. And it helped us take advantage of Valentine's Day and shaping a day of the events in reclamation of the not-so-great 'holiday' for better purposes and community building! As well, as part of developments the QPIRG programming committee has been working on, an evaluation sheet was developed for the events. The sheet was filled out after each event by participants, and gave insight to the committee about the value of events to participants, as well as which forms of promotion and outreach were most effective.

All of the events during Social Justice Days were well attended, including by people who had never been to QPIRG events before. Many of the events were presented by other organizations in Montreal, which gave a great opportunity to build relationships between them and QPIRG, and expand the QPIRG audience, as well as support the work done by these organizations.

For Lily's full report, please see the 2013-2014 Annual Reports section in the binder.

POPULAR EDUCATION

RAD FROSH 2013

Collaboratively produced by Rad Frosh Coordinators Becca Yu and Cinder Ikeda.

Rad Frosh is an alternative orientation to McGill and Montreal for over 200 new students over three days (Aug. 31st – Sept. 1st) – jam-packed with parties, workshops, music, food, and more. It's a fun and unique opportunity to check out local activist and community groups, get introduced to and learn about a wide range of social, environmental and political issues, meet fellow students and cool folks, and for froshies to get the tools to make the most of their time at McGill, and in Montreal. This year, Rad Frosh was "Mixt-Up!" – that is, recognizing our radical potential and agency to re-imagine, re-structure, and subvert the world we live in, the forces that structure it, and our relationships to one-another and ourselves.

This year Rad Frosh was relatively smooth, and also very fun and engaging. We kept a lot of the usual programming of Rad Frosh (and some of the newer things from the year before): the workshops, tours, concert, pub crawl, non-drinking events like open mic night and board games, and the closing party. We had about 200 participants for two and a half days of events. Our finances ended up in a pretty strong place after a slow start and much difficulty with SSMU.

We had 40 plus facilitators this year. This was a good number considering we had quite high registration. Overall they were great to work with. We had the Harm Reduction Squad (started the year before) at drinking events and thought they were definitely a positive thing to have around.

We added two new elements: consent skits and the DIY fair. The DIY fair gave an element of learning at Rad Frosh that was more interactive than the workshops. The idea with the consent skits was to have visual, engaging representations of consent that grounded the importance in all aspects of life and applying them to Rad Frosh. We also co presented a Librarian dance party with the UGE that happened in October and billed it as a Rad Frosh reunion party.

Activities

Pre-Pub Crawl Meet, Greet, n Info Sesh // Gay Village Pub Crawl // Scavenger Hunt // Open-Mic Night // Benefit Concert // D.I.Y./Activity Fair // Hangout and hike on the Mountain // Community Tours // Capture the Flag // Board Games and Backyard Fire at Ste. Emilie's // Closing Party

Workshops & Tours

From Veganism to Migrant Justice: An Intersectional Approach to Food Politics // Apartheid 101: An Introduction to Israeli Apartheid // Canadian Imperialism and the New Conquistadors: Examining Canadian Mining Activity in Latin America // The Revolution Starts in the Heart // 'Who in the World is AnarchoPanda? : An Insider's View on the Quebec Student Movement of 2012 // PRISM-Break: Shielding ourselves and our movements from state and corporate surveillance // Sustainability: Buzzword, Catastrophe, and Calling // Anarchy 101 // Fucking Politics // Race at McGill // Clean Energy, Accountable Cops, Free Education: Who benefits from the fight for 'alternatives'? // Rape Culture and Consent: An introduction to rape culture, power, sexual assault, and consent // Feminism is a Men's Issue: An introduction on how to live feminist allyship // Harm reduction! harm reduction is mutual aid // Street Action and Street Fights: An Educational Walking Tour // Fresh Waves: Radical Radio at CKUT 90.3 FM // Demilitarize McGill: War, Colonialism, and the University // Yiddish Anarchists, Bastard Cops, and Queer Pirates: An Incendiary Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Montreal // Anti-Gentrification Struggles in St-Henri : A Guided Tour of Resistance to Landlords, Condo Developers, and Yuppies

We suggest continuing to work to make Rad Frosh as safe and accessible as possible, by building and learning from this year. Overall, it was a great year for Rad Frosh, with many great experiences and positive feedback.

