

# QPIRG-McGill Annual Report 2024-2025



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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 dis/ability. QPIRG-McGill is committed to engaging in research and action that are rooted in an anti-oppression analysis and practice.

## History

In 1970-71, 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.

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 are members of a QPIRG working group or complete 15 hours of volunteer work at QPIRG-McGill.

# QPIRG-McGill structure

## 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's voluntary Board members gain valuable skills and receive hands-on, practical training in running a non-profit organization. This year the Board formed the following committees: Staff Committee, Popular Education Committee, and Finance Committee.

## Student Board Members

Dahlia Labatte  
Joseph Liang  
Yasmine Mkaddam  
*Alana Cabezas (resigned)*  
*Sophie Elliot (resigned)*  
*Lola Lopes--Harel (resigned)*

## Community Board Members

Jenna Cleyle  
Nicolas Poulin  
Andy Tran  
Davide Ventrone  
*Aira (Prathibha) Chandra (resigned)*  
*Lucia Barroso (resigned)*



QPIRG Board, May 2024

# QPIRG-McGill structure

*Latoya Dickens (resigned)*  
*Nhuan Dong (resigned)*  
*Zainab El-Guerrab (resigned)*

**SSMU Rep**  
none

**PGSS Rep**  
none

## Staff

QPIRG-McGill has three 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. This year, the Finance and Administrative Coordinator was Ivory Tong. The Outreach and Promotions Coordinator was Nelly Wat. The Working Groups and Community Research Coordinator was Carl Bystram.

This year our part-time staff members were Tatiana Povoroznyuk (Resource Centre Coordinator) and Lola Milder (Campus Outreach Coordinator). The CURE Coordinator position remained vacant. The accountants this year were Dan Lacroix and Stephen Kamp.

In the summer of 2024, QPIRG-McGill hired two Rad Frosh Coordinators: Rama Al Malah and Méshama Eyob-Austin; and two School Schmoool Coordinators: Zahra Haider and Daniel Reilly. We

did not fund any summer research stipends due to budget restrictions.

## Conflict Resolution & Complaints Committee (CRCC)

The purpose of the Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee (CRCC) is to review complaints entailing decisions made by the QPIRG Board or Staff, or any other internal disputes, which cannot otherwise be resolved.

Last year, the CRCC policy was transformed entirely to better address internal conflicts. QPIRG-McGill, QPIRG-Concordia, and GRIP-UQAM collaborated to develop an inter-PIRG Conflict Resolution Policy that would reduce potential conflicts of interest in cases of internal conflict; under this new tentative policy, a Conflict Resolution committee would be formed with board members from each of the three PIRGs. Should an internal conflict arise at one of the PIRGs, representatives from the other two PIRGs would intervene to set up a conflict resolution procedure, thus reducing the likelihood of a conflict of interest between a CRCC member and the parties in conflict. CRCC members would have a fixed term and a new rotation of members would replace them periodically. This new CRCC structure would therefore reduce the amount of labour required to re-elect a new CRCC each year, and give all board members at all three PIRGS the opportunity to develop conflict resolution skills.

The CRCC was not active this year, while the new policy is being developed.

# Reports from the Board and Staff

# Report from the Board of Directors

## Overview & Responsibilities

The Board of Directors is composed of students and community members who have been elected and committed to planning the direction and development of the organization, fulfilling the organization's financial duties and supporting staff members and their programs.

## Timeline of Board Responsibilities & Actions

Month	General yearly schedule	2024-25 specific
May 2024	Board Training + summer staff hiring	Hiring Resource Centre Coordinator and Campus Outreach Coordinator
June		
July		Fee levy campaign Labour relations training (August) Conflict resolution training (August) Finance training (September)
August	Rad Frosh & School Schmool	
September		
October	Culture Shock planning + Events	De-escalation training
November		Board visioning workshop, start of monthly staff check-ins
December	Office closure	Capitalism 101 training
January 2025		
February		
March	Spring Into Action event series	
April	AGM	

# Report from the Board of Directors

## Board Training

The board received trainings on the following topics, between June - December 2024 (Facilitators are mentioned in parentheses):

**Consensus-decision Making, Non-profit Legal Responsibilities, QPIRG-M history & structure**  
(QPIRG-M staff) - June 17, 2024

**HR & Board / Staff Relations**  
(Isabelle Oke, former QPIRG-M board member)  
- August 8, 2024

**Conflict Resolution**  
(Adèle Raux-Copin and Will Bourgeois) - August 22, 2024

**De-escalation training**  
(Jonathan from Comm-Un) - October 20, 2024

**Capitalism 101**  
(Carl Bystram, QPIRG-M Working Group & Community Research Coordinator) - December 5, 2024

## Major Themes/Issues

The board overall ran very smoothly this year, due to improvements in board membership and retention. The main issue facing the board this year was difficulty working on long-term projects due to pressing issues, such as running the fee levy campaign, which was a significant use of QPIRG-McGill's resources for several months. Luckily, the campaign was successful, which should alleviate some financial stress and

allow the board to focus on other areas in the coming year.

As detailed further in the Finance Committee section, QPIRG-McGill is currently in conversation with various stakeholders about a confidential issue, which has also been a significant use of Board time and resources, and will likely continue to be for the foreseeable future.

## Staff Committee

Staff Committee, or StaffComm, deals with many of the HR-like responsibilities of QPIRG-McGill and facilitates communication between the Board and Staff. Year-long commitments include contract signing, contract renewals, monthly meetings and bimonthly staff check-ins.

After starting back up in September 2023 after a two-year hiatus, StaffComm has successfully maintained membership of at least two to three board members. However, the committee has struggled to keep up with recurring tasks such as monthly check-ins due to fluctuating membership. It is a priority of the committee to address this issue, possibly by scheduling recurring meetings ahead of time.

With the help of the Working Group and Community Research Coordinator, StaffComm is currently restructuring the CURE program and preparing to revive it in late 2025. Another priority of the committee is to be more involved in hiring and supervising temporary staff, to remove the burden from permanent staff.

# Report from the Board of Directors

## Space Committee

The Space Committee has not been active since 2023. Intermittent tasks involving the QPIRG-M space were handled largely by staff, with minor board involvement. Fortunately, issues with the shared library space with CCMP reported at the 2024 AGM were absent this year.

The board should consider reviving the Space Committee in 2025 to improve QPIRG-M organization and accessibility.

## Finance Committee

This was a busy year for the Finance Committee, in light of the massive deficit with which QPIRG-McGill ended the 2023/24 financial year. Tasked with improving the organization's financial health, the Finance Committee focused on the basics: reduce expenses and increase revenues. We made the difficult decision to freeze the following budget lines, in order to maintain our event programming and working groups funding:

- Discretionary
- Library
- Summer Research Stipend

To increase revenues, the Finance Committee proposed a referendum question for members of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) to raise our fee from \$5/semester to \$6.75. The SSMU referendum question ran in October 2024, and was successfully approved by 1840 voters (53.8%). We also ran the PGSS referendum question in March/April 2025, which was approved by 380 votes (59.3%);

however, as of mid-April, our referendum results had been invalidated by PGSS. We are working to resolve this situation with PGSS, but for now, we would presume that we will have to rerun this referendum to hopefully get the same results in May.

Overall, and presuming we are able to run another successful PGSS campaign, this increase of 35% of our fee levy funding has been an overdue and necessary step for QPIRG-McGill; since the last fee increase in 2015, inflation in Canada has risen by 28.25%. We are now able to maintain the same amount of programming we had been offering, although the fee increase does not allow for much expansion of our work.

The Finance Committee was also busy diversifying QPIRG-McGill's sources of revenue. We planned and hosted a "Fun-raiser" in October, including a book sale and art market, which raised about \$300. We also expanded the membership model to create a \$10 community membership fee for non-students who would like access to QPIRG services, and a \$15 "friend of QPIRG" tier that includes access to QPIRG services as well as additional perks.

We also applied to a number of grants this year. We met with the English Language Arts Network (ELAN), which was able to provide us with extremely helpful direction for a number of grants we could look into applying to. As we usually do, we applied to Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs to help fund our summer part-time positions. New this year, we also applied to the Fonds étudiant solidarité travail du Québec (FESTQ), the Pathy Fellowship Foundation Grant, and Libraries and Archives Canada Documentary Heritage Grant for funding

# Report from the Board of Directors

for a new archiving project for the Alternative Library. We received the FESTQ grant to fund our librarian over the summer, and we are awaiting results from the LAC grant. Unfortunately, we were turned down for the Pathy Fellowship. We also have been working on an application to the Program Renforcer la vitalité des communautés d'expression anglaise du Québec. We also applied to the city for a rent subsidy for non-profit organizations, but were unfortunately turned down.

Looking forward, the finance committee is currently looking for alternative forms of income to provide general fiscal stability and as a precaution against potential threats to our main levy income. These include looking at forms of crowd sourcing including the use of Patreon.

Using a Patreon was explored earlier in 2024, but was put on hold due to activities such as the fee levy campaign. Very preliminary sketches were drawn of a potential Patreon that could be made, basing the model off of the one used by OPIRG-Brock. We could potentially provide exclusive access to content and other resources, but the main idea was this would be seen as a donation center. This is counter to the membership, which is focused on paying for services. The Patreon would just be a means of supporting QPIRG without necessarily getting anything back.

The other potential source of income was to look at making low-risk and highly liquid investments in Canadian government debt. QPIRG already receives interest on their deposits at around 2.5%. However, a 10-year bond with the Canadian government pays around 3.5%. These assets are nearly riskless as the government cannot default on debt and liquid, meaning that if needed it can be sold for cash instantly. Considering that with inflation, an interest rate of

2.5% barely covers increases in prices, it would be important to put more investment in safe assets. These percentages are still relatively low and in practice only yield a few hundred dollars on our current cash, but nonetheless even slightly more can support our operations.

The next steps which will be taken is to speak with our bank to discuss the potential forms of investment and what is suggested for non-profits. This is still in the early stages, but hopefully there will be progress to report very soon.

Although we are unable to disclose further details, there have been unforeseen expenses that have appeared due to discussions with various stakeholders. Legal fees are a potential budgetary concern, but estimations of the potential cost are difficult as conditions change. To be clear, we are not concerned that the organization is in any financial danger, but want to express that this may pose an unexpected set of expenses.

Members of the Finance Committee this year were Davide Ventrone, Ivory Tong, and Joseph Liang, who all contributed to writing this report. Jenna Cleyle, Alana Cabezas, and Ha Nhuan Dong stepped down from the committee.

## Fee Levy Increase Referendum Committee

The Fee Levy Increase Referendum Campaign Committee (FLIRC) began planning ahead for the SSMU Fall Referendum in spring 2024. The strategy for our campaign was to rely on clear messaging - "Change for Change!" - and use graphs and clear designs to make the urgency

# Report from the Board of Directors

of our budget crisis clear. We also wanted to stress the value of \$1.75, and how the QPIRG fee goes a long way to provide invaluable services to students. We had a \$400 campaign budget from SSMU, which we used to buy a button maker, paper for our photocopier, and an Instagram ad.

During the campaign period, we posted on social media, distributed buttons, put up posters, and handed out flyers on campus. We found that in-person flyering was incredibly effective; a surprising number of students were interested or curious about QPIRG, and expressed an openness to voting yes.

After two weeks of campaigning, we were able to secure a majority yes vote (53.8%) for a \$1.75 increase in the fall referendum! We noticed that 21.2% of voters abstained from the question, which suggested that many students who voted were unfamiliar with QPIRG. We will keep in mind that reaching students who are unaware of QPIRG should be a priority in the next referendum. To close off the referendum period, we organized a QPIRG Yes Party in the library to celebrate our win!

## Board Dynamics

The board has a kind and welcoming dynamic. Throughout the year, we consistently met every two weeks, with a preference for online presence but offering a hybrid option over Zoom. Having a larger board, as well as this hybrid option, has allowed us to consistently meet quorum.

While the board experienced turnover in its membership, this was less striking than in the

previous year, and we have overall maintained a larger board membership. Additionally, we strongly encouraged all board members to be a part of at least one permanent committee (but also suggested a maximum of two committees). This has in turn allowed our committees to function more independently and effectively.

The board still lacks a conflict resolution committee, though a lot of work has been done by Carl Bystram, the Community Research and Working Groups Coordinator, to organize a conflict resolution committee together with QPIRG-Concordia and GRIP-UQAM. At this time, no QPIRG-McGill board members are participating, and this should be prioritized in the upcoming year.

## Future Goals

A priority of the Board is to strike a Board committee, which would be responsible for staying on top of tasks and organizing the Board, particularly when some members of the Board are not active. This should also help us manage long-term goals and projects, even when dealing with pressing concerns.

Additionally, the Board would like to take a more active role in the day-to-day functioning of the organization. This can be accomplished by the sitting Board members taking initiative to be well-versed in the organization's policy, such that they are able to relieve the staff of certain responsibilities.

Finally, the Board would like to review the Board manual and other relevant documents, such that they reflect the current practices of QPIRG. This may also make it easier to onboard and retain new board members.

# Report from the staff

## Year in Review

This year, QPIRG faced a severe budget crisis. As a result, our discretionary funding and community research program were put on pause all year. Much of our outreach and events budget was reduced dramatically until our deficit was resolved. Despite this, we strengthened our presence on campus and our community connections. Our Popular Education event series, Culture Shock and Spring into Action, were extremely successful and well-attended. We launched our membership program for non-students and offered free printing services to all members, including students who automatically become members through student fees. This resulted in higher foot traffic in the building and office, particularly from student activists seeking to print posters at QPIRG.

We finally secured a new health insurance plan for all full-time staff, which offers better benefits and no longer restricts access to recent graduates. We are happy to help other non-profit organizations secure insurance plans for their staff as well.

We were also able to gradually make improvements to the QPIRG office space; we designed a new office plan, decluttered, disposed of unnecessary furniture, acquired newer, sleeker, (and free!) desks to save space, and are now very close to being able to accommodate a large desk for the part-time and summer staff.

We are happy to report that we secured a fee increase of \$1.75 in both the SSMU referendum in the fall semester and the PGSS referendum in the winter semester! Our fee levy is now \$6.75

for all undergraduate and full-time graduate students, and \$4.25 for part-time graduate students, students in thesis additional session, thesis evaluation, and non-thesis extension. We are thrilled to be able to restore and expand our programming in the coming fall semester with our newly secured funding.

In our three permanent positions: Ivory Tong is now entering their sixth year as Finance & Administration Coordinator, and Nelly Wat is their fourth year as Outreach & Promotions Coordinator. Carl Bystram is now in their third year as Working Groups and Community Research Coordinator. We are pleased to welcome Gus the Penguin-Quetzal as the full-time, live-in Psychological Wellness Counselor and Morale Coordinator as of January 2025.

As part-time staff: Lola Milder joined QPIRG as the Campus Outreach Coordinator in May 2024, and will be leaving her position as she



*Gus the Penguin-Quetzal, new full-time staff member at QPIRG*

# Report from the staff

graduates this spring. Emily Hardie finished her second year as our SSMU Popular Education Coordinator, and will also be leaving QPIRG after she graduates this spring. Tatiana Povoroznyuk has just completed her first and only year as Resource Centre Coordinator, and will also be leaving her position upon graduation this spring.

Our School Schmoool Coordinators were Daniel Reilly and Zahra Haider, and our Rad Frosh Coordinators were Rama Al Malah and Méshama Eyob-Austin.

## Challenges

This year, we faced intense budget constrictions, and we developed many strategies to move forward and remedy the situation. Nevertheless, we had to make some key cuts in programming, and double our efforts in applying for grants, fundraising, and campaigning to raise our fee levy. Some notable casualties of these budget constraints include our discretionary funding program, the Community-University Research Exchange position, our community research program, our research stipends, and a decrease in our regular funding for working groups. Many of our usual programs ran on significantly lower budgets, including Culture Shock, Spring into Action and Rad Frosh, though the overall quality and attendance of the events remained high. SSMU also struggled with a significant projected deficit this year, and we have faced delays in receiving funding from them for our event series. Our response to this budget crunch has deepened our ability to think critically and strategically about our own programming, and has also fostered the development of many more community partnerships.

Student movements on McGill campus also faced heightened repression this year, which had many repercussions on our organization. McGill attempted to dismantle the pro-Palestine student encampment on its grounds and attempted several times to ban and delegitimize SPHR, one of our long-standing working groups. Following a successful vote for the student union to strike for Palestine, which passed with 72% approval, and the three-day student strike, McGill continued to undermine student democracy by moving to terminate their Memorandum of Agreement with SSMU. QPIRG is currently in confidential meetings with the McGill administration regarding our affiliation with the pro-Palestine student movement. While we cannot yet share further details about this situation, this could forecast growing tension in our relationship with McGill University after years of neutrality.