For the full report, see the Annual Reports Binder.

SCHOOL SCHMOOL 2013

Produced by Noam Lapid and Ariel Wackernagel.

School Schmool is a publication put out once yearly in effort to offer a by-donation, ad-free, community-focused agenda for anyone who wants to organize their time and plug into Montreal's radical/social justice work scene. It is now a project shared by QPIRG McGill and QPIRG Concordia, although for many years it belonged solely to the former, and it is funded through small grants made available through the fundraising efforts of its coordinators, mostly from financial sources found on both campuses. For a few years now, School Schmool has contained three sections—the Agenda (a week-by-week calendar with highlighted dates of noteworthy/interesting community struggle), the Issues (short articles introducing the reader to issues that underpin our social justice movements), and the Groups (very short descriptions of local community groups and projects, as well as their contact information). It also features a lot of art.

This past year, the major feature of the contract was that the funding for both coordinator positions (which came from Young Canada Works) was secured late, which in turn meant that both coordinators were hired only in mid-late June whereas the target date for both hires is a month prior. Given the deadlines for getting a final proof to Katasoho (the printing business that produces School Schmool), it was agreed that the coordinators focus entirely on content, editing, and layout and the financial coordinators at the PIRGs do fundraising; however, many of the campus grant application deadlines had passed, so it was a nailbiting summer without much funding confirmed before we went to press. However, layout was done in record time and we went to press before our deadline!

School Shmool went through a period of working closely each summer with a team of volunteers who would bring suggestions on article subjects and take on tasks, like locating people to write these articles. However, for the past few years the organizer has moved towards a less volunteer-driven model, often due to time constraints or perceived difficulties finding continuity of presence over the summer. This past summer, the coordinators, a few community members, and some QPIRG staff members brainstormed most of the article topics as well as ideas for people to write them, a preliminary schedule including deadlines, and possible themes.

This past year, we had articles about fat positivity, urban beekeeping, the student strike, radical parenting, gentrification, Bill 35, P-6, language politics, transformative justice, and more! We had incredible art by many talented artists. We also responded to some community discomfort with how holy days/holidays have been marked in the calendar in the past, potentially paving the way for continued finessing of this issue in the upcoming issue of School Schmool. Lastly, this year we paid special attention to celestial happenings during the calendar year, with the addition of a lunar calendar and selected astro events.

This year we went for the second time with a Stonepaper cover, which is made out of calcium carbonate and seems to stand up really well to a year's worth of being crumpled and spilled on. Unfortunately, the coordinators abandoned the extensive google drive task lists that had characterized the earlier parts of the contract and rarely saw one another after Rad Frosh, which made distribution less smooth than it otherwise could have been. However, School Schmools were made available in multiple places both on and off campuses, in most of the locations in which they have been featured in past years. In some places they were sold on consignment and in some places they were made available by donation, and they did pretty well in both.

For the full report, see the Annual Reports Binder.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

CONVERGENCE UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE

STUDY IN ACTION 2013: UNDERGRADUATE & COMMUNITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

SUMMER STIPEND 2012: ANTI-COLONIAL SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

CONVERGENCE UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL

Convergence this year was launched later than usual due to lack of resources—physical and financial. Nonetheless, the journal (now in its 4th volume) was published in the early winter of 2013, and featured 8 articles in English and French, and artwork by 6 different artists. Some of the work published was from Study In Action and Art In Action, while others were from CURE projects.

In March 2013, we organized a small launch of Convergence at the QPIRG-McGill office, which also coincided with the “How to turn your papers into a presentation” workshop we gave for future Study In Action participants. We also distributed and promoted the journal during the course of Study In Action and other events.

The Convergence collective and editorial team, this year, was comprised of members from QPIRG-McGill and QPIRG Concordia. We would like to thank everyone who made this publication possible: all the contributors and the volunteers alike!