## Goals

Our goal is to progressively and strategically re-open the programs that were cut in the past year, including the discretionary funding program, Community Research program, Summer Research Stipends, and event co-sponsorships. We also hope to invest more funds into our Working Groups program to provide a ballast to grassroots groups as austere government policies affect many other funding organizations.

Lastly, we intend to safeguard the right to political expression on campus, and to maintain stability and good faith in our negotiations with McGill.

In solidarity,  
The QPIRG-McGill Staff  
Carl Bystram, Lola Milder, Tatiana Povoroznyuk,  
Ivory Tong, and Nelly Wat

# Alternative Library



## Resource Centre/ Alternative Library

Tatiana Povoroznyuk

### Circulation and Membership

- Library Circulation: 79 checkouts, 113 books borrowed
- Membership: 45 new members who borrowed books from the Library.
- This year Librarika was reinstated as a way to track circulation and membership. Library users use a paper or digital check-out sheet to borrow books, which is then transferred to Librarika by the Resource Centre Coordinator or volunteers. This keeps the barrier to entry low, but allows the public catalogue to display which books have been borrowed, and provides an easy way to track statistics. These procedures are noted in a new Library Procedures Guide.

### Free Textbook Loan Program: Located in Arts Lounge

- 2nd year of running the program
- 47 textbook donations provided by students and excess textbooks located at Ecole. Donation criteria was changed to textbooks used in McGill courses within the last 2 years.
- Loan statistics: 35 inquiries, 20 successful loans, 30 textbooks lent out.
- Promotion done in collaboration with the AUS, as well as our communications team.

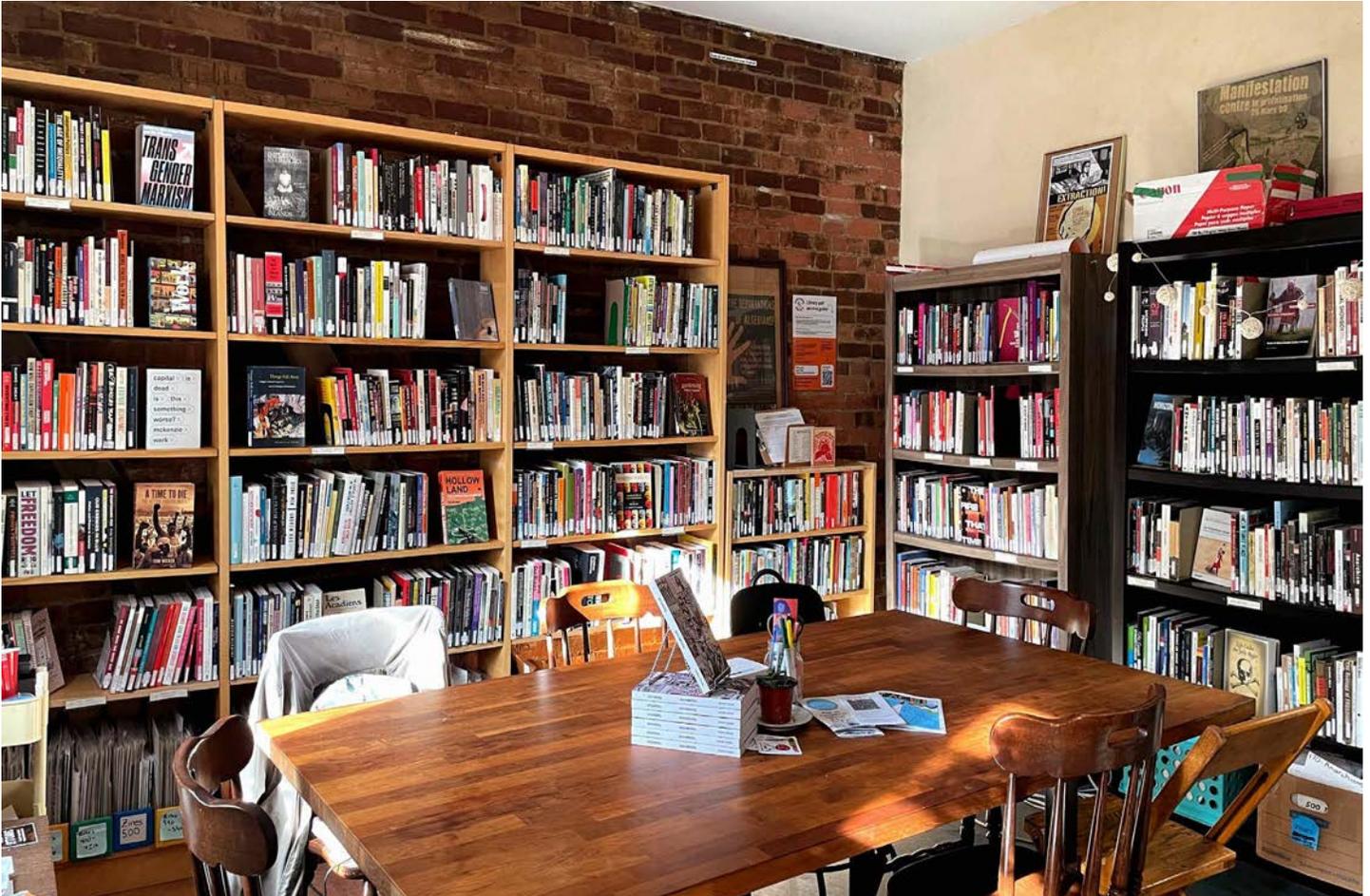
### Library Space

- Summer library move project: Following successful negotiations concerning the downstairs library space between QPIRG and CCMP, the library books have been returned to the downstairs library. Thank you to all our library monitors and those who helped with the move, especially Patricia Tudor.
- Consistent opening hours: Starting in September, the library was consistently open 4 days a week, monitored by volunteers and the Coordinator.
- Space revitalization: Efforts to clean up and beautify the space took place throughout the year. In collaboration with CCMP building management, we acquired new bookshelves, painted the walls, installed a coat rack, purchased a coffee machine, acquired a coffee table, and installed a grid wall display for zines and other materials. Thank you to Nelly Wat, Rebecca Reedman, Jonah Dimant, Taylor Gadoury, Salvatore Moscato, and Meghan Millward for helping revitalize the space!

### Collections Management

- Collections Merge: The library move was done in conjunction with the merging of collections between the CCMP-run community library and QPIRG library. This necessitated a process to analyze ~1000 volumes in the CCMP collection and decide if they would be integrated into QPIRG-

# Alternative Library



*The new and improved library space*

McGill's collection or donated elsewhere. Thank you to Sadie Rushing for drafting a formal collections policy delineating the purposes of the collection. The collections policy can be used as a guiding document into the future. Following the policy, we created a weeding manual for staff and volunteers. On July 23rd, the library held a weeding party, where ~30 new and old volunteers collectively worked through the books and made decisions towards weeding or keeping them. This was an incredibly successful event, pointing to potential in hosting public volunteering events in the future!

- Collections Processing: Thanks to 100s of collective hours from volunteers, we have finished classifying, cataloguing and labelling all books in this collection. This was finishing the process started by Nhuan Dong, last year's coordinator. Thank you in particular to Patricia Tudor, Sadie Rushing, and Fred Lemieux for the last stretch of this gigantic effort!
- 344 books total added to the collection!!!
- Catalogue update: Outdated call numbers in Librarika are in the process of being updated, with 75% of the collection verified up to date and reflective of book labels.

# Alternative Library

- Library Operations Manual: The coordinator formalized procedures for classifying and cataloguing books and zines, and managing circulation and membership in Librarika, meant for future staff and volunteers.
- Zine Collection: The zine collection was decided to be a distinct collection within the library, located in the library space and available for public browsing. Zines were classified and labelled according to the outdated classification scheme. We are in the process of re-classifying and re-labelling zines, and adding them to the Librarika online catalogue. Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed to this project!
- McGill School of Information Studies Collaboration: In collaboration with Professor Gracen Brilmyer and their INFS645: Archival Principles and Practice class, 9 subject-based finding aids were created describing curated zine collections. Students came in to choose their zines and write catalogue descriptions as well as summaries of the collections in late January and early February. The finding aid documents are in the process of being uploaded to the website, integrated into Librarika, and the zines themselves are being exhibited in the library space. Thank you to Gracen Brilmyer and all their students for their work!

## **New Material Statistics**

- Book Donations: 294
- Book Purchases: 3
- Textbook donations: 47

## **Archives**

- Archives Committee: An Archives Committee was formed in November. We achieved preliminary planning towards inventory of the collection, and created a metadata scheme that can be used to describe the collection. The coordinator was unable to continue the committee in the new year due to time restraints, but this should be something that QPIRG considers in the future. Future tasks include a systematic inventory of the collection, writing a collections policy, deaccessioning irrelevant materials, physically organizing and storing materials in a safe and stable manner, and creating a public online database. Thank you to committee members for their work:
- Archival Funding: The coordinator looked for funding to create a paid position to execute the tasks outlined above, as well as purchase archival materials and an additional computer.
- The Pathy Foundation Fellowship was applied for in December, but the project was rejected in January.
- The Documentary Heritage Communities grant from Library Archives Canada was applied for in January, with the application still pending at time of writing. Regardless of the outcome, the application should be saved in the future to provide project planning and budget guidance for future archival endeavors.
- Thank you to Carl Bystram, Ivory Tong, and Nelly Wat for their grant-writing support!

# Alternative Library

## Volunteer Program

- Volunteer Training: Two group volunteer trainings were held in the Summer in collaboration with Nelly. A volunteer information session was held in October, with one-on-one volunteer training as needed going forward.
- Library Monitoring was brought back as a regular volunteer task, with volunteers committing to attend a monitoring shift for the length of the semester. Thank you to our monitors for allowing the library to have regular hours: Jillian Boyd, Grailing Anthonisen, Safia Haiboub, Cormac Krupa-Gilmor, Hannah Kraft, Carolyn Kavanagh, Sam Fisch, Anya Labelle, Megan Millward, Freya McDougall, Rebecca Reedman, Maxine, and Indra.
- De-escalation training was provided to volunteers in collaboration with Comm-Un.
- 157 volunteers subscribed to the newsletter (+41 from 2024).

## Collaborative Events

- The library was used as a venue for a variety of events, community workshops, and meetings throughout the year. This includes as a location for Spring into Action workshops, and for “Between the Lines Book Club” started by rad froshies Hannah Kraft and Zeia Bachrach.
- Weeding party, July 23rd 2024
- Large scale volunteering event to aid the merging of two library collections.



*Pirgo reading a book*

Approximately 30 attendees, with dinner provided by Midnight Kitchen.

- Fun-raiser, October 12-13
- Finance committee held a fundraiser in the library space, selling work from local artists and books that were weeded out over the summer.

## Outreach

- Tabling at fall activities night.
- Postering and stickering campaigns at the start of Fall and Winter semesters. Thank you Lola and Nelly for your help!
- Maintaining presence on Instagram and keeping hours updated.
- Promoting Free Textbook Loan Program in January with help of AUS.
- Collaborating with groups throughout the year, including Between the Lines Book Club and INFS645 class.

# Alternative Library

## Finance

- Library operations ran on a very tight budget this year considering QPIRG's financial situation before the SSMU fee levy increase.
- Equipment purchases
- Labelling supplies and comic sleeves for zines: \$192.88
- Volunteer snacks: \$18.11
- Relying on CUCCR for free office/archival supplies!
- Library book purchases
- Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond Productivity Culture, Jenny Odell
- Slow Down: The Degrowth Manifesto, Kohei Saito
- Everything For Everyone: An Oral History Of The New York Commune, 2052-2072, Eman Abdelhadi and M. E. O'Brien
- Total book purchases: \$81.79
- Librarika payment
- QPIRG-M contributed \$110, subscription shared with QPIRG-C, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and Center for Gender Advocacy.

# Outreach Report

## Outreach

Lola Milder and Nelly Wat

The Outreach team (Outreach & Promotions Coordinator and Campus Outreach Coordinator) is responsible for volunteer and campus outreach and organizing and promoting QPIRG events. Lola Milder joined QPIRG as the Campus Outreach Coordinator in May 2024 and Nelly Wat continued as the Outreach and Promotions Coordinator.

## Year in Review

Our primary goal at this time last year was to establish a strong presence on campus in preparation for the SSMU fee increase referendum in the fall 2024 semester. Ultimately, through the hard work of the staff and board, we were able to secure a majority yes vote (53.8%) for a \$1.75 increase in the fall referendum! Interestingly, 21.2% of voters abstained from the question. This indicated to us that a lot of voters in the referendum were unfamiliar with QPIRG and therefore hesitated to vote yes, but were not strongly opposed to a fee increase. With this in mind, we will continue to work to establish better connections with students in the coming years.

Some critical aspects of our outreach strategy for the referendum included using uniform colors + fonts across our posters, having a clear, repeating slogan ("Change for Change!"), and visual designs that helped communicate dense info (like services QPIRG provides/ where the fee levy money goes) - you can see



more of our brainstorming here. We were able to purchase a button maker with the SSMU referendum budget, which we used to make campaign buttons. We also devoted a lot of energy to flyer-ing on campus; we found this to be an incredibly effective way to reach students who were not aware of the referendum or of QPIRG. We celebrated our win with the QPIRG Yes Party - a small gathering in the library with drinks and food, which brought some new faces into the space (and everyone got very excited about the button maker!). All in all, we are thrilled to have achieved this fee increase and hope that this will usher in years of expanded QPIRG programming, stronger community connections, and a more robust student activist movement on campus.

# Outreach Report



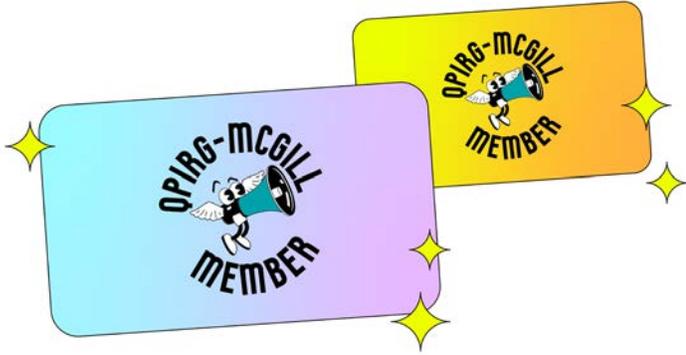
In anticipation of our fee levy campaign, we hosted a Fun-raiser in October with an art market, book and zine sale, and open mic! In addition to raising funds and bringing the community together into the 3516 Parc space, we felt like this event helped lay the narrative foundation for our fee levy campaign - i.e., we need money to keep our services alive and here's evidence we're trying to fundraise!

This year also saw the introduction of QPIRG Membership Cards, which we offered during tabling and pop-ed events. Since so many students don't know that they're members of QPIRG and able to access our services, these

cards were a good conversation starter and gave people a material symbol of their membership. Plus, these cards are an opportunity for non-students to become members of QPIRG. We also used these cards to write down people's printing codes - Printing was an incredibly popular service this year and brought many students and community members into the office, where they often learnt about our other services!

As always, we tabled at Activities Night in the fall and winter semester and had many positive interactions with students. We found it useful to have printed QR codes on the table that link to our Instagram, newsletter, and

# Outreach Report



## Challenges

This year, our events budget and outreach budget were suspended due to lack of funds. Fortunately, we were able to find a cheaper co-op printer for stickers, membership cards, and business cards before this financial year started, so we had enough materials to distribute at events and tabling. We also resorted to printing and cutting our own bookmarks on cardstock using the office photocopier, and later began printing the membership cards ourselves as well. While we were sadly unable to co-sponsor as many external events, we were able to be resourceful through the budget restrictions and reach students through face-to-face outreach strategies, such as tabling and flyering.

A persistent challenge faced by the outreach team is communicating effectively and concisely about QPIRG; we still encounter many students who are puzzled by the acronym or confused about our core projects and values. As suggested by the high number of abstentions for our fee levy question, many students are simply not encountering QPIRG on campus. It remains difficult to gauge or estimate just how many students are being reached by our outreach strategies, but we believe that postering and finding opportunities to speak to students face to face are highly effective.

Lastly, we continued to have fewer PopEd volunteers than pre-COVID years, but the library has more interested and committed volunteers than ever! Given the nature of most PopEd tasks - writing emails, logistics, planning

volunteer sign up. We also found that having a colorful table full of posters, stickers, books/zines from the library, and even our upright banner attracted people to our table. In terms of flyering and tabling outdoors, we found that the security was much more strict than previous years about permits. You can apply for tabling permits, but it can take a bit of time to be approved. Alternatively, we discovered that University and Mctavish are considered public spaces and do not require a permit, but still get lots of foot traffic!