Convergence is available online: <http://convergencejournal.ca/>

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE

CURE (Community-University Research Exchange) is an academic platform for McGill students to work on socially-engaged research with local Montréal organizations. CURE works to offer support to marginalized community groups, basing student research specifically on the organization’s needs (and of course, on the academic interests of the student).

This year, CURE has been undergoing some restructuring, with the aim of increasing the overall capacity and reach of the project. One major change to the CURE project has been a new POW! SPACE/COLLAGE/MONTREAL poster design, in order to attract and inform McGill students. Additionally, the CURE coordinator has compiled a list of 106 McGill professors who may have an interest in CURE’s platform (based on their own research interests in social and environmental justice) and drafted email templates for individuals and listserves that to reach out to students and professors. The CURE committee has spent considerable time updating the list of active projects on the CURE website, and ensuring that our community group partners are still interested in the research projects they originally submitted. The CURE committee has also invested considerable time in drafting a training manual on approaches and strategies for community-based research for student researchers, and developing a clearer job description and task breakdown for the CURE coordinator. For promotion, Shahir has been in the process of organizing an article in Leacocks, a McGill student run online magazine, explaining CURE and writing an in-depth article on one successful project. Finally, Shahir has been working with Jaggi and William at Concordia’s CURE branch to organize email systems and the website’s wordpress, as well as to brainstorm new ways of reaching out to students.

In the upcoming months, we plan to finish clarifying the active projects and delete the ones that rather complicate the system of emails and website posts. We want to finish the general anti-oppression zine for student researchers who are new to this philosophy of work. In addition, Shahir would to reach out to more art-oriented organizations involved in social justice.

For the full report, see the Annual Reports Binder.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

SUMMER STIPEND 2012: DECOLONIZATION 101 WORKSHOP MODULE/ZINE

Summer Stipend 2013 Recipients: Heidi Pridy, Rachel Avery, Sara Grant

With the QPIRG McGill 2013 Summer Stipend we were able to create an accessible introductory decolonization workshop module for settlers in Montreal, across occupied Kanien'keha:ka territory, and elsewhere throughout Turtle Island. This project was initiated with the understanding that as settlers in a colonized land, it is our responsibility to continue to educate ourselves and others, and support decolonization within settler communities alongside Indigenous decolonization work.

With this workshop module, we seek to share knowledge of the history and contemporary reality of colonialism and additionally we intend to spur participants to action as members of their own communities. The workshop outlines involve participatory explorations of how decolonization can be practically enacted by settlers as well as discussions of responsible solidarity with Indigenous struggles, emphasizing the concerns that accompany attempts at ally work. In the workshop outline we present an initial understanding of colonization of Turtle Island, and how it has been practiced here; we survey some of the ways in which Indigenous peoples approach decolonization; and consider ways in which settlers can work to try to be allies in this process. It is our goal that this resource will be used to stimulate a discussion of decolonization within settler communities, and as a starting point for people to modify and build their own anti-colonial workshops. In this zine we have included a module that provides a potential structure for a workshop as well as historical information and references to other resources. The module is thorough and includes content for a multi-hour long workshop, but has flexible options for shorter workshops as well.

Currently, we have completed the final written draft portion of our project, and we are submitting it for review by mid-April. Evidently we have strayed from our proposed time-line, as we had hoped to finish our review period by August 30. We found it extremely challenging to continue to work on this project over the summer and fall months, given that two of the participants were moving to different provinces and all three of us were attending university full-time during the autumn months. As a result, our project fell severely behind schedule. The bulk of the intensive collaborative work is completed and our project is about to go into review, the final steps of this project include editing for suggested changes by reviewers, translation, distribution and uploading to the internet. Because two of us are going to be away for most of the summer, we estimate to be completed by mid-September. We apologize for the delay in completion of this project, and any inconveniences or stresses it may have caused. While we are very happy to have received this stipend and feel that our project is worthwhile and important, it has been our experience that working collaboratively long-distance can create serious challenges in completion within a timely manner, and so we recommend that projects in which the recipients of the stipend will continue to be residing within Montreal be prioritized. We feel that despite being behind schedule, this project, which we have worked on with dedication to conscientious thoroughness and detail, will be an important and useful resource. Ideally, our hope is that in providing a resource such as this, it will inspire and encourage others to build on our work, change it and add to it, and that this framework will serve as an accessible starting point for critical anti-colonial settler activism.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

ALTERNATIVE RESOURCE LIBRARY

Produced by Sabrina Gurniak, Resource Library Coordinator

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.

The Library Collective is made up of a few dedicated volunteers, the Resource Centre Coordinator, and membership was opened up to QPIRG McGill staff and board members. The Collective met once per semester and functioned to assist the Resource Centre Coordinator brainstorm ideas and make decisions about spending the budget, drafting new policy, and purchasing new materials.

This year, the library was able to make a major purchase of new books and zines, which has been impossible in past year due to budget constraints. Sabrina solicited requests from QPIRG members, and the Collective then decided which of the requested items to purchase. We became a lifetime member of the Concordia Coop Bookstore and did all of our ordering through them. The library also acquired several new zines and a few new periodicals.

The resource centre doesn't currently have a concrete collection development policy but there is good information and advice in the training manuals and exit reports left by previous coordinators. As part of my official exit report I am combining this advice and adding some suggestions from the current Collective to draft an official collection development policy.

The library hosted a zine-making workshop, this spring, collaborating with the St-Emilie's skillshare.

The PMB database is still a work in progress. I met with the developer and the QPIRG Concordia Coordinator a few times and found the collaborative aspect of the project very helpful. The database will hopefully be up and running before this summer. Next steps are to draft a training manual with the QPIRG Concordia Coordinator so that future Coordinators and volunteers at other Alternative Libraries can easily use the new system.

The library's current zine display is not very welcoming and difficult to browse. I am currently in the process of reorganizing the zines so that they are organized by colour and accession number. This way, if someone is looking for a specific zine they will be able to find it easily but people who just want to look through our zine collection can find something on a topic they are interested in.

The Fall semester collective meeting produced some great ideas for outreach, one of which was creating bookmarks promoting the library collection geared towards certain schools and faculties at McGill. The Alternative Libraries Facebook page to be a useful tool for outreach. The Facebook group currently has 287 "likes". The page has been great for promoting new materials, displays, and events at the library and at QPIRG as a whole.

For Sabrina's full report, see the Annual Reports Binder.

COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

STUDY IN ACTION 2014

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, QPIRG McGill and QPIRG UQÀM, this academic year's conference is planned for March 22 – 23, 2014.

This year, there were several major changes to Study in Action! It was the first year we collaborated heavily with GRIP-UQAM on this project, which meant there were substantially higher number of UQAM students and francophone content at the conference, and allowed us to broaden our audience by holding events at UQAM. As this year's SIA also fell on the same weekend as the International Day Against Racism, we collaborated on an Anti-Colonial, Anti-Racist, Anti-Charter Demonstration on the Friday. QPIRG-McGill also held two workshops on that same day, both addressing anti-racist and anti-charter organizing.

Study in Action 2014 spanned four days and three universities.

Opening Panel: Struggles of Self-Determination
 Workshop: Rythm: From Not Racist to Anti-Racist
 Workshop: Muslim Women at the Centre: Responding to and Resisting Bill 60
 Panel: The Theory and Practice of Social Ecology
 DEMONSTRATION & MARCH: Against colonialism, racism
 and the proposed Quebec "Charter of Values" (Bill 60)
 FILMS by Médi@s Libres
 Soirée dansante avec les groupes BarbuZébel et Gypsy Kumbia Orchestra
 Panel: Indigenous Feminist Resistance
 Panel: Migration Struggles
 Panel: Radical Perspectives on Environmental Justice
 Workshop: Your Radio is a Bomb – The Explosive Power and Potential of Independent Media
 Panel: Gentrification & Security
 Panel: Direct Democracy and Self-Determination
 Workshop: Canadian Mining in Latin America: Issues, Conflicts, and Social Responsibility
 Panel: Race, Power and Intersectionality
 Panel: Canadian Colonialism and the Extractive State
 Panel: Indigenous Resistance and Decolonization
 Workshop: How to Find Out What They Don't Want You to Know:
 An Introduction to Access to Information Laws and Procedures
 Closing Panel: Bodily Self Determination