Our outreach this year was also structured by our two annual events series: Culture Shock and Spring Into Action. To spread the word, we postered extensively in campus buildings, wheatpasted posters in Milton Parc, flyeried the Midnight Kitchen serving line (a newly popular flyering spot!!), and posted clear calendars on our Instagram and website. We also found that creating as many co-sponsorships as possible helped boost our event. In addition to our ongoing relationship with SSMU External Affairs, based on the theme of the event, we reached out to relevant student groups and labor unions on campus to collab! Co-posting with groups on Instagram or having them repost our events on their story significantly expands our reach.

# Outreach Report

for months ahead - the committee does not draw in or require a high volume of volunteers. Regardless, thanks to a full board and staff, and a strong relationship with the VP External, we were able to organize our two event series with no shortage of help.

## Goals

We are excited to continue expanding QPIRG's reach and connecting with students in the coming year. With that in mind, our goals for the next year are to:

1. Co-sponsor more external events and to attend these events;
2. Create a more personable image of QPIRG by:
  - a) Increasing the presence of QPIRG on campus through tabling, especially in more creative or unexpectedly high-traffic areas;
  - b) Handing out flyers
  - c) Posting more photos from our events
3. Invite and retain more volunteers and regular visitors to the office and library space through promoting the membership program;
4. Enhance our outreach efforts with new budget for tabling snacks & drinks, Instagram ad boosts, a personalized tablecloth, etc.

We are excited to be able to expand our programming with our newly secured fee increase next year! We look forward to be able to provide more resources and events to students than ever.

# Popular Education

# Popular Education

## Popular Education

Emily Hardie

## Year in Review

This year, Emily Hardie returned as our Popular Education Coordinator, a position hired by the Students' Society of McGill University's department of External Affairs. The Popular Education Committee welcomed new participants, as well as returning volunteers, staff, and board members. Because of QPIRG's limited budget, Popular Education had fewer resources than usual; however, in spite of these limitations, our events this year were better attended than prior years. We had amazing turn-out for Culture Shock and Spring Into Action, and excellent engagement, particularly with our community dinners, panel, and keynote. Thank you so much to all the facilitators, lecturers, and volunteers who made our event series possible, as well as Midnight Kitchen, People's Potato, Nilufar, and Restaurant Biryani for catering.

Over the summer, we screened three films: *Battle of Chile*, part 1; *Soraida*, *Woman of Palestine*; and *Conviction*.

Culture Shock took place from October 21st to 30th, 2024, and the theme was Transformation. The popular education committee organized a number of workshops, film screenings, and community events on what it means to transform our system without conforming to the existing one. Culture Shock was well-timed to help get the word out about our fee levy campaign in the SSMU referendum and demonstrate our values



Poster designed by Florence Carrier

& services to a new audience! We organized the following events:

- A Panel on the 'History of Montréal's Activism' explored the rich history of organizing in the city with speakers from various generations and across migrant justice, Palestinian liberation, women's rights, and police abolition movements.
- Two Radical Walking Tours of Milton Parc neighbourhood and McGill campus with a

# Spring into Action

critical presentation of the area's history

- Canadian Imperialism 101 Workshop with Tyler Shipley
- Zine-Making Workshop with the Prisoners Correspondence Project as an all-in-one primer of what you need to know about zines and their historic role in leftist movements
- A community dinner with servings from Midnight Kitchen and People's Potato
- How to Design an Effective Political Image Workshop talked about key design elements in posters and ways to disseminate political images
- Lupa ay Buhay (Land is Life) was a teach-in led by a community organizer concerning the experiences of peasants and farmers in the Philippines. The workshop explored the struggle of Philippine peasantry through art and conversations
- CKUTea x Music Lib Listening Lab & CKUTea Referendum Talks

Spring into Action took place from March 11-25, 2025. The theme of this year's Spring into Action was Home. Our event series this year aimed to explore different interpretations of home, including connections to houselessness, queer community, state surveillance, diasporism, and anti-colonial struggles. The events included:

- A community dinner catered by Midnight Kitchen and The Peoples' Potato
- Fuck le pinkwashing: Fighting rising islamophobia & transphobia in Quebec education through solidarity & accomplicity with RECESS
- Screening of Eviction with Director Mathilde Capone



Poster designed by Daylen Conserve

- Screening of Drylongso with Regards Noirs
- Home is Where Public Transit Is with Climate Justice Montreal
- Understanding and Supporting Sex Workers in our Communities with a community facilitator
- Inappropriate Content: Censorship in Prison Mailrooms with Prisoner Correspondence Project
- Keynote lecture by Dr. Alia Al-Saji, professor of Philosophy at McGill: Gaza as a Compass

# Spring into Action



*Robbie Madsen at the discussion on understanding homelessness*

- for Thinking: A decolonial philosophy of debilitation and resistance in colonial duration
- De-escalation Workshop: Communicating Through Mental Health Crises with Liz Singh
- Discussion circle on understanding homelessness in our communities with Lil Borger and Robbie Madsen
- [explores Palestinian resistance amid targeted attacks - The Tribune - March 25, 2025](#)
- [“Lupa ay Buhay” teach-in connects Filipino peasant struggles and Canadian imperialism - The Tribune - November 5, 2024](#)

## Challenges

### Pop-ed Coverage in Student News!

- [Robbie Madsen challenges misconceptions of homelessness in QPIRG-McGill talk - The Tribune - April 1, 2025](#)
- [‘Gaza as a Compass for Thinking’ talk](#)

We were not able to book events in McGill buildings this spring, so we had to adapt and find alternate venues. This proved to be a huge challenge, since we needed campus spaces for student-oriented events. We were able to book the 3475 Peel cinema space through the English

# Spring into Action

Department, fortunately, and we retained our SSMU room booking privileges. Though this was frustrating, it was wonderful to host more events in our library space at 3516 Parc, since it introduced attendees to our library services.

As mentioned above, our budget was limited this year compared to previous years, and we were not able to host as many events as we would've liked to. Despite this drawback, we were able to focus our promotion more heavily on fewer events. We have also not been able to increase our workshop facilitator honorarium rates since 2021, in an era of record inflation. Increasing our rates, as well as the hours we pay for, would allow a facilitator to work more closely with QPIRG to develop and refine their events. We also focused on collaborating with other organizations to defray costs, as well as on funding applications and requests.

On a smaller scale than the challenges discussed above, our process of coordinating some graphic design materials was delayed this year. It took longer than expected to incorporate our feedback and develop a final poster, which created some stress and a rushed promotion period. In the future, we could avoid some of this stress by starting the whole process earlier and creating more thorough reference materials about tone and preferred imagery so that the first draft is as aligned as possible with our goals!

## Highlights

Our events got some coverage by student newspapers (see above for links!) and we also recorded two of them ourselves, which are

practices to continue to strengthen the longevity of our events!

In addition to generating some conversation in the news, we found that many of our pop-ed events spurred discussions during and after events about how to integrate the workshop's concepts and conclusions into everyday organizing in Montreal. It worked well to co-host events with existing orgs and have a table of flyers, posters, and zines so that attendees had ways to plug in to ongoing work related to the event topic! Plus, providing free dinner is a good way to support attendees mingling together before or after the workshop.

Along the same lines, collaborating with existing groups (asking groups to repost our posts on their stories and directly co-posting) helped boost our event engagement on social media to new audiences. Our collaborative relationship with SSMU External Affairs was especially strong, including support with room bookings, funding, and promotions (co-posting on Instagram and poster in the SSMU building).

# Rad Frosh



## Rad Frosh

Rama Al Malah & Méshama Eyob-Austin

Annual report adapted by Ivory Tong

## Introduction

Every year since 1994, QPIRG-McGill has coordinated Rad Frosh, our organization's very own alternative orientation program on the McGill campus. The program gives students an introduction to the McGill campus and to Montreal. Through tours, concerts, panels, film screenings, and workshops, students get to know about social and political issues, movements and organizations in Montreal and at McGill.

The theme for Rad Frosh 2024 was Free the People, Free the Minds. The blurb was: "From Palestine

*Poster designed by Juliette Omar*

to Turtle Island, we have witnessed historic and unprecedented mass mobilizations on a global and local level. As the genocide in Gaza continues unfolding, people of conscience have risen up to declare their commitment to liberation; liberation from imperialism, from settler-colonialism, from exploitation, from capitalism, from oppression, from Western hegemony. We must put into practice what oppressed people globally have taught us; to resist the systems of oppression. From the heart of Tio'tia:ke, we look at Indigenous land, water, and community defenders as the central inspiration of resistance to the colonial state powers and as guides for developing strategies to uphold transnational solidarity. None of this is possible without freeing our minds from the narratives and propaganda that has kept us chained and subjugated. From the Student

# Rad Frosh



*Tatreez workshop with Amna Attia*

Intifada to the student strikes against tuition hikes, the students have affirmed their role in pursuing liberation and resisting until victory.”

## General

For this year’s activities we collaborated with the Association of McGill University Support Employees, Écoles sans police, the Students’ Society of McGill University department of University Affairs, the Association of Graduate Student Employees at MCGill, and the Kahnistensera. The venues we used were the SSMU Building, Brique par Brique, Le Frigo Vert, Parc Jeanne Mance, and Burnside. The food was provided by Midnight Kitchen.

We had a total of 49 people sign up as froshies for this year’s Rad Frosh, which was an increase from last year! Around 40 folks showed up to all of the events. We also allowed non-students to attend some of our events, which were posted separately on Instagram.

Many attendees felt that it was a positive and encouraging start to their time at university, as they quickly met like-minded individuals who shared similar values and ideals. The orientation allowed them to feel more connected to campus life and provided a sense of community right from the beginning. Students noted that the event helped them discover relevant campus groups, giving them a solid foundation in case they wanted to get more involved in activism or other causes later. However,

# Rad Frosh

some suggested that grouping participants based on undergraduate and graduate status during such events could make networking even more effective, as it would help students with similar academic experiences find each other more easily.

Thank you to all of the staff, speakers, and volunteers who participated to make Rad Frosh happen, especially the volunteer facilitators who made sure froshies felt supported.

## Outreach

Outreach efforts, although timed late, were successful and creative, with a higher turnout than the previous year. This included publicizing the individual events and reaching out to other groups for promotion. The choice of the programming was also significant and greatly contributed to effective outreach since it resonated well with the current social and political moment, especially in relation to Palestine and Indigenous struggles on campus. It enabled us to reach out to various organizations for promotion and support.

Our main poster, logo, and silkscreen design was designed by Juliette Omar. Rama also contributed social media graphics.

## Finances

We made around \$2100 from registration fees, and supplemented revenue with a few discretionary funding grants from AMUSE and QPIRG Concordia. This ended up being the cheapest Rad Frosh we had run in years, and the quality of what we offered remained high! Instead of planning costly parties,

as we had in previous years, we saved money on booking venues, DJs, etc., by planning more laid back nighttime outings to popular bars.

The most significant cost ended up being booking SSMU, as we used it for all three days, and there were additional fees that we did not have to pay in the past. For instance, we were forced to pay security fees, despite the fact that the building would have been open anyways during this time.

## Summary of Events

### Day 1

- 1PM - Registration
- 2:30PM -
- 4:30PM - AMUSE Workshop
- 6PM - Dinner
- 7PM - Tatreez Workshop
- 9PM - Night Out at Datcha

### Day 2

- 10AM - Breakfast
- 11:30AM Ecole Sans Police Workshop
- 12:30PM - Lunch
- 2PM - SSMU Know Your Rights Workshop
- 5PM - Community Fair
- 6PM - Dinner
- 9PM - Spoken Word/Open Mic Night
- 9PM - Night Out at Barbossa

### Day 3

- 10AM Breakfast
- 11:30AM - AGSEM Workshop
- 1PM - Lunch
- 2:30PM - Kahnistensera Solidarity Symposium and McGill Denies Genocide Walking Tour
- 7PM - Dinner
- 9PM - Film Screening of Off Frame by Mohanad Yaqubi

# School Schmool

## School Schmool

Zahra Haider & Daniel Reilly

This report was adapted from the 2023-24 exit report written by Talah Ezeddin.

This year's School Schmool Coordinators were Zahra Haider and Daniel Reilly. Nelly from QPIRG-M and Wade from QPIRG-C were the respective points of contact at the QPIRGs for support.

## Timeline

### JUNE

- Training and onboarding
- Ideas for theme (contact DisOrientation Coordinator)
- Confirm Theme
- 3 week call-out for submissions (deadline for submissions end of June or first week of July (Due Tuesday June 25th, by end of day))
- Start putting together "School Schmool volunteer & staff team"
- Project budget proposal
- Update resource list with "School Schmool volunteer & staff team"

### JULY

- Update & review resources list
- Submission selection (with "School Schmool volunteer & staff team")
- Budget proposal
- Agenda formatting
- Contact Accepted Submissions



Cover designed by Claire Cunningham

- Design promotional materials
- Update Religious Holidays
- Print & publish promotional materials

### AUGUST

- First draft of Agenda should be finished
- Confirm budget (get names & addresses for cheques to be written)
- Print Agenda
- Assemble Agenda
- Create clear distribution plan
- Begin distribution

# School Schmool



*Submission by Zoe Dubin*

## SEPTEMBER

- Promotion of Agenda
- Launch party!
- Distribution
- Exit interview
- Pass on any notes & reflections for next year's coordinator
- Brief written report (for the QPIRG Annual Report)
- 

## OCTOBER or November

- Presentation of this year's School Schmool at QPIRG-C AGM

## Budget

### Expenses

Printing (1,000 agendas printed using sustainable materials): \$8,263.70  
Stipends/Honoraria: \$2,050.00  
Cover: \$200.00

TOTAL:  
\$10,513.70

### Revenue

TOTAL REQUESTED:  
\$15,550.00  
TOTAL APPROVED:  
\$6,350.00  
DEFICIT:  
\$9,200.00

## Content

The theme of this year's agenda was "Resistance."

We put out callout posts for submissions on social media (the School Schmool Instagram and Facebook, as well as the QPIRG McGill and Concordia Instagrams). In the end, we got over 200 individual submissions, mainly from first-time submitters! All of the callout posts, as well as the submission guidelines, are available in the Google drive folder for our year.

We wanted to prioritize sourcing artwork for the agenda, including for the cover, from artists who

# School Schmool

file and layout problems in the first few proofs. However, in the end we managed to fix the layout, with the support of Nelly from QPIRG-M, and Katasoho put a rush order for the agendas so that they would be ready in time for the launch party on September 27!

The School Schmool Coordinators from 2023 would highly recommend using the basic structure from a previous year (we've put them all together here), because it will save an immense amount of time!

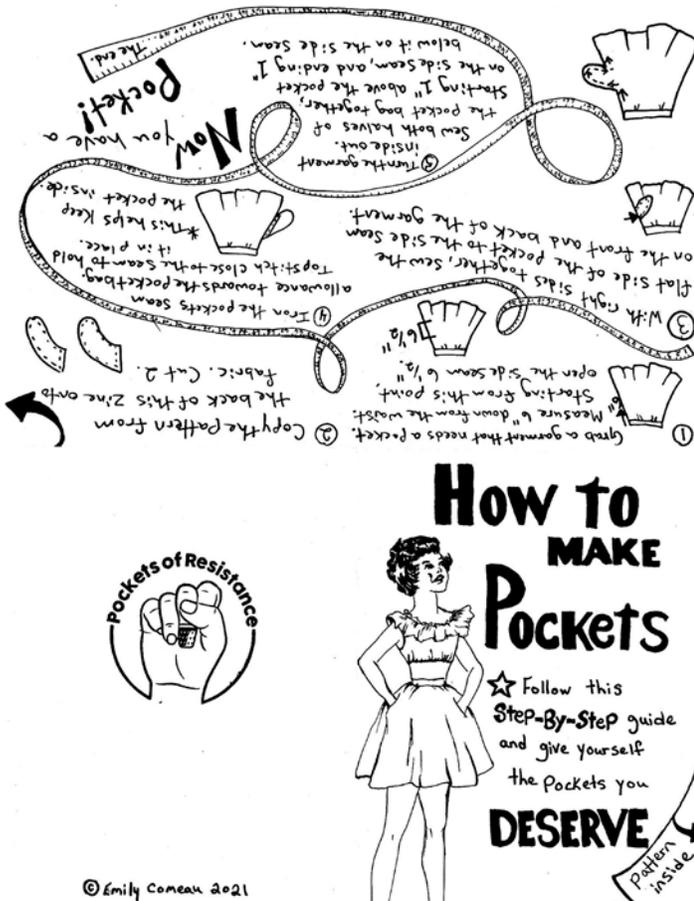
## Layout

Chadi and Sabine at Katasoho have been great: patient and supportive, very helpful. We printed 1,000 agendas, we did two test prints and once the final printing process began, all 1,000 agendas were printed, assembled and delivered to the QPIRGs. 500 agendas were dropped off at QPIRG McGill and QPIRG Concordia, each.

## Promotion and Distribution

Distribution began with emailing potential distributors (previous distributors of the agenda, as well as other places we thought would be interested) and then coordinating either pickup or deliveries with them. For pickup, we directed interested distributors to pick up agendas from QPIRGs McGill or Concordia. For deliveries, the QPIRGs' staff and board members stepped in to help drive and drop off School Schmools around the city.

We found it helpful to have a spreadsheet (here) that we shared with the QPIRGs and



Submission by Emily Comeau

sent in their submissions so we initially looked for our cover art among the visual submissions. We selected a piece from Claire Cunningham for the cover for a stipend of \$200, and we are really happy with how it turned out in the final agenda!

## Layout

Zahra was responsible for most of the inDesign layout work, while Daniel was responsible for managing the content and finances for the agenda.

We ran into some issues and delays in late August due to technical issues with the inDesign

# School Schmool

the volunteer team that included columns for amount of agendas per distro location, days and times the locations could receive deliveries, designated delivery person, etc.

## Website

We had pretty much ran out of hours by the time it came to upload things to the website so we ended up having to prioritize focusing on promo and distro. I did put together a folder of all the text submissions so Nelly from QPIRG-M could have an easier time uploading them to the site, and we recommend saving a PDF of the final agenda without bleed and printer marks for easy upload.

## Delays/Challenges

- Some of our usual funding sources were closed due to lack of funding - the SAF, which typically grants School Schmool a generous amount of funding was closed indefinitely. Other funding sources took a while to respond to our applications.
- Technical issues and difficulties using inDesign - however, these were sorted out in time with help from Nelly from QPIRG-M

## Recommendations (from 2023 Coordinators)

- Stay on top of organizing the Google drive folders, not just for your own convenience but also for future organizers;
- During regular meetings between

coordinators (which yeah, highly recommend regular meetings!), make sure to continually check-in about equal distribution of tasks so that one person doesn't end up being overwhelmed with tasks;

- Plan for at least one test print and at least two weeks for all agendas to be printed;
- Ensure that all visual submissions are high-resolution ASAP before beginning to format agenda;
- Most of the work is concentrated in the formatting and printing stage - I was doing at least 30 hour weeks during this stage so be prepared for that;
- Begin funding applications as early as possible - to the QPIRGs: I would recommend being clearer in the future about when funding applications usually go out as it was left quite vague this year and, with the rush of formatting and printing etc, funding applications fell to the wayside;
- The coordinators should be encouraged to read the exit report from the previous year!

# Funding and Endorsements

# Discretionary Funding & Event Co-Sponsorships

## Discretionary funding

One way in which QPIRG-McGill supports grassroots organizing is by providing funding for smaller-scale, non-institutional projects and initiatives. An annual budget is set aside each year by the QPIRG-McGill Board of Directors to fund such external projects. Campus and community groups are encouraged to submit requests for goal-oriented events that align with our mandate, up to a maximum of \$250.

This was an exceptional year for QPIRG - while we became more actively engaged in community and campus projects this year, our budget was also significantly constrained by inflation. We received many more applications than we could fund, and we had very little expendable funding for events.

In February of 2024, due to budget constraints, our Board decided to reduce the maximum funding amount to \$200. Beginning in May 2024, we closed discretionary funding indefinitely due to lack of funds. We hope to reopen applications for discretionary funding in fall 2025.

## Co-sponsorships

Campus and community groups are encouraged to apply for a co-sponsorship of up to \$500 with QPIRG-McGill when planning any social justice-oriented event that could benefit from our collaboration in organizing. Unfortunately, our event co-sponsorships were closed to applications this year because of budget constraints.

# Endorsements

## Endorsements

Date	Project
2024-05-21	« Ensemble pour Gaza et la Palestine » À SIGNER ET FAIRE CIRCULER DANS VOS RÉSEAUX
2024-05-21	MANIFESTATION à Montréal, dimanche le 9 juin, à 14 h : DES SANCTIONS CONTRE ISRAËL !
2024-09-12	International Day of Action for Palestine - October 5th
2024-09-12	La CDPQ doit cesser d'être complice des crimes d'Israël contre le peuple palestinien
2024-09-12	September 20th - anti-trans counter demonstration
2024-11-28	Solidarity with Canadian Union of Postal Workers on Strike
2024-11-28	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - November 29
2025-02-27	Élèves de Champs fee levy creation
2025-03-13	Palestine strike motion to SSMU - Yes Endorsement
2025-03-13	Students for Migrant Justice - Get Organized workshop
2025-04-02	Dalit History Month - SADAC Screening of Untouchable: Laughing Out Caste
2025-04-02	Rad Social Work Truth and Reconciliation Event
2025-04-10	Open letter to condemn McGill's attack on student democracy and threats to terminate memorandum of agreement with SSMU
2025-04-10	Palestinian Youth Movement - National March on Ottawa 2025

# Financial Report

## Finance

Ivory Tong

This is now my sixth year as Finance Coordinator at QPIRG-McGill, and the accumulated experience has been invaluable for growing my knowledge of financial management. This year was marked by austerity following our sizable deficit, which paid off with a modest surplus at the end of the 2024 financial year. It is becoming increasingly clear that to guarantee our programming and services, we must diversify our income streams. The fee levy model, although a critical provider of stability to our organization, should absolutely be supplemented by other sources of funding. I am looking forward to working with the other staff members, the board, and other QPIRG members, to build a stronger revenue base and leverage our position to further benefit our working groups, and larger community.

I am thrilled to announce that we passed our fee levy increase referendum for SSMU members this year, increasing our fee from \$5.00/semester to \$6.75. The student fee levy represents by far the most significant part of our revenue, bringing in about \$250k or 80% of our total revenue for the year. We also passed a PGSS referendum in the winter, but the results of that were invalidated; we are hoping that PGSS will quickly resolve this situation by opening another campaign period in May. In increasing our fee by 35%, we are looking forward to slowly restoring funding to programs that were on pause this year, particularly our community research funding (both Summer

Research Stipends and the Community University Research Exchange Coordinator). However, we are remaining cautious as the global economy enters a tumultuous period, creating further financial pressure on students. As I will elaborate below, our opt-out rate has been increasing precipitously year by year, and absent any sustained conservative opposition on campus, we conclude that it is the result of rising tuition and increased financial insecurity among students.

In the financial year ending August 31, 2024, we had a surplus of \$20 610. This is quite a relief, as last year we ran a deficit of \$64 373. Since I had previously erroneously calculated our cash flow surplus, we spent more than we had saved in 2020/21. Thanks to a sustained effort from all of our board and staff, we were able to rein in costs this year. The current surplus will go towards replenishing our savings, so that we are in a comfortable position to balance our expenses and revenues next year.

Importantly, we completed our audit dated Aug 31, 2024. Our audit was conducted by an independent auditor's office, Amstutz Inc. Working with Ron Amstutz was a great experience and we thank him for his patience and hard work. This was the first time we had worked with Amstutz Inc., and he did an incredible job ensuring continuity from our last auditor's office. The report outlines our major financial policies and shows that we have some credit and liquidity risk. Credit risk is the possibility that one party to an agreement will not discharge its financial obligation; for instance, if a grant fails to pay us. Liquidity risk

# Financial Report

is the risk that we will be unable to meet our financial liabilities, which is mainly in accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The audit is essential for us to maintain our financial health and we are very grateful that the auditors were able to work under unusually delayed circumstances to render the report to us.

Other updates from this year:

- I am extremely grateful this year to the sustained work of the Finance Committee. Its members this year - Ha Nhuan Dong, Joseph Liang, and Davide Ventrone - brought renewed energy and fresh insight to tackling our formidable deficit. I would encourage everyone to read through the Finance Committee report for a fuller understanding of how QPIRG addressed its budgetary problems, as the bulk of the research, analysis, and problem-solving, were conducted by the Finance Committee members. For instance, the Finance Committee report outlines more of our efforts regarding fundraising events. We also outlined plans moving forward regarding a change in our investments.
- As is the case every year, we apply to employment-based grants through government funding bodies, namely the Young Canada Works (YCW) and the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) programs. For our summer 2024 jobs, we received three YCW grants, one for School Schmool and two for Rad Frosh. The positions were funded at 70%. We also received a grant from CSJ for an eight-week Events Coordinator contract, funded at 100% of minimum wage, which ended up at 94% of the total cost. We worked with QPIRG Concordia to fund the remaining 6% that was not covered and the additional payroll costs, and the Events Coordinator primarily worked to liaise between our libraries. Finally, for the first time this year, we also applied to the Fonds étudiant solidarité travail du Québec (FESTQ) to fund our library position at 90% over the summer. This was an excellent experience and we are very grateful to the Fonds de solidarité FTQ for working with us for the first time.
- The work study program at McGill University remains a major source of funding for both us and students at McGill who require financial assistance; however, as I flagged in my last report, it has been fixed at a subsidy of \$5/hour even as wages increase. For comparison, minimum wage has gone from \$12.50/hour in 2019 to \$16.10 in 2025. A position that was once funded at 40% is now funded at 31% and falling. A workable solution for us this year was to use summer employment grants to defray costs for part of the year, but this does not do justice to financially insecure students at McGill who rely on the work study program to incentivize their employment.
- Although our revenues increased this year, there are unavoidable, unforeseen costs that arise in the course of any organization's activity. We are potentially facing a sharp increase in legal fees depending on the outcome of certain discussions with the university, so this will be a major area to monitor going forward.

# Financial Report

- Our opt-outs this year were approximately 14% of the student population. For us, this amounted to a total of \$50 675.50 for the 2024-25 year. Over time, there has been an upwards trend in the amount of opt-outs, which increased sharply this year, as the jump from 12% last year to 14% is the biggest difference between yearly opt-out rates in the time I've been working at QPIRG. However, we had anticipated that the increased cost of out-of-province tuition, as well as the higher fee levy amount, would result in more opt-outs. Ultimately, this opt-out rate is lower than what we had originally budgeted for at the beginning of our financial year. Going forward, I would recommend continuing to budget the fee levy conservatively as financial insecurity rises among students.

See Appendix B to view our audited financial statements.

Our accountants are Dan Lacroix and Stephen Kamp, whose diligence and knowledge is greatly appreciated, and they do so much for the financial health of QPIRG-McGill. Fanie Blais also works with them as a payroll technician, and has significantly contributed to improving my workflow by managing our payroll. Our deepest gratitude to the many groups and organizations with whom we collaborated with this year, or supported us in various ways, including but not limited to: the Students' Society of McGill University, the Concordia Student Union, the Association of McGill University Support Employees, QPIRG Concordia, Midnight Kitchen, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Student Society, People's Potato, the Sustainability Projects Fund, the Arts Undergraduate Society, the Philosophy Students' Association, and the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill.

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# Working Group Reports

## Accessibilize Montreal!

### Main activities

Accessibilize had a retreat at an accessible campsite to do visioning, take a break together, and future building. from September 27-30 / 24 inclusive.

We also worked on the following projects:

- Visioning for softness and ease as a group of disabled organizers
- Editing manuscript of member's autobiography
- Retreat
- Creating content for workshops/ Planning community

### Float-in Project

- workshops and/ or Float-In gatherings in partnership with local disability arts organizations Ideally, one at Verdun beach near the wheelchair accessible beach ramp, another at Pulp Books and one online over Zoom. At the gatherings we would lead discussions of what floating can do for the community as a metaphor. Where possible, we would get in the water and float together or simulate these sensations in our minds and bodies through somatic practices and writing prompts.
- Discussion prompts might include:
  - What is your body's version of floating?
  - How is floating together different or similar to floating alone?

- what is the story of a muscle relaxing.
- After floating, we will facilitate conversation and invite readings from those who would like to share. These float-ins will be attempts at collective co-regulation.

We shared resources with McGill students at free Palestine encampment.

### Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

- Further develop float project
- Outreach and build partnerships with disability and arts organizations
- hold first community float in



## Black Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance

### Events

- 5 year ISWAC anniversary gathering, in collaboration with the Montreal Sex Work Support Network - July 20, 2024
- Indigenous Plants Workshop (about surveillance & policing when organizing Indigenous garden projects) co-presented with Cyrus (Vanier

# Working Group Reports

- College student) - Defund La Police festival - Sept 22, 2024
- Tattoo gathering / traditional markings ceremony for 2-spirit & queer Black folks with tattoo artist Mel Lefebvre (co-funded by the Indigiqueer Circle) - November 23, 2024
- Invited speaker at Climate Justice Montreal's "Home is Where Public Transit is" event at QPIRG-M Spring Into Action event series - March 17, 2025
- We also attended & participated in the following community events:
- Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK launch of "From Our Eyes to Yours" report on Indigenous homelessness - April 25, 2024
- Prisoners Justice Day Vigil - Aug 10, 2024

## Main activities

This year we maintained our partnership with Nii'kinaaganaa Foundation, who have provided BIHRA with funds to distribute monthly to Indigenous people that are facing housing and food insecurity since 2022. We have regular relationships of support with these individuals and are in touch throughout the year. This year, we also provided a micro-grant to emerging organizers to create self-harm harm reduction kits for distribution to Indigenous youth.

Planning, caring for, and coordinating the Cedar Tea Project garden each growing season has been one of our main activities since it started in 2021. During the 2024 growing season, we hosted 3 small gatherings at the garden where community members helped care for and harvest our new Prairie Sage patch. We are grateful that we were able to support many individuals to access sage and sweetgrass this season as well as providing

seeds and seedlings to other organizations who wanted to establish their own medicine gardens. We were also able to prepare and offer a bundle of medicine for the Elder that opened the Prisoner's Justice Day vigil.

BIHRA members met on the Land twice last summer. We did ceremonies, harvesting plants and medicines, hikes and foodshare. Those outings are a meaningful activity for all of us and we are thankful to Laure for sharing her space with our collective.

The Indigenous Sex Work & Art Collective (ISWAC) operates under the umbrella of BIHRA. The collective was quite active in mobilizing this year. Through a strong presence in 2S and Indigiqueer communities, we were able to welcome new members in our collective. With the support of our friends and comrades at the Montreal Sex Work Support Network (a project of Centre for Gender Advocacy), we put together a summer gathering that was held at Le Frigo Vert last July. We learned a lot from our Elder Tealey Ka'senni:saks and from community members at the gathering and as we celebrated our 5 years of existence, we are also looking for ways to meet on a more regular basis with our community to share knowledge and experiences as well as building community and capacity.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We are currently preparing for the upcoming growing season, and plan to invest in some new garden tools to make sure it's successful. We are planning to organize a few gatherings at the garden as well as participating in

# Working Group Reports

community gatherings at the space where the Cedar Tea Project garden is currently located, Le Jardin Collectif de l'Allée des Tanneries. We will continue our ongoing mutual aid distribution in partnership with Nii'kinaaganaa Foundation, and continue to provide ad hoc support to individuals in our networks when the opportunity arises. We anticipate that the self-harm harm reduction kits will be ready for distribution during summer and fall of 2025. ISWAC has met recently to discuss our plans for the upcoming year, and have decided to host monthly socials for Indigenous sex workers for at least the next 6 months. We will use this time to connect, and to work on creating some popular education and outreach materials for our collective.

## Black Healing Centre

### Events & Main Activities

We hosted our second annual two-day Black Wellness Summit, which brought together over 200 participants for workshops, panels, and healing sessions. In collaboration with the McGill Ingram School of Nursing, we offered free blood pressure checks and health information to attendees.

In partnership with the Shift Centre for Social Transformation, we welcomed Yolo Akili Robinson, founder and executive director of BEAM, to Montreal for a two-day gathering called Black Visionary Futures, focused on mental health, healing, and collective imagination.



We hosted two breathwork and yoga workshops specifically for Black women, creating space for rest and embodiment.

We facilitated two community mindfulness workshops centering collective care and grounding practices.

During Black History Month, we collaborated with Community Healing Days to offer free bodywork sessions to Black community workers, recognizing their often-overlooked contributions and need for healing.