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING 2013-2014

CO-SPONSORSHIPS AND ENDORSEMENTS

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION

DISCRETIONARIES 2013-2014

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

DATE	TO/EVENT	AMOUNT
April 23rd, 2013	• Anti-Capitalist Teach-In on Labour	100.00
	• ATQ (Aide aux trans du Québec): Fierté trans pride 2013	\$200.00
May 9th, 2013	• Justice Alimentaire Montréal	\$76.00
	• Sovereignty Summer: Idle No More and Defenders of the Land Education and Direct Action Campaign	\$100.00
	• Proposing an Ad-Hoc Program at McGill: A Zine	\$37.50
June 3rd, 2013	• Glamarchist Lookfair VI	Radio Ad
	• AKLAS: Remembering the Sprit of Katipunan (Philippine Revolution) Through Poetry KATPUNAN	\$75.00
	• Villeray Anti P6 March and Picnic	\$75.00
August 7th, 2013	• Represent: F*ck White Supremacy Zine Project	\$100.00
	• Qouleur	\$125.00
August 27th, 2013	• No Borders! No Prisons! Status For All! March and Picnic	\$125.00
	• Confronting the Pipedream: Voices from the front lines of pipeline resistance	\$250.00
September 16th, 2013	• Mexicanxs Unidxs por la Regularizacion: Colloquium: reflection and Discussion on the need for a regularization program for all migrants	\$100.00
	• APAM: Assemblée populaire autonome de Montréal	\$50.00
	• Grassroots Media Production: An anti-pipeline movement resource	\$100.00
September 25th, 2013	• Demonstration Against the Hearings of the National Energy Board - Line 9 Hearing	\$100.00
October 9th, 2013	• Reading and Writing Fiction in Fiction and Experimental Memoire Workshop	\$50.00
	• AGIR Skillbuilding Retreat 2013	\$200.00
October 23rd, 2013	• Undoing Border Imperialism Book Launch	\$100.00
	• Southwest Solidarity Network	\$150.00
November 6th, 2013	• Movement for Justice en el Barrio: anti-gentrification in NYC	\$160.00
	• Rise-Up Funding Drive	\$40.00
	• Awan Family Community Fundraising Dinner	\$50.00

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION

DATE	TO/EVENT	AMOUNT
November 19th, 2013	Project de documentaire sur les Mexicains déportés du Canada	\$125.00
	Access to Information Committee	\$125.00
December 4th, 2013	CLAC - Convergence des luttes anti-capitalistes	\$200.00
	Noe Artega Santos Press Conference	\$200.00
	Silk Road hosts Ellen Gabriel	\$100.00
	Rez Project Anti-Oppression Development	In kind
January 15th, 2014	Pouding Chômeurs	\$100.00
	CKUT Homelessness Marathon	\$150.00
January 29th, 2014	Demilitarize McGill	\$150.00
	Mayday Dance Party	\$100.00
	Insoumise	\$15.00
February 20th, 2014	Somove Oral History Workshop	\$75.00
	Get to the Point: St Emilie Skillshare	\$187.50
	Soutein à Dany Villaneuva	\$175.00
March 12th, 2014	Haiti Action Montreal	\$75.00
	Trans Pride Montreal	\$125.00
	Solidarity 5E3	\$125.00
March 26th, 2014	Support for Tyendinaga Arrestees	\$200.00
	Awan Family Support Committee Community Lunch	\$50.00

CoSPONSORSHIPS, ENDORSEMENTS AND CAMPAIGNS 2013-2014

Every year, QPIRG lends its administrative, political, and mobilization capacities to dozens of events and campaigns throughout the year. These are just some of them!