This year, The Black Healing Centre focused on providing accessible mental health and wellness support for Montreal's Black communities. We partnered with four community organizations to deliver 1-on-1 mental health support through our Community Care Practitioners training program, providing culturally relevant care to those often underserved by mainstream

# Working Group Reports

services. Our Board of Directors also underwent governance training to strengthen the Centre's leadership and operations.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We just moved into our space after a year of struggling to find a space because of racial discrimination.

This summer we hope to host lots of wellness events and workshops in our space and invite other BIPOC led practitioners and organizations to come and facilitate activities in our space.

## Centre for Philippine Concerns

### Events

#### **International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines Canada Chapter Conference and Assembly - May 3-5, 2024**

The ICHRP-Canada Conference and 3rd General Assembly brought together advocates, organizers, and allies from across sectors in Canada to strengthen solidarity with the Filipino people's struggle for human rights and justice.

We were one of the core organizers for this event. We helped with the logistics since the conference was hosted in Montreal.

#### **PSONA Art Build - July 14, 2024**

In preparation for the People's State of the Nation Address, we gathered to make art cutouts and a sculpture to highlight issues in the Philippines. One of our members provided an

in-person sharing to his experience living under Ferdinand Marcos's Martial Law in the 70s and 80s.

#### **People's State of the Nation Address Carnival - July 20, 2024**

Members of Centre for Philippine Concerns, partners, and allied organizations gathered in Parc Mackenzie-King yesterday to express a People's State of the Nation Address (PSONA) in response to Ferdinand Marcos Jr's third SONA speech.

#### **Public Forum And Community Potluck: The 50th Year Of The Philippine Labour Export Program And The Current Situation Of Filipino Migrants - August 16, 2024**

We had a guest speaker, Joanna Concepcion (Chair of Migrante International) join us for an event at the IWC. There were 30 people in attendance and we were one of the organizers.

#### **Migrants Mass - October 20, 2024**

As a member of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, we helped co-lead the Migrants Mass held by a Filipino church in Montreal. We helped draft the content and the post-service potluck.

#### **Christmas Party - December 15, 2024**

Held by the Filipino Parents Support Group, we gave a speech for migrant families. We also helped develop a cultural activity with partner organization Anakbayan Montreal.

#### **Letter Writing Workshop - March 23, 2024**

We held a letter writing workshop for political prisoners with Pinay Collection (a social

# Working Group Reports

enterprise) and partner organizations such as Anakbayan Montreal and Migrante Quebec. This event was held in honour of International Women's Day and we wrote letters to women political prisoners in the Philippines.

## Main Activities

### **ICHRP Canada Conference and General Assembly ▪ May 3-5, 2024**

The ICHRP-Canada Conference and 3rd General Assembly brought together advocates, organizers, and allies from across sectors in Canada to strengthen solidarity with the Filipino people's struggle for human rights and justice amid worsening global conflict and repression under the Marcos-Duterte regime. The event took place over several days as a space to educate, strategize, and organize around international solidarity, human rights violations, and resistance to imperialist and authoritarian forces. It took place at the University of Montreal and Saint Columba House on May 3-5, 2024. We had 150 people attend from across Canada with guests from the United States and the Philippines.

### **People's State of the Nation Address Carnival ▪ July 20, 2024**

This is an annual activity that we mobilize as a way to bring many partner and allied organizations together to highlight the injustices in the Philippines and for Filipinos around the world. This year, we held a carnival-style event with a piñata, water balloons, testimonies, and Filipino snacks. We decided to do a play on these familiar style carnival events by politicizing them and drawing symbolism to real issues.

### **Letter Writing Workshop - March 23, 2025**

This letter writing workshop was a significant event for us as it was the first time we worked with Pinay Collection - a social enterprise that supports social and liberation movements. We have not held a letter-writing workshop for political prisoners in a while so it was a great opportunity for us to bring in a new format to our sphere. We brought out around 15 people who were able to write 1-3 letters each for identified women political prisoners. We held this event at IWC and were able to talk about some of our members' experience meeting political prisoners in the past.

## Student Engagement

We meet with and work a lot with Women of Diverse Origins, who is also a working group. We participate with them in their annual International Women's Day launch. They also held a press conference to which we helped provide communications and tech support.

We attend QPIRG events such as their Culture Shock and promote it to our partner organizations. As a QPIRG McGill working group, we also promote QPIRG and McGill-related activities to our partners and allies so they're up to date with campus activities.

We participated in two class talks led by our partner, PINAY Quebec and in coordination with two professors at McGill (Kazue Takamura and Ina Filkobski). In these class talks, we talked about the situation of Filipino migrant workers and the conditions in the Philippines that force them out of the country in search of work.

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Finally, we've been helping to initiate a new campus-based organization called Students for Migrant Justice, which has initiated some activities on campus and will likely apply to be a QPIRG-M working group next year.

## CIRCLZ

### Events and Main Activities

Our main public event is our broadcasting of our show and it happens online, put online on January 1st of each year. Our usual events are a writing retreat, screenwriting training, rehearsals and production of the filmed skits.

The production of our show including the writing retreats started on September 6th, 2024 and ended on January 1st of 2025. The writing retreat happened in a cabin where we spent 2 days and a half being trained by comedian Garihanna on how to write comedy. We collectively pitched ideas and wrote our skits. We then selected the preferred skits, corrected them and assigned directors. We did directing trainings. Conducted rehearsals and produced the show during the months of October and November. In December we edited the show, so we could be able to broadcast it starting on January 1st. Each year we are pleased and grateful for the returning participants and also the new, We grow slowly but surely. Each time our members learn a new professional skill and we are proud to write Haitian stories while being Haitians ourselves to combat the misrepresentation of our community in the media.

### Student Engagement

We need help on that part ! One member of our group participated in a panel at the SSMU on histories of mobilizing in Montreal but we definitely need to get deeper on this end. We hope our future projects can help us build better connections !

### Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We will do a new writing retreat this time we want to invite the actors to be part of it and therefore learn new skill. We are also considering adding a new dimension to our project that aims to share content year long. We want to conduct discussions on social issues that affects the black community in Montreal. And we need to meet and plan for how we are going to be able to add this to our current project.



## Climate Justice Montreal

### Events and Main Activities

#### Workshops:

We hosted multiple workshops on resisting false solutions to climate change. Our workshop is crafted around the Hoodwinked in the Hothouse zine and focuses on issues such as hydroelectricity, carbon capture, natural gas

# Working Group Reports

and the real solutions to the climate crisis. We have hosted online workshops and in-person workshops for activist groups and for CEGEP students.

## **Film screenings:**

We co-hosted a screening of the Bad River documentary and panel with invited guests Joe Bates and Gracie Wauchekon of the Bad River Band. We also co-hosted 2 films with Cinema Politica.

Town Halls/Knowledge-Sharing events:

- We hosted an event called Beyond Fares: Building Climate-Resilient, People-Centered Transit Systems at the SHIFT Centre with Rage Climatique and Concordia Public Scholars from the Next-Generation Cities Institute. The event also celebrated the English launch of Against Car Culture: Transport for All! from Rage Climatique, a journal examining how capitalist and colonialist agendas fuel car dependency, rising transit costs, and decaying infrastructure.
- Last Spring, we hosted our major transit campaign town hall, where we brought together organizers focusing on policing, gentrification, disability justice, Indigenous sovereignty, and justice for the unhoused. The town hall was meant to capture the breadth of our campaign.
- Just recently we co-hosted Home is Where Public Transit Is with QPIRG McGill, where we discussed how economic, physical and social access to public transit shapes the way we live and defines our home, as well as the role of public transit for unhoused communities and the way it could act as a sanctuary space.

## **Coalition-building:**

We have been expanding our (free, expanded, accessible) transit coalition over the last year, which now includes Écologie Populaire, Ex Aequo, Defund La Police, Demain Verdun, Montreal Chinatown Roundtable, Travailleuses et travailleurs pour la justice climatique, and TROVEP.

## **Popular education:**

We have on average hosted a popular education event on transit, greenwashing, and decolonization every 2 months over the last year with multiple partners and allies.

## **Protests:**

We have co-organized 3 transit protests and marches since last Spring, as well as attended and spoken at many of our allies' protests (around trans rights, disability justice, Palestinian liberation, etc.)

## **Major Changes and Plans for Next Year**

We plan to continue the coalition-building process and ramp mobilization around our transit campaign demands. Now that we have built a solid base, we are ready to ramp up the campaign actualize the purpose behind coalition-building, which is both to inform our campaign and to spread it to other groups (train the trainer model) so that our network can legitimately make demands on those in power. Some of our upcoming coalition meetings will be with Comm-Un, Brique x Brique, Comité Bails, and Black Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance.

Our biggest change is the implementation of our honoraria system for members, which we

# Working Group Reports

implemented in the Fall. Members who do work for CJM and its campaigns beyond general meeting attendance are compensated for a maximum of 10 hours per week. Since then we held our visioning in the middle of March, but no major changes were made. We focused mostly on optimizing our existing procedures to focus on retention and the impact of our campaigns. Our membership has definitely at least doubled in the last year, though.



## Community Cooks Collective

### Events and Main Activities

Community Cooks Collective (CCC) hosts biweekly events coordinating the cooking, collection, and delivery of bulk home-cooked meals and sandwiches to local shelters supporting people in Tiotià:ke/Montreal experiencing food insecurity. This is our fifth

year as a QPIRG-McGill working group.

- We've continued to host regular bi-weekly cooking events where we mobilize volunteers to make meals for shelters in the city.
- In May 2024, we held a second "Cultivating Collections" event to bring together individuals and organizations engaged in food security issues, to provide a place for collaboration and connection and to thank our volunteers for all their hard work. The event was held at Frigo Vert, and included a shared meal and a balcony gardening workshop provided by Coop Cultivaction

We generally host two cooks per month: one in-person sandwich cook and one at-home cook. This winter we decided to change our operations slightly to respond to decreased participation in the home cooks, replacing them with in-person events hosted at the People's Potato kitchen. By doing so we've been able to make bulk batches of heartier meals like soups, curries, salads, etc. while creating a space for volunteers to meet one another, talk about issues and connect. Each session typically produces around 50 batches of food, which are delivered to the Open Door (Milton Parc). At these cooks, we've also been able to prepare food for another organization, Community Advocacy Tiotià:ke (CAT), which organizes town halls for shelter users to better advocate for their needs.

We are still hosting in-person sandwich cooks at the Innovation Assistance kitchen space at St. Jax Centre. During these cooks, ~10 volunteers make sandwiches with ingredients provided by CCC, which often include fresh ingredients donated by Innovation Assistance and Coop Cultivaction.

# Working Group Reports

These sandwiches are delivered to The Open Door and Projets Autochtones du Québec (Quartier des Spectacles) on the same day. At each event, we aim to produce 150-200 sandwiches.

This year, we were fortunate enough to get some coverage in The Link. Zachary Cheung spoke with our organization as well as others in the food security space and included us in this portrait of the community kitchen ecosystem developing in the city.

## Student Engagement

In March, we teamed up with Reform and Resettle, a student-led charity that aims to address homelessness and poverty, to jointly organize a sandwich cook.

As active members in Montreal's food security space, we have been able to participate in research and community building activities. We attended the McGill Food Summit in March, which brought together food and food-security related projects in Montreal to share resources and discuss common issues. We also participated in Community Engagement Day in September 2024.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

This summer, we plan to host a small event to celebrate CCC's fifth birthday! This will likely be a potluck/picnic style get-together where volunteers can come meet and enjoy some food together.

As we plan to cook mostly out of community kitchens now, some of our organizing members

are getting MAPAQ certified to help ensure best food and kitchen safety practices.

We hope to continue collaborating with other organizations such as Coop Cultivaction to receive fresh produce during their growing season. In addition and where possible for us, we want to continue to prepare food for community organizations such as CAT that align with our mandate and mission.

Our biggest change this year has been the phasing out of our original "at-home" cook format due to low participation. Thanks to collaboration with the People's Potato, we've been lucky to use their industrial kitchen space to host volunteers and better concentrate our efforts. This move also increases accessibility, as we can now provide all the ingredients and tools needed to cook the meals and offer more hands-on instruction to less experienced cooks. In addition, this allows us to build stronger relationships with our volunteers.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of QPIRG-McGill, and intend to reapply for working-group funding to continue our cooks into the future.

## Food Against Fascism

### Events and Main Activities

We did weekly Food Distribution in Verdun on Saturdays from 12:00-2:00. We also did a number of solidarity servings throughout the year including; Housing Day Diner for OPDS,

# Working Group Reports

Trans March in September, SLAM Community Support Meeting.

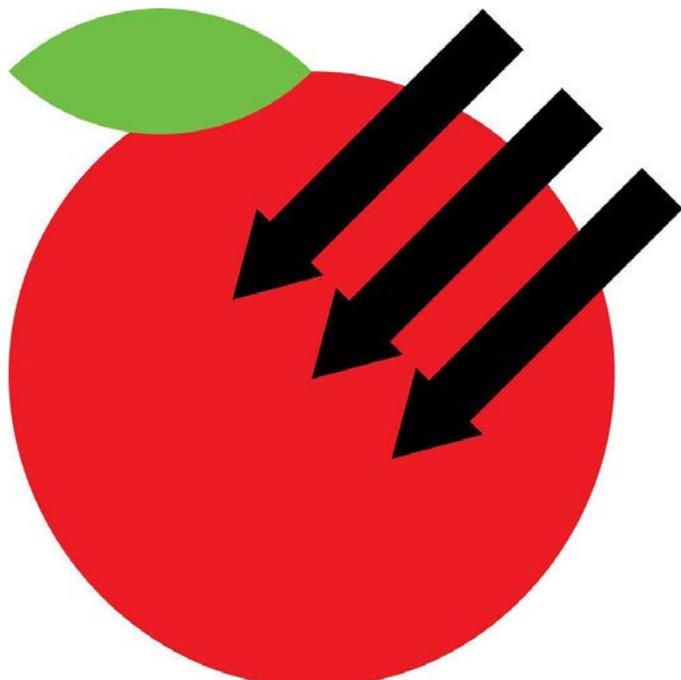
The majority of our activities this year consisted of doing our weekly food distribution in Verdun on Saturday afternoons. And providing solidarity catering to support other organizations and events.

## Student Engagement

We assisted Qpirg McGill by lending our equipment and resources to support their community dinners. We provided coffee on a semi regular basis to support the McGill encampments while they were active.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We plan to continue our weekly servings and solidarity servings. We will coordinate with Cultivaction to provide fresh vegetables and herbs during our servings.



## Pan Asian Collective

### Events and Main Activities

- Asian open mic night at BMP - collection of artists sharing stories, songs, comedy and music/dancing
- PAC picnics - potluck style picnics for low pressure community building during the summer (recurring)
- Zine night with Superboat people and central powerhouse
- meetings, event planning for summer season, community gatherings, promotional support.
- Coming up there are many community building opportunities and we have been planning to bring back unPACK which PAC was founded around.

### Student Engagement

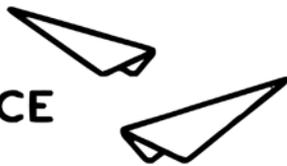
All events are open to McGill students (all coords are ex-students) Many events in Milton Parc and McGill ghetto. We had a small collaboration with SASSA (South Asian Studies Student Association) when our events happened at the same time and place.

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## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

- UnPACk x2: W(TF)hat is Asia? and Home/homeland and being settlers of colour
- Queer Asian Picnic May 18th
- Asian Book Group ongoing in summer

## PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT



## Prisoner Correspondence Project

### Events

#### Weekly volunteer drop-in hours - QPIRG Concordia

For years, we have maintained our volunteer drop-in from 5-9pm on Tuesdays at QPIRG Concordia. This system works very well for us to recruit casual volunteers who can help process the hundreds of letters we get every month. Collective members are also able to regularly meet with each other and discuss the different tasks we've taken on.

#### Resource blitzes - QPIRG Concordia

Every month, we host "resource blitzes", where we specifically focus on responding to requests we've received from inside members for zines from our resource library. It has successfully drawn many new volunteers into the project as an addition to our regular drop-in volunteer hours.

#### Writer's Block - Nueva Era

In addition to our other recurring volunteer events above, we also run a space every month dedicated to communally writing to our inside penpals, for people on the outside who would like accountability to maintain their penpal relationship.

#### Match-Up Workshops - Online, Nueva Era, T-Picnic, etc.

This workshop was developed to facilitate the recruitment of outside pen-pals, by presenting an introduction to our project, the expectations and guidelines for folks who want to write, and then letting participants browse through the bios of our members and pick someone to correspond with. By presenting it at different queer events, we've been able to raise a much higher profile for PCP in the local queer community. We also adapted the workshop for an online presentation, which worked very well to spread the word in other cities.

#### Abolition 201 - MTF Congress

We presented a more in-depth overview of abolition for organizers assembled at a congress organized by Mouvement Transféminine (MTF).

#### Penpal picnic - Parc Lafontaine

After much demand, we organized a social event for Montreal-based penpals to meet each other. Unfortunately, this event did not have the most turnout, but we are reflecting on other ways to connect outside penpals with each other.

#### Zines in Prison workshop - Culture Shock

For QPIRG-McGill's Culture Shock event series,

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we ran a workshop on the history, culture, and importance of zines, with a particular focus on the value of zines inside prisons as a form of knowledge-transmission. At the end, participants made their own zines.

## **“Completely Inappropriate”: Censorship in Prison Mailrooms workshop - Spring Into Action**

This workshop, also designed for a QPIRG-McGill event series, focused on censorship faced by prisoners through restrictive and often arbitrary mailroom practices.

## **Main Activities**

**Correspondence:** As always, the main focus of PCP is to build solidarity in the queer community beyond prison bars, primarily through a pen-pal project. Over the past year, we had 360 new inside pen-pals and 171 outside sign-ups. This year, we started sending out general surveys to our outside penpals updating us on the state of their correspondence; this has been very helpful for us to keep tabs on who is actually matched up with a penpal, and whose correspondences have ended. Our inside sign-ups were briefly disrupted by the Canada Post strike in November and December, during which we did not receive any mail sent to us by prisoners.

**Support and Advocacy:** Many of our inside members are still waiting for outside pen-pals, so in the meantime, the PCP collective offers limited support in the form of referrals, research, and resources. We intend to do more coalition-building with other groups working in the prisoner justice ecosystem, in order to provide more helpful, local referrals. We also participated in

WriteOn’s mail-in campaign to demand access to the internet for federally-incarcerated people in Canada. In the US, our trans members have faced increasing attacks on their rights to healthcare and safety, first from the governor of Florida, and more recently from the federal government. We have been actively in communication with trans women who have reached out to us to inform us of how these changes have affected them, and we are dedicated to spreading the word about people’s lived experiences in the hopes of sparking further advocacy campaigns.

**Inreach:** We issued our annual newsletter in December, after a few months of delay due to issues in the distribution process. We continue to have problems distributing our newsletter to Missouri; since the state’s Department of Corrections adopted a digital mail policy, our newsletter has been rejected from the physical address for not being a publication, and from the digital mail address for being too long. Inreach continues mainly through word of mouth inside. After some of our members visited the Federal Training Centre in Laval, we are hoping to use the advice given to us by incarcerated people in Canada to expand our inreach efforts to Canadians.

**Outreach:** As part of our efforts to recruit more outside pen-pals, we focused heavily on workshops, panel appearances, lectures, social media, and tabling. Over the past year, we have worked with Brûlances, Constellation, Prisoner’s Justice Day, Masked Pride, the Toronto Queer Film Festival, Cinema Politica, Article, CLAC, Wretched of the Moon, Defund Fest, RAFALES, and more, on various panel appearances and tabling events. We also produced t-shirts to sell

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at these events. Our members gave lectures on our work to classes at Toronto Metropolitan University and Brock University.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We are finalizing plans to transfer our considerable archives to a gay archiving organization. As mentioned above, we are also hoping to expand our inreach to Canadian prisons. We hope to accomplish more coalition-building through the Prison Book Program email list, as well as a national initiative for organizations working alongside queer prisoners that is being started in the United States. Overall, as our work is more needed than ever, we are focusing on growing our capacity as a collective, and we always welcome new volunteers!

## Salon du Livre Anarchiste

### Events and Main Activities

We will be hosting two days of events for anarchists and people curious about anarchism over two weekends in the fall of 2025.

Our current collective consists of BPOC as well as Jewish and Muslim anarchists. We hope to reach communities that have historically not been centered or given the space they deserve in the Montreal anarchist milieu.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

Since the last bookfair in 2023, four collective members have left and two new ones have joined

the remaining three. The current collective has taken the time to address problematic behaviours, and how they've repeatedly played out to make the bookfair less welcoming to marginalized people. It has been deeply important to us not simply to push through and avoid tough conversations, as we have done in the past, but instead to understand the underlying biases, forms of socialization, and structures that have previously shaped our internal dynamics, not to mention the bookfair itself, and as a consequence, too often reified the logic of white supremacy in our processes and project. By taking internal care rather than ignoring painful tensions, we have strived to take the time to ensure the well-being and longevity of our collective, and in ways that would increasingly extend solidarity to all at the bookfair. For 2025, we have had to change our plans for the bookfair as another group started promoting their copycat event before we had a chance to announce our return. With our venue, weekend, and booksellers already booked, we have had to change direction and organize our event for the fall. The format will be slightly different as a result.

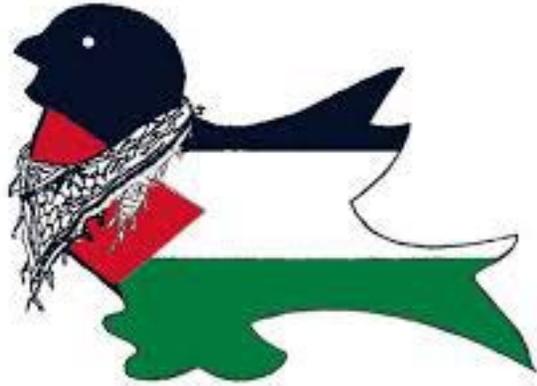
We aim to again host the Montreal Anarchist Bookfair in May 2026.

## Students in Solidarity for Palestine's Honour and Resistance

### Events

We held multiple fundraising events for Gaza including poster sales, bazaars, and

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community dinners. We also held lots of alternative education events about Palestine and Lebanon.

## Main Activities

We held rallies, protests, alternative education events, teach ins, movie screenings, and much more. We also helped facilitate programming related to Palestine during the SSMU strike for Palestinian Liberation.

Most of our base is McGill students, they are the bulk of who attends our events, including protests, prompted directly by McGills financial and academic complicity in the genocide of Palestinians.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

We will continue to mobilize for Palestine until we achieve full Divestment, Academic Boycott and termination of student disciplinary cases related to Palestine.

## Trans Patient Union

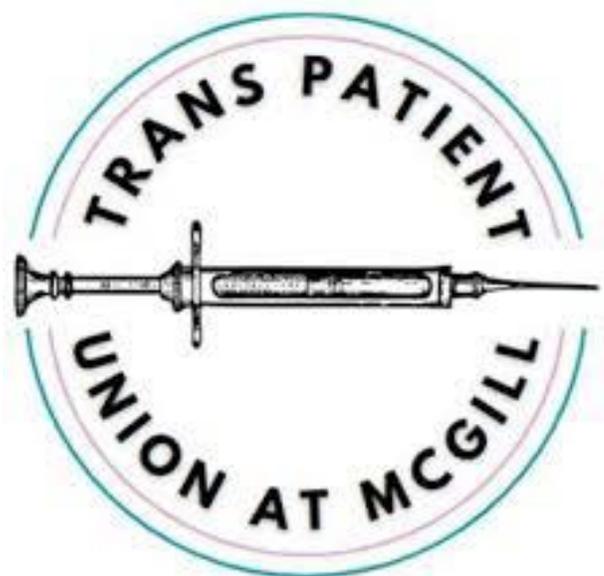
### Events and Main Activities

#### Resources:

- Published the Accessing Permanent hair removal as a trans patient in Montreal (EN&FR), January 2025
- Meet a Patient Project: connected about 10 patients since May 2025
- Provided individual assistance to about 25 patients since May 2025

#### Surveys & Interviews

- Published GRS Mastectomy survey In February (\$20 compensation), got 79 responses (EN&FR)
- Interviewed 27 new patients since May 2024



# Working Group Reports

## McGill Wellness Hub & Concordia health clinic

- When the Hub's primary HRT doctor went on leave, our public pressure helped secure a new HRT doctor in January. Now we have a stronger relationship with the Hub than ever and we hope to see more HRT providers soon.
- Met with Dr. Perera in November before her leave of absence
- Met with medical director Dr. Alex Hunting in March to discuss getting more doctors to provide HRT
- Will meet with the new HRT doctor Patrick Moynihan April 17th.
- Met with Dr. AJ Rubineau in February in preparation for her leave of absence (not very productive)

## Trans student GreenShield insurance advocacy

- GreenShield has implemented many of our coalitions' suggestions from last year! Including
- Phone banking event for better Studentcare coverage, November 13th (very poorly attended)
- SSMU now offers bursary style gender affirming coverage, TPU members participate in the committee to allocate funds. As long as this stays properly funded it's a really big success that massively increases access to coverage.

## GRS advocacy

- We have been meeting monthly with 12 other queer/trans orgs in Montreal to advocate for

improvements to gender-affirming care by the province and the care offered at GRS. We are working with a MNA and providers with connections to GRS surgeons. We are still in the data collection phase of the project and are writing drafts of the change we want to see at GRS and with RAMQ and the MSSS.

## Member Recruitment

- Recruited 12 new members since November 2025, primarily for communications, translation, fundraising, and the Meet a Patient Project

## Had the following media appearances:

- 2 hour group interview on Ckut Queercorps x Venus, August 22, 12PM
- Interview for The Eyeopener (TMU student paper), September 2025
- The (McGill) Tribune & (McGill) Daily covered our Hub advocacy, January 2025
- Interview with Pivot news, March 2025
- Interview with La Converse, March 2025

## Unruly Writers' Club

### Events

#### 2024

Thursday May 2- independent writing and peer to peer skill share on how to generate ideas

Thursday May 16- independent writing with shared brakes

Thursday May 30- independent writing and

# Working Group Reports

revising session

\*\*\*Saturday\*\*\* June 15- independent writing with shared brakes + hangout/ celebrate before we take a break

Thursday July 11- independent writing with shared brakes + Carl to discuss ckut?

Thursday July 25- independent writing with shared brakes

Thursday August 22- peer to peer skill share on fun forms/ "hermit crab" forms

Thursday September 5- independent writing with shared brakes

Thursday September 19- independent writing with shared brakes Laure

\*\* WEDNESDAY October 2- independent writing with shared brakes Alyse

Thursday October 17- independent writing with shared brakes and discussion on lifting up each other's work Laure

Thursday October 31- costumes and masks Reed and Alyse Cohosting

\*\*SATURDAY November 16- independent writing with shared brakes Aimee

Thursday November 28- independent writing with shared brakes Alyse

Thursday December 12- independent writing with shared brakes and season end celebration Aimee

## 2025

Thursday January 9- independent writing with shared brakes

Jan 23- independent writing with shared brakes and breakout room for those interested in grant/ zine fair planning

Feb 6- independent writing with shared brakes

Feb 20-independent writing with shared brakes

\*\*Wednesday\*\* March 5- Aimee independent writing with shared brakes

March 20- independent writing with shared brakes and peer to peer skill share on writing with care for our readers

April 3- independent writing with shared brakes

## Main Activities

We hold drop-in online workshops every two weeks where members work on their individual projects and build community and mutual support. We also host workshops on themes like revision, short fiction, worldbuilding, sensory writing, experimental poetry forms and emphasize the importance of creative cross-training in order to build members' capacity. Increasingly, members who first joined as attendees are now taking leadership roles and facilitating their own workshops. New hosts are paired with experienced for mentorship first and then they lead sessions when they are ready.

- 2024 - 2 new workshop hosts added to schedule
- Collective begins planning a reading and workshop series for 2025-2026
- biweekly writing workshops continue
- 2025 - collective continues planning a reading and workshop circle series for 2025-2026
- biweekly writing workshops continue
- Mentorship of new hosts
- Presentation at Access in the Making Lab
- Applied for two grants to revive queer between the covers zine fair in the upcoming year (funding dependent)

# Working Group Reports

With over 70 members, we have student members from McGill who join workshops regularly. We have staff and professors from McGill who are members as well.

## Major Changes and Plans for Next Year

- Regular bi monthly events will continue
- Hoping to revive queer between the covers zine fair in the upcoming year (funding dependent)
- planning a reading and workshop circle series
- Looking into wage subsidy options for member who is bottom lining book fair project

We are dreaming up more public facing events while maintaining our focus on protecting our members' creative time and community building.

## Women of Diverse Origins

### Events

We hosted several significant events this year, with the most prominent being:

#### **International Women's Day Rally & March (March 8, 2025):**

On March 8, 2025, we held a powerful rally and march in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal under the theme "Women Taking Back Our World, Taking Back Our Power!" This event aimed to amplify the voices of women around the world who are resisting patriarchy, capitalist exploitation, wars, colonialism, and violence, while also



connecting these global struggles to the local issues faced by women in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The rally started at 4:30 PM at Place Norman Bethune, and the march kicked off at 5:00 PM, drawing thousands (estimated 2000 attendees) of participants from various grassroots groups, unions, and solidarity movements.

#### **Press Conference on International Women's Day (March 6, 2025):**

A key precursor to our rally, this press conference was attended by activists and media outlets to discuss women's issues in various regions and movements. Marcella Siciliano (Ici, On Boycott Amazon Campaign), Marie Bernadine Jeudy (speaker on Haitian women's issues), and Viviana Medina (Immigrant Workers Center), Reileen Dulay (speaker on Filipino women's issues), Viviane Michel (Speaker on Indigenous women of Turtle Island), Christelle Kanga (Immigrant Workers' Center's Women's Committee) and Tara Alami (Palestinian Feminist Collective) highlighted global struggles, resistance movements and local struggles, while WDO delivered their yearly anti-imperialist analysis and overview of local and international women's situation.

# Working Group Reports

## Main Activities

### **International Women’s Day Rally & March (March 8, 2025):**

The rally and march were the focal point of our year’s activities. The event featured speeches from activists such as Viviane Michel (Innu activist), Samar Alkhdour (Palestinian activist) and Mayada Ageeb (activist with Sudanese Canadian Association), with 2 speakers representing Women of Diverse Origins. We collaborated with Divest4Palestine to display an art installation along the march route: a giant papier-mâché MK-84 bomb, symbolizing the complicity of Quebecois and Canadian arms manufacturers in supplying weapons to the Zionist army in their ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. In addition, we hosted the Raging Grannies, who performed feminist and anti-war songs during the march. Members of “Ici, On Boycott Amazon” also presented a street theater piece addressing Amazon’s recent firing of over 4,000 workers and the closure of their warehouses, which were direct retaliations against the workers’ unionization efforts.

### **Workshops:**

We held 2 workshops to prepare banners, placards, and train “Guardians” for the annual rally and march, teaching them chants, de-escalation techniques, and engaging participants in the planning process.

### **Weekly Planning Meetings and assessments:**

Throughout the year, we maintained weekly open meetings to ensure that all members had the opportunity to contribute to event planning, tasking, and logistics. After our activities, we

hosted an evaluation meeting, open to anyone who participated in this year’s activities, to assess our work and improve for next year.

### **Social media:**

We created posts on international issues, such as the situation of women in Sudan, the history of Palestinian women’s resistance, and the challenges faced by migrant women in Canada. Additionally, we live streamed our press conference on Facebook to increase engagement and reach a wider audience.

### **Involvement in the anti-NATO summit :**

We were involved in organizing against the NATO Parliamentary Assembly that took place in Montreal, in November 2024. That involved participating in various meetings as part of a broad coalition of groups against militarism and war, then organizing a demonstration on November 23, 2024, which was followed the next day by a day of conferences and discussions.

## Student Engagement

In collaboration with Students for Migrant Justice, we organized a banner-making event at the McGill Arts Building in preparation for International Women’s Day 2025. The event was a collaborative effort where we mobilized about 20 people, mostly McGill students, to come together and create powerful banners with feminist and anti-imperialist messages. The event was advertised on the SMU Listserve, which helped us reach a wide audience of students. We also handed out leaflets promoting our events to the student population. In addition to the banner-making activity, we

# Working Group Reports

also took the opportunity to recruit guardians for the rally that would follow the event. This helped ensure a strong and organized presence at the rally, with many McGill students stepping up to support the cause.

In November we were on the panel of QPIRG McGill's event "History of Montréal Activism" at McGill's campus in October 2024. This was alongside organisations "École sans police", the Immigrant Workers' Centre, Elena Stoodley and "Old People for Palestine".

## Plans for Next Year

### **Archiving project:**

We will continue documenting the history and legacy of Women of Diverse Origins over the last 24 years, with a focus on its grassroots organizing and the impact of our work.

### **Educational discussion group and orientation:**

We will host some reading and discussion groups for new FDO/WDO members, to deepen their understanding of anti-imperialist issues and our statement of unity and our history as an organization.