The Anti-Colonial Teach-In, organized by No One Is Illegal and the Anti-Colonial Solidarity Committee
 “Don’t Leave Your Friends Behind” workshop at the Anarchist Bookfair
 Community Sustainer Package from the Media Co-op
 Decolonize and Anti-Oppression Workshop with Tami Starlight
 Alternative Graduation
 Pervers/Cité 2013 Opening Panel
 Create Dangerously: 2013 Congress of Black Writers and Artists
 Alliance féministe solidaire pour les droits des travailleuses(rs) du sexe – June 19, 2013
 Support of the CRAC-PC (September 3, 2013)
 Campaign against the deportation of Djaber Kalibi – September 17, 2013
 Rencontre: Contre la project proposé de “Charte des valeurs québécoises” – September 5, 2013
 Free Tarek and John! Demonstration at the Egyptian Consulate – September 18, 2013
 Support Mohammad Mahjoub – October 21, 2013
 Fight Rape Culture at McGill – November 5, 2013
 Campaign: End Precarious work; Living wage for All! (coalition) – December 1, 2013
 Support of Migrant strike in Lindsay, Ontario – December 1, 2013
 Letter in Support of Evelia Castrejon Santoyo- December 9th, 2013
 Picket in solidarity with the Awan family – January 23, 2014
 Solidarity with Ivonne Hernandez – January 28, 2014
 Manif contre les flics au Village – January 29, 2014
 Letter of support for Mrs. Awan – February 18, 2014
 Support for Deepan – February 12, 2014
 Israeli Apartheid Week Montreal- 10th anniversary
 International Women’s Day March
 Demonstration and March – Against colonialisme and racism – March 9, 2014
 Les loyers sont trop chers! Stoppons les hausses! – March 13, 2014
 Op Ed on Petrocultures Conference: Climate Change is Not Up for Debate
 Press Release: Voter Suppression in Quebec
 Open Letter and Campaign for a Sexual Assault Policy at McGill University

SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION

WORKING GROUPS

At the heart of QPIRG McGill is our 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 OXYGENE

QPIRG-MCGILL SOLIDARITY GROUP

For 22 years, local residents have fought to save a precious inner city green space located between Parc and Hutchinson, 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

BARRIERE LAKE SOLIDARITY

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1325.00

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

CAMPUS CROPS

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$150.00

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

WORKING GROUPS 2013-2014

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY TALKS (C-UNI-T)

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$700.00

C-Uni-T is a multidisciplinary collective of students and community members committed to the pursuit of accessible education informed 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

DIGNIDAD MIGRANTE

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1000.00

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) work together to think of ways to fight the 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

INCLUSIVE MENTAL HEALTH

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$565.00

The Inclusive Mental Health Collective is a new community for individuals with shared experiences of mental/emotional distress, trauma, extreme states, psychiatric diagnosis, psychological suffering, etc., and their allies. We are psychologically diverse individuals seeking to create a safe, peer-directed environment for social justice work, based on peace, respect for others experiences and collaboration. We promote the creation of options and informed choice – from radical to conventional – based on self-determination.

Contact: inclusivemh@gmail.com

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND TWO-SPIRIT HARM REDUCTION COALITION

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$700.00

The Indigenous Women and 2-Spirit's Harm Reductive Coalition is a non-hierarchical Indigenous collective running under a Indigenous feminist framework. The collective provides free harm reductive resources, referrals and services to Aboriginal women and 2-Spirit peoples in Montreal via mail and email correspondence. Resources include a clean needle service, pregnancy tests, gloves, dental dams and condoms. We also provide resources and referrals around issues like sexual health, legal rights, access to low cost food, homelessness, sex work, criminalization, addiction and other issues which affect Indigenous peoples.

contact: ndn.harmredux@gmail.com

WORKING GROUPS 2013-2014

KANATA (MCGILL INDIGENOUS STUDIES GROUP)

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$400.00

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: kanata.mcgill@gmail.com

LAKAS PAG-GAWA

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1700.00

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 labour 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 the fight back. Social transformation not integration is the fighting call for the day!