### **Planning for Next Year's International Women's Day Events:**

Early preparations will begin for International Women's Day 2026, including the rally, forum, and associated activities. We will hold orientations for new members, including outreach to McGill students, to encourage their participation.

# Appendix A: Media Coverage

AD

Montreal

## McGill asks police for help as pro-Palestinian protesters dig in on 4th day of encampment

2 students filed injunction request to ban the encampment from university property

Erika Morris, Matthew Lapierre - CBC News - Posted: Apr 30, 2024 8:52 AM EDT | Last Updated: April 30, 2024



McGill University has asked for police assistance as pro-Palestinian demonstrators dig in on the Montreal campus, and two students are asking for a court injunction to clear the encampment.

Despite rain, mud and the possibility of an injunction at the pro-Palestinian encampment on McGill University's downtown campus Tuesday afternoon, protesters say their spirits remain high.

They say they're staying put until the university divests from companies [with business interests in Israel](#).

Some of those camping out overnight spread soil to absorb rain, dug trenches and scooped water with plastic pitchers. Others handed out yellow ponchos and umbrellas to protesters supporting them outside the gates. Dozens of people arrived to set up tarps and bring supplies including rain boots and food to the encampment.

Between chants like "rain or shine, we will stand up for Palestine," protesters blasted Arabic music and danced in the pouring rain.

On the fourth day of the encampment, police motorcycles stood nearby and an injunction request from two students asking a judge to prevent groups from protesting near McGill buildings wound its way through Quebec Superior Court.

Carl Bystram, who works at QPIRG-McGill and is taking part in the protest, said the university should make more efforts to listen to the students.

"It's quite disgraceful of McGill to be calling the police on this encampment," they said. "They should be more open to negotiations with students."



A protester uses a shovel to dig a drainage trench outside of a muddy, wet, pro-Palestinian encampment at McGill University. (Erika Morris/CBC)

Earlier Tuesday, university president Deep Saini said in a statement sent to students and staff that McGill was resorting to calling for police assistance because officials "failed to reach a resolution" with protesters.

Fabrice Labeau, McGill's vice-provost of student life and learning, spoke to [CBC's As It Happens host Nil Köksal Tuesday evening](#), saying administrators had made several attempts to reach out to the groups protesting.

"The McGill participants in the encampment would refuse to put forward proposals through their legal counsel to us in terms of when they would end the encampment," Labeau said.

"We've seen an increase in the number of tents. We've seen the arrival of large numbers of people from outside the McGill community. And we've also heard the reports of antisemitic rhetoric being used, and this is under investigation on our end."

**WARNING | This video contains distressing content:**



WARNING: This video contains distressing content. McGill University provided a version of this video to CBC News that was shared on social media on Sunday. The provided video — which contains the text '20 Jihadists against one Jewish Israeli student being told to go back to Europe' — is being investigated by the university, which called the behaviour in it 'unequivocally antisemitic.' CBC has not verified the video's authenticity.

On Sunday, the university said it was investigating a video published on social media that included what it said were antisemitic remarks.

Tuesday, McGill shared the video with CBC News. The video lists McGill University as its location and includes protesters chanting "all the Zionists are racist, all the Zionists are the terrorists," as well as "go back to Europe."

The video provided to CBC News contains the text "20 Jihadists against one Jewish Israeli student being told to go back to Europe."

CBC News has not independently verified the video's source, nor if the people in the video are part of the encampment. The video is one of 27 included in the injunction request on behalf of the two McGill students.



Pro-Palestinian activists bring in supplies at their encampment on the McGill University campus Tuesday, April 30, 2024 in Montreal. (Ryan Remiorz/The Canadian Press)

The encampment is one of dozens at universities across North America. Students at Columbia University in New York, where the first such encampment was established, have occupied a school building after the university threatened to suspend those taking part in the protest.

On Tuesday, the university began suspending students. Those at McGill say they're "prepared to keep each other safe" if police move in on the encampment.

Mara Thompson, an undergraduate student at McGill and a member of Independent Jewish Voices who has been sleeping at the encampment since Saturday, said the camp had established a strict code of conduct for participating protesters with rules banning hateful speech and discrimination.

"We take this very seriously and make sure not to perpetuate antisemitism and Islamophobia," said Thompson, who is Jewish.

"Antisemitism is a real and threatening issue in the world, but conflating it with anti-Zionism, I think, confuses people and risks actually making it harder to recognize antisemitism when it does happen," she added.





A man reads a sign of demands posted outside a pro-Palestinian encampment set up on McGill University's campus in Montreal, Tuesday, April 30, 2024. (Christinne Muschi/The Canadian Press)

Thompson said students from several other Montreal universities were also camping at the protest and that it was never meant to be exclusive to McGill students. She pointed out that there is a long history of students contesting McGill's financial investments, like the anti-apartheid boycott, divest and sanction movement in the 1980s and '90s and, more recently, the push for the university to divest from fossil fuels.

Alanna Thain, a McGill faculty member in the English department, said she was at the encampment on Tuesday to support the students there. She said they weren't preventing access to buildings, and encouraged administrators to come speak to the students directly.

"It's really threatening to call the cops on an encampment that's about conversation, that's about peaceful, non-violent forms of protest," she said.

## Injunction decision expected Wednesday

Meanwhile, lawyer Neil Oberman, who represents McGill students Gabriel Medvedovsky and Raihaana Adira, is asking a judge for a provisional injunction against the encampment.

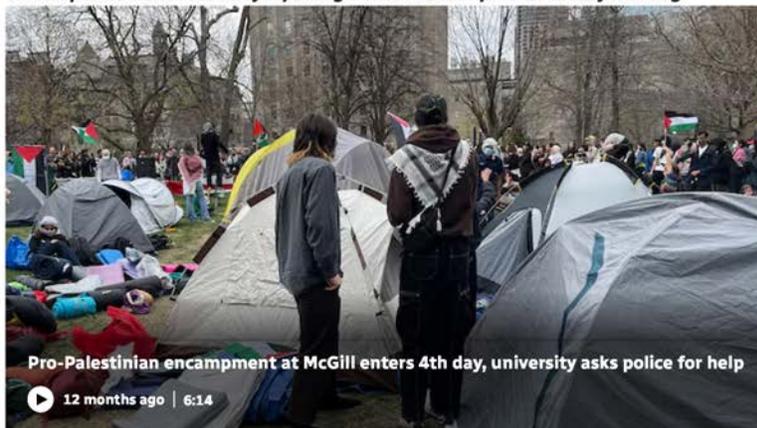
The injunction request was argued at the Montreal courthouse Tuesday afternoon. McGill University is named as an interested party in the case.

- [Protesters at McGill pro-Palestinian encampment are staying put despite warning for them to leave](#)
- [Students set up 'indefinite' pro-Palestinian encampment at McGill University](#)

The plaintiffs called for five pro-Palestinian groups to be prevented from taking protest actions within 100 metres of McGill property.

Superior Court Justice Chantal Massé said she would make her decision on the injunction request known on Wednesday.

**WATCH | CBC's Rowan Kennedy reporting from the encampment Tuesday morning:**



CBC's Rowan Kennedy reports from McGill University, where a group of pro-Palestinian protesters have set up an encampment. The university has requested police assistance after it 'failed to reach a resolution' with the group on Monday.

The plaintiffs allege the groups have "created an environment of hate on campus," which they say has made them uncomfortable to attend classes and exams. They also allege they have faced harassment and intimidation from the defendants.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

Sarah Shamy, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Youth Movement Montreal, said "this is part of a larger pattern where Zionists have used bureaucratic mechanisms and legal mechanisms to suppress Palestinian activism." She stresses that the protests have remained peaceful.

In a statement, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights McGill said they "organized this encampment under the context of an ongoing six-month-old genocide which has killed over 40,000 Palestinians" and "are planning on staying until our demands are heeded."

On Tuesday morning, a Montreal police spokesperson said "no crime is being committed" at the encampment and the situation is a civil matter. The spokesperson said officers will continue to monitor the demonstration and are ready to enforce a court injunction if it is granted.

Izik Hesselink, a Concordia University student, brought supplies to the McGill encampment Tuesday. He said the nearby police presence was disconcerting, but had also solidified the group's resolve.

"I just hope this continues across the nation and that other student activists and groups can come together, and make their voice heard because it's vital and complacency is the antithesis of what we're trying to do here," Hesselink said.

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*With files from Rowan Kennedy, Melissa François, Radio-Canada and The Associated Press*

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(Holden Callif / The Tribune)

## MCGILL, NEWS

# QPIRG launches paid membership program for non-McGill students

by Mairin Burke — on September 17, 2024

**Mairin Burke**  
Author

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill ([QPIRG](#)) is rolling out a [Community Membership](#) program this fall. Although only McGill students were previously eligible for membership at QPIRG—a [grassroots collective](#) concerned with anti-oppressive social and environmental justice—this new program will allow those in the greater Montreal community the opportunity to connect more deeply with the organization.

QPIRG offers a variety of services such as [Rad Frosh](#), event series such as [Culture Shock](#) and [Spring Into Action](#), and access to an [Alternative Library](#) and a [free textbook loan program](#). Any McGill student who has

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It's time for the United States to finally get its 51st state

APRIL 11, 2025

paid their student fees for the semester, including the \$5 CAD opt-outable QPIRG fee, is automatically a member of QPIRG. Although membership was previously reserved for McGill students, QPIRG's programming has always been open to the general public.

The new Community Membership program has introduced two tiers of non-student enrollment: A basic annual membership option, which is equivalent to a student membership, and a "Friend of QPIRG" option.

The basic membership, which operates on a pay-what-you-can model with a suggested fee of \$10 CAD, entitles the holder to printer access for 500 political posters and 100 personal prints annually, a reserved copy of the planner and resource guide that QPIRG publishes every year, and a membership card. The "Friend of QPIRG" option, priced at \$15 CAD, further entitles purchasers to a QPIRG tote bag, a personal thank you postcard, and "bonus surprises throughout the year."

Nelly Wat, QPIRG's full-time Outreach and Promotions Coordinator, explained that the organization began to consider implementing a non-student membership system as early as February 2024 to address their increasingly limited finances. Citing a rise in the cost of resources, Wat stated that QPIRG has had to cut the budgets of their Working Group, which are collectives that undertake research and action through organizing around a specific social justice issue. Current working groups include The Black Healing Centre, Solidarity for Palestine's Honour and Resistance (formerly Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights) at McGill, and The Trans Patient Union. QPIRG has also had to indefinitely suspend discretionary funding opportunities for small-scale projects to keep their external services available.

"As long as we're able to address this budget crisis we're in, [our] events will remain free," Wat said.

Nhuan Dong, a non-student member of QPIRG who also sits on the organization's board, told *The Tribune* that the new membership program also seeks to increase QPIRG's connection with the community.

"We have been having financial issues with operational costs [...] and also were trying to find a way to re-engage with non-student community members in a more meaningful way so that people feel they are really a part of [QPIRG] instead of loosely connected."

As a McGill alumnus (BA '24) who was employed by the QPIRG Alternative Library during his time as a student, Dong expressed how meaningful QPIRG continues to be in allowing him to maintain connections and seek personal development opportunities. Dong noted that the organization was especially important in supporting him in transitioning from the university to the workforce.

Wat echoed this sentiment, explaining that the membership model will only provide a small supplement to revenue and is more about heightening McGill students' awareness of what the QPIRG entries on

More in McGill:



**Students organize protest, programming, and pickets in historic three-day strike for Palestine**

April 9, 2025



**McGill announces intent to end**



**A welcome until it wasn't: The double standard of Quebec's secularism**

APRIL 11, 2025



**Term limits on elected officials infringe on democracy**

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**Farewell to The Tribune: The last words from our graduating editors**

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**Concealed identity: How social science research overlooks multiracial participants**

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The McGill Tri

Save o...

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- 1 She dodie 03:33
- 2 Mystery of Love Sufjan Stevens 04:08
- 3 we fell in love in ... girl in red 03:04

Make Me Feel

intent to end contractual agreement with SSMU, taking parties to mediation

April 9, 2025



Checking in on McGill's Wi-Fi: Students report connection issues disrupting academic work

April 9, 2025

their Minerva statements contribute to.

"Community members access our services for free. They don't pay a fee levy to QPIRG, but students do. So [this] would level the playing field [...] and help students realize they get a lot for their dollar."

In an email to *The Tribune*, Carl Bystram, another representative from QPIRG, added that the fee increase would draw students' attention to the financial contributions they provide to the organization through student fees while promoting their services.

"We hope that the membership campaign will encourage them to learn about our events, campaigns, programs and services, and to hopefully directly benefit from the organization that they have helped to build," Bystram wrote.

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## One Year Later

Israel must end its violence

by Editorial Board / October 7, 2024

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Yunjie Zhang

On this day last year, Israel [began](#) its most brutal assault on Gaza to date after Hamas militants launched a surprise attack on Israel and killed [around 1200](#) people. Over the past year, Israel's violence has only escalated, expanding to the West Bank as well as Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen. At the time of writing, over 41,000 people have been [confirmed](#) by the Ministry of Health to have been [killed](#) in Gaza, including nearly 16,500 children. This number is likely an undercount: [estimates](#) from independent local medical initiatives have placed the true death toll at close to 200,000.

The past year has been devastating for the people of Gaza. In September, it was estimated that [66 per cent](#) of Gaza's infrastructure was destroyed by Israeli

bombing, [including](#) hospitals, schools, and residential buildings. Most of the population has been displaced multiple times, with Israel continuously attacking areas it labels “[safe zones](#).” The humanitarian crisis has even led to a [polio outbreak](#) in Gaza, the first in 25 years. Israel has been blocking [humanitarian aid](#) from entering Gaza, attacking both those seeking and distributing aid, in violation of international humanitarian law. Reporters Without Borders found that [Palestinian journalists](#) attempting to document their genocide have been [systematically targeted](#) by Israeli forces.

In July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [ruled](#) Israel's occupation of Gaza and other Palestinian territories to be “unlawful.” They demanded that Israel immediately end its occupation and provide reparations to Palestinian victims. [Overwhelming evidence, cited by countless international legal experts](#), shows that Israel's actions constitute a categorical genocide.

In the past month, Israel has also escalated attacks on Lebanon, carrying out [nightly air strikes](#) on Beirut and launching [ground incursions](#) into Southern Lebanon in preparation for an invasion. On September 23, Lebanon experienced its [deadliest attacks](#) since the end of the 1975- 1990 civil war, when Israeli air strikes killed 492 people and injured at least 1645 more. It is utterly deplorable that instead of complying with international [orders](#) to cease its operations, Israel has instead expanded its violence to neighbouring countries. Israel's actions have brought the Middle East to the brink of regional war, and the international community must do everything in its power to stop Israel before even more lives are lost.

Israel is not acting alone. Its campaign of genocide in Palestine and Lebanon is fueled by weapons imported from abroad, including from Canada. Although the Trudeau government [stopped](#) approving new permits for weapons exports to Israel, it has not revoked any existing permits. According to an [investigation](#) by *The Maple*, approximately \$95 million in military goods manufactured in Canada could end up in Israel by 2025. Furthermore, Canadian manufacturers are continuing to export military goods to the United States, which is Israel's [main arms supplier](#). For example, a recent [investigation](#) by *The Breach* found that the engine sensors used in Lockheed Martin's F-35 warplanes are solely manufactured by Gastops, a Canadian company. It is imperative that Canada take an immediate stand against the Palestinian genocide by imposing a two-way arms embargo, a [demand](#) echoed by many civil society groups. The fact that Israel has been allowed to act with such impunity for the past year, enabled by governments such as Canada and the United States, is shameful.

The effects of the ongoing inhumane violence have been deeply felt by people across the world. Many McGill students have family, friends, or loved ones whose lives may be in danger. In this digital age, we are all witnesses to the violence and dehumanization inflicted by Israel on Palestinians, live-streamed on television and on social media platforms. We are living through what Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour has called “[the most documented genocide in history](#).”