Contact: project.anakbayan@gmail.com

LIFE AFTER LIFE

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$700.00

Life After Life is a community based, intergenerational collective, run mutually by girls, women, queer transgender, and feminists dedicated to de-criminalization and de-carceration. 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: liferafterlife@centre2110.org

MCGILL RESEARCH GROUP INVESTIGATING CANADIAN MINING IN LATIN AMERICA

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$260.00

MICLA is a research collective based out of McGill University, investigating the consequences of Canadian mining in Latin America. MICLA members carry out and share research, assist community groups and sponsor activism around this issue. MICLA's work seeks to change the status quo of extractivism, which has resulted in environmental destruction, violation of community sovereignty and the erosion of traditional livelihoods in communities across Latin America.

MONTREAL MEDIA COOP

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$450.00

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: ccm@mediacoop.ca

WORKING GROUPS 2013-2014

SOLIDARITY ACROSS BORDERS

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$250.00

Solidarity Across Borders is a Montreal-based network engaged in the struggle for justice and dignity of immigrants and refugees. We are comprised of migrants, immigrants, refugees and allies, and come together in support of our main demands: the regularization of all non-status people (Status for All!), an end to deportations and detentions, and the abolition of double punishment of migrants with criminal records. We the beginning stages of building a "Solidarity City" campaign – which includes access to all essential services, such as health care and education, for everyone regardless of their immigration status. Some of us have direct experiences with the immigration and refugee system; some of us come from immigrant backgrounds; all of us organize as part of a collective struggle for justice and dignity. For us, there is no such thing as "illegal" human beings, only unjust laws and illegitimate governments. We organize not on the basis of pity or charity, but rather solidarity and mutual aid.

TADAMON!

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1800.00

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

TEMPORARY AGENCY WORKER'S ASSOCIATION

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1900.00

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

THE PRISONERS CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT

QPIRG-MCGILL ALLOCATED BUDGET: \$1100.00

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is a collectively-run initiative based out of Montreal, Quebec. It coordinates a direct-correspondence program for gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual & queer inmates in Canada and the United States, linking these inmates with people outside of prison. It also coordinates a resource library of information and aims to make prisoner justice and solidarity a priority within queer movements on the outside through events like film screenings, workshops, and panels which touch on the broader issues relating to criminalization and incarceration of queers and transfolk.

FINANCE & OUTREACH REPORTS

OUTREACH

In June of 2013, Kira Page took over from Andrea Figuera as the Promotions and Outreach Coordinator. We'd like to thank Andrea for her many years with the organization, her commitment to developing it's presence and political analysis, and for being instrumental in keeping it alive!

Working with the Outreach Committee, we have undertaken a number of changes to QPIRG-McGill's outreach strategies. The first part of this has been moving towards a consistent visual style across our promotional materials. Starting with our printed materials, we have been working towards simpler, more attention grabbing designs, which we are implementing across our web presence and other promotional materials bit by bit. Kira also brought a background in social media for community organizations, and has been experimenting with a variety of online platforms (mostly facebook and twitter) as ways of not only promoting our work and events, but also as an extension of our popular education and mobilization work.

One major goal this year was to find ways of increasing attendance at events. As part of this, we developed an outreach strategy for each of our events that involves all of our Board and volunteers. We have been excited about the results-- both because the strategy helps spread the work around, but because we've been very happy with our event attendance overall this year. Moreover, we did an extensive evaluation process during Social Justice Days, and discovered that approximately a third of the people who attended had never been to a QPIRG event before; another third had been to a couple, and a third came regularly-- which were numbers we were really excited to see! This evaluation process-- as well as a number of others we have undertaken throughout the year- have given us a much clearer idea of what outreach strategies are working, and which ones needs improvement!

FINANCES

In August 2013, Kama Maureemootoo took over from Degane Sougal as the Finance and Administrative Coordinator. We want to thank Degane for her dedication to the organization, her insight into finances and for all she brought to QPIRG during her time here.

Along with the Finance Committee (made up on three Board members and the Internal Coordinator), we have worked towards implementing quite a few changes in terms of budget allocation. Our total opt-outs for 2013-14 amount to \$21,129.75. This figure, though still massive, is a decrease compared to the previous years. Since our opt-out rates have slowly been decreasing and since the past couple of years have been relatively calm in terms of not having active opt-out campaigns against QPIRG on campus, we have been able to restore some of the funding that had initially been cut in the past 2-3 fiscal years. Amongst others, we have increased the amount of discretionary funding by \$2,500 to \$6,500 for the fiscal year 2013-14, and we have increased the Summer Stipend budget from \$3000 to \$4500. We have also restored the Library funding to \$1,500 and have increased our working group budget by \$600.

One of the major changes to the buget this year includes setting aside an "accessibility fund." Since access has been identified as a piority by the Board for the next few years, the new budget has reflected this by setting aside an accessibility fee for any research to be incurred on the accessibility of our space and the potential surplus line has been ear-marked with a \$1,500 transfer to an accessibility fund which, in the future, will act as a "reserve" set aside to allow us to make our own space wheelchair accessible or to move to a new space. We intend to keep this \$1,500 accessibility fund reserve annually until needed and/or for as long as we can afford it.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

**QPIRG McGill
Budget**

		Budget 2013-14
REVENUE	ITEM	
	Student Levy	196,881
	QPIRG Events	7,500
	Working Groups	
	Workstudy	6,150
	Radical Frosh	5,500
	Radical Frosh Registration	7,500
	Revenue from Misc sources	
	Summer Stipend 1	-
	Summer Stipend 2	-
	Special Projects	-
	Gov't Grants	31,613
	School Schmool	1,500
	Fundraising	-
	Miscellaneous	
	Interest Revenue	200
	Photocopy Revenue	600
TOTAL REVENUE		257,445
EXPENSES		
	Rent	21,480
	Office Supplies	2,000
	Repairs & Maintenance	250
	Bank Charges	560
	McGill Admin Fee	750
	Opt out refunds	22,902
	Photocopies	3,000
	Audit	2,472
	Legal	1,000
	Accounting	2,759
	Telephone & Fax rental	3,387
	Insurance	2,751
	Postage	150
	Late Fees	100
	Emergency Fund	
	Accessibility Fund Expenses	300
	Incorporation	39
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE		63,900
	Retreat	
	Elections	500
	Board and Staff Training	1,000
	Board and Staff Appreciation	250
	QPIRG Events	12,000
	CURE and Convergence	1,000
	Discretionary	6,500
	Library	1,550
	Translation	300
	Promo Materials	1,500
	Summer Stipend 1	3,000
	Summer Stipend 2	1,500
	Radical Frosh staffing	-
	Radical Frosh Programming	9,000
	Special Projects	-
	School Schmool	3,500
	Working Groups	13,000
TOTAL PROGRAMMING		54,600
	Internal Coordinator	32,760
	External Coordinator	32,760
	Intern	23,504
	Work Study Library	6,150
	HRDC CURE	3,268
	Work Study CURE	6,150
	Rad Frosh Coordinator	9,072
	School Schmool Coordinator	4,536
	Provincial Source Deductions	10,517
	Federal Source Deductions	2,541
	QHSF	-
	CSST	993
	CNT	-
	QPIP	-

TOTAL PROGRAMMING	Working Groups	13,000	
		54,600	
	Internal Coordinator	32,760	
	External Coordinator	32,760	
	Intern	23,504	
	Work Study Library	6,150	
	HRDC CURE	3,268	
	Work Study CURE	6,150	
	Rad Frosh Coordinator	9,072	
	School Schmoool Coordinator	4,536	
	Provincial Source Deductions	10,517	
	Federal Source Deductions	2,541	
	QHSF	-	
	CSST	993	
	CNT	-	
	QPIP	-	
	Health Insurance	3,894	
	Staff Benefits	-	
	Bonus	500	
TOTAL PAYROLL		136,645	
	<i>Petty Cash Short/Over</i>		
	<i>Write Offs</i>		
	<i>Suspense</i>		
	<i>Depreciation</i>	800	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		255,945	
	NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	1,500	[*]SEE NOTE BELOW

[*] Note: Suggestion that the \$1500 surplus is allocated to an accessibility fund for future use and in the case of any other extra surplus, that the amount be transferred to our savings account