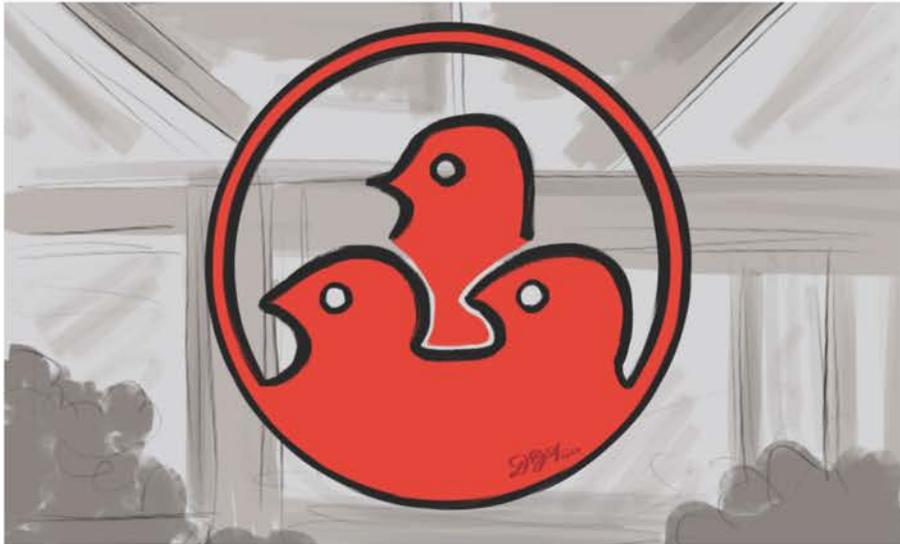
It's easy to feel as if we are powerless to stop these injustices, but there are still ways that we as students can take action. We can take part in the global [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions \(BDS\) student movement](#) calling on universities to divest from companies complicit in genocide. Additionally, there are ways to take action in and around McGill such as going to events put on by QPIRG ([@qpirgmcgill](#))

and Arts for Palestinian Liberation (@artsforpalmtl) which focus on bringing attention to the genocide through art, media, and community. Beyond academia, we can engage in [protests calling for the Canadian government](#) to take a stand against genocide. If you're able, you can also financially support people in Palestine and Lebanon by donating to organizations providing aid, such as the [Palestinian Children's Relief Fund \(PCRF\)](#), [Medical Aid for Palestinians \(MAP\)](#), the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees \(UNRWA\)](#), [Build Palestine](#), and Islamic Relief Worldwide's [Lebanon Emergency Appeal](#).

We at *The McGill Daily* editorial board stand behind all our readers who have been affected by the horrors unfolding in the Middle East. We are committed to practicing anti-oppressive journalism, as outlined by our [Statement of Principles](#), and reiterate our [call for an immediate ceasefire](#). We understand that words cannot capture the gravity of the situation and the magnitude of the suffering. Nevertheless, our hearts go out to you all on this very difficult day.



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(Drea Garcia Avila / The Tribune)

## EDITORIAL, OPINION

# Fall 2024 SSMU Referendum Endorsements

by Admin — on November 8, 2024

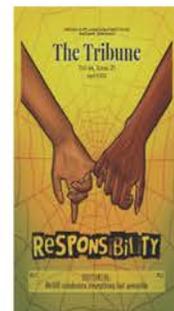
Admin  
Author

The Tribune's Editorial Board presents its endorsements for the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) Fall 2024 Referendum questions. The Tribune's editors researched and discussed each question before voting on each endorsement. The endorsements reflect a majority vote of the editorial board, with the option for editors with conflicts of interest to abstain from pertinent questions.

### Radio CKUT Fee Increase: Yes

Radio CKUT, McGill's 24/7 non-profit campus-community radio station offers music, news, arts, and cultural programming, providing a unique media outlet for students and the Montreal community. With inflation driving operating costs, the proposed opt-outable fee will increase by

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### Moments of celebration

March 30, 2024

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\$3.00 CAD, which would bring the total fee to \$7.00 CAD per semester for full-time and \$5.50 CAD per semester for part-time undergraduate students in professional programs (Dentistry, MDCM, Law). The total fee would be \$8.00 CAD per semester for full-time and \$6.00 CAD per semester for part-time undergraduate students in all other programs.

This increment will start in Winter 2025 to Winter 2027 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority “No” vote will keep the fee at its current rate. The increased fee will help CKUT maintain its operations and avoid a future budget deficit.

In the absence of a journalism program at McGill, CKUT fills an important educational gap by providing one of the only spaces on campus for students to gain hands-on experience in broadcasting and radio production. In voting “Yes,” *The Tribune* highlights CKUT’s commitment to providing valuable learning opportunities for students, building community connections, and supporting sustainable operations in the workplace.

**Ambassador Fund Fee Increase: Yes**

The proposed \$2.00 CAD increase to this opt-outable fee, bringing the total to \$4.00 CAD per semester for both full-time and part-time students, would continue to fund student participation in off-campus academic and extracurricular conferences, competitions, and other events through Fall 2029. This increase, which would bring in an additional \$40,000 CAD in funding available to students, will allow more students to participate in off-campus events without facing financial barriers. In recent years, demand for the Ambassador Fund has exceeded the available resources, demonstrating that students need the support of this fund to attend external events. *The Tribune* endorses a “Yes” vote to this fee increase.

**Community Engagement Fee Renewal: Yes**

The Community Engagement Fee is a source of financial assistance provided to incentivize the charitable work of McGill students and further the connection between the McGill student body and its surrounding communities. This opt-outable fee is \$0.72 CAD per semester for both full-time and part-time students. The fund is primarily intended for community engagement initiatives, not for events with the sole purpose of fundraising—including projects in community development and social services. In 2023-2024, however, more than 12 per cent of funding applications were directed to the Community Engagement Fund, despite this being the smallest of the fees disbursed by the funding committee. *The Tribune* supports this opt-outable fee renewal.

**Equity Fund Fee Renewal: Yes**

The Equity Fund Fee is an opt-outable \$1.00 CAD per semester fee for full-time and part-time students, beginning in Winter 2025 and ending in Fall 2029 (inclusive and excluding Summer terms).



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The [SSMU Equity Fund](#) was created to empower campus members to engage in initiatives that foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, and make observable or measurable differences in the representation or experiences of individuals who are members of historically and currently disadvantaged groups. The fund supports projects, research and policies that aim to end discrimination and promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community.

Should it fail to pass, there will no longer be a dedicated fund reserved for the purpose of supporting equity-related initiatives through funding applications. *The Tribune* endorses a “Yes” vote to this fee renewal.

#### **Legal Essentials Fee Renewal: Yes**

[The Legal Essentials Fee](#) is an opt-outable, \$30 CAD per year fee that will cease to exist if not renewed during this Fall 2024 referendum. The Legal Essentials program makes [legal aid](#) accessible, affordable, and safe. It is complementary to the Legal Information Clinic at McGill ([LICM](#)) and fills in gaps that other [legal sources at McGill](#) cannot; specifically, services like the LICM can only inform students about their legal rights and assist only in disputes at the university level, but cannot advise on the specific legal actions students should take. Meanwhile, Legal Essentials offers students access to consultation and representation by accredited lawyers who can represent them in cases regarding any area of the law, including disputes and violations regarding housing, academics, human rights, employment, and assist with small claims and civil mediation.

For a fraction of the price, they cover both case and legal fees, and expenses that accumulate during proceedings. Access to legal aid is often costly, complicated, and daunting, but Legal Essentials works in conjunction with other legal sources at McGill to break down these barriers. By endorsing a “Yes” vote for the opt-outable fee, *The Tribune* supports the rights of students to have a certified advocate during legal proceedings, and seeks to ensure this support system is protected for years to come.

#### **Création d'une cotisation de soutien aux affaires francophones/Creation of a contribution to support francophone affairs: Yes**

The creation of a [contribution](#) to support francophone affairs would promote the growth and endurance of the Francophone Affairs Committee ([CAF](#)), which currently receives no funding, as well as the McGill francophone community. This opt-outable fee will be \$1.00 CAD per semester for full-time and part-time SSMU members, excluding the summer term. It is set to begin in Winter 2025 and will continue until Winter 2030 (inclusive). The fund will help cover the salary of the Commissaire des affaires francophones, as well as part-time translation interns. It will also be allocated to francophone groups, francophiles, and anglophones undertaking projects aimed at enhancing accessibility for Francophones. organizing community

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events, and establishing partnerships with Francophone organizations to provide learning opportunities.

Currently, 20 per cent of the student body and 21 per cent of staff report that French is their mother tongue, making the fee important for the CAF to fulfill its mandate of representing the francophone student body on campus. *The Tribune* supports the creation of this opt-outable fee to support francophone communities on campus.

### **SSMU Membership Fee Increase For Operations: Yes, with reservations**

This question seeks to increase SSMU's base fee for student members. For full-time students not enrolled in Medicine, Dentistry, or Law, the fee will increase by \$14.86 CAD, from \$70.95 CAD to \$85.81 CAD per semester. For part-time students in the same faculties, the fee will increase by \$7.22 CAD, from \$34.44 CAD to \$41.66 CAD. The funds generated from the increase will go entirely toward the salaries of SSMU's full-time and part-time employees, not toward those of the executives. SSMU claims this will allow them to dedicate more of their operational budget to addressing their deficit and to offer new initiatives for students.

Since its last increase in 2019, students have voted against raising the membership fee many times, including in both semesters last academic year. The 2023-2024 academic year saw SSMU struggle against the financial strain of its deficit, which one executive estimated exceeded \$726,000 CAD in February 2024. SSMU has cited budget constraints as the reason for employee layoffs, reduced operations, and an abrupt interruption in service for two weeks in April 2024. SSMU offers countless vital services to students, including funding clubs and student initiatives, managing Gerts, running a daycare on campus, offering the Menstrual Health Project, the Grocery Program, and more. Considering this, it is vital that SSMU secures the funding necessary to continue serving students and its employees.

However, SSMU must strengthen its relationship with its constituency. Between a lack of candidates applying for executive positions, dismal voter turnout, and consistently poor attendance at governance meetings, SSMU is struggling to engage the student body. Furthermore, its repeated failed attempts to raise the base fee suggest it must rebuild trust with students by clearly communicating how their money is managed and why the deficit has persisted. Finally, SSMU must extend better training and care for the executive team, some of whom have reported a lack of support in the demanding role. *The Tribune* endorses a "Yes" vote for the referendum question, while demanding that SSMU foster student engagement, increase financial transparency, and better support its executives.

### **QPIRG Fee Increase: Yes**

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill (QPIRG) is seeking a fee increase from \$5.00 CAD to \$6.75 CAD per semester. QPIRG fosters community and engages students in social justice

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causes by offering educational initiatives, the [Free Textbook Loan Program](#), and an [Alternative Research Library](#). The group also organizes [Rad Frosh](#) each year. The organization's fee has not increased since 2015; meanwhile, inflation has posed a strain on the group's budget, resulting in a reduction of programming.

QPIRG's mission to provide alternative educational spaces on campus is invaluable in promoting community and solidarity. As it has been nearly a decade since the organization last received a fee increase, *The Tribune* supports a "Yes" vote on this opt-outable fee.

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# Culture Shock 2024

Empowering Change Through Community and Art

by Lisa Banti / October 28, 2024

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Emily Hardie

This October, QPIRG-McGill's "Culture Shock" [event series](#) returned with a lineup focused on anti-racism, migrant justice, and Indigenous solidarity. From [October 21 to 30](#), the series offered workshops, seminars, and panels exploring activism and revolutionary change within the McGill community and beyond. Focusing on "Transformation" as its 2024 theme, Culture Shock encourages attendees to go beyond merely critiquing society by offering practical tools that foster a deeper understanding of how grassroots action shapes new cultural realities.

The series kicked off on October 21 with a free [community dinner](#) at SSML's Flex

[Space](#), catered by the [Midnight Kitchen Collective](#). As a casual introduction to the deeper discussions and activities of the week, attendees gathered to share a vegan meal – an informal opportunity for participants to connect with each other before the week's more structured workshops. Those attending – whether long-time activists or newcomers to the space – expressed a shared enthusiasm for working toward tangible social change. Organic discussion of topics like migrant justice, Indigenous rights, and the history of radical movements in Montreal fostered a strong sense of community, underscoring the significance of informal spaces in movement-building.

One of the most anticipated workshops of the week was held on October 23, titled "[How to Design an Effective Political Image](#)." Hosted at [QPIRG-Concordia](#), the seminar taught participants the principles of impactful design as a form of protest. Led by facilitators from the [International Development Studies Students Association](#) (IDSSA), [SSMU External Affairs](#), and QPIRG-McGill, the workshop began by exploring how images function as powerful tools in political movements by shaping narratives and evoking emotion to engage and mobilize the public. Attendees learned the basics of composition, colour theory, and symbolism — elements critical to political imagery. The seminar also covered practical techniques like spray-painting and wheat-pasting, offering hands-on guidance in producing and disseminating these images.

The session emphasized how political imagery must be both bold and accessible as a visual call to action. The discussion of real-world examples, from historical posters to contemporary protest art, provided a rich context for understanding how art and activism intertwine.

For those who missed the initial events, the remainder of Culture Shock 2024 offers a diverse lineup aimed at educating and empowering participants. Other highlights from the first week included the [Radical Walking Tour](#) of Milton-Parc, on October 22, exploring the neighborhood's history of activism and its ties to McGill, as well as the [Intro to Canadian Imperialism](#) workshop led by [Professor Tyler Shipley](#) on October 24, diving into Canada's colonial past and its lasting effects on global politics. In addition, on October 25, participants joined the [Zine-Making Workshop](#) led by volunteers from the [Prisoner Correspondence Project](#), which focuses on the significance of zines in leftist movements.

The [second week](#) brings even more opportunities for engagement. The [Panel on the History of Montreal Activism](#) will take place on October 28, gathering speakers from various grassroots organizations to discuss the city's rich legacy of anti-imperialism and community organizing. On October 29, a second [Radical Walking Tour](#) is scheduled, meeting at QPIRG-McGill (3516 Parc Ave.), while [Lupa ay Buhay](#) (Land is Life) will be held the same evening. Participants can also look forward to the [CKUTea x Music Lib Listening Party](#) on November 1, rounding out the week's activities. Each of these events offers unique opportunities to engage with critical issues and gain practical tools for activism.

Culture Shock 2024 positions itself as a vital part of the ongoing conversation around social justice at McGill University and in the wider Montreal community. Through its diverse programming, the event series has not only educated participants but also fostered spaces for solidarity and action. Whether building community while creating powerful art or bonding over a shared meal, the series demonstrates that transformation begins when individuals come together with a collective purpose, equipping participants with practical skills, meaningful

connections, and the inspiration needed to drive real change.

For upcoming Culture Shock events, check out @qpirgmcgill on Instagram or [qpirgmcgill.org/cs/](http://qpirgmcgill.org/cs/).

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(Yoojung Kim / The Tribune)

## MCGILL, NEWS

# QPIRG Radical Walking Tour explores Milton-Parc and McGill through a critical lens

by Mairin Burke — on October 29, 2024

**Mairin Burke**  
Author

On Oct. 21, organizers with the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill ([QPIRG](#)) hosted a [Radical Walking Tour](#), stopping multiple times along Avenue du Parc, Avenue des Pins, and on McGill campus to offer a critical presentation of both the university and the Milton-Parc neighbourhood. QPIRG is a student-run collective that seeks to engage students with the Montreal community and with social justice issues.

The Radical Walking Tour is one of the many events of [Culture Shock](#), QPIRG's annual free fall programming series on "anti-racism, migrant justice, and Indigenous solidarity." The Students' Society of McGill University ([SSMU](#)) also provides organizational support for the event series.

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The tour began at QPIRG McGill's Office and [Alternative Library](#), which shares a space with the headquarters of the [Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee](#), a grassroots collective working to preserve the neighbourhood's spaces and its residents' rights. Carl Bystram, Working Groups and Community Research Coordinator at QPIRG, spoke to the importance of showing McGill community members the history of the neighbourhood.

"We find that situating people in the wider community around Milton-Parc and explaining the struggles that have happened here, as well as the broader struggles around McGill [...] really fits in well within the Culture Shock agenda," they said.

This site of intergenerational community and collaboration set the stage for the first half of the walking tour, which focused on the activist history and ongoing projects in the [Milton-Parc community](#). The tour's speakers described [Communauté Milton Parc \(CMP\)](#), the [largest co-operative development](#) (co-op) in North America, housing [over 1,000](#) low- and moderate-income individuals in its 616 residential units. The tour guides explained how the CMP substitutes the conventional system of landlords charging rent for profit with a participatory housing arrangement, where residents support building maintenance and governance to cut down on rent-related costs for tenants. Further, the tour stopped at [Co-op Bar Milton-Parc](#), a separate co-op that occupies commercial space from the CMP and acts as a bar and a solidarity space for community events.

Other Milton Parc resources spotlighted throughout the tour included food bank programs such as [St. John's Lutheran Church](#), [Santropol Roulant](#), the [Climate Justice Hub](#), and independent social-justice publisher [Black Rose Books](#). The tour then moved onto McGill campus, starting at the Sylvan Adams Sports Science Institute ([SASSI](#))—a construction project commenced in 2022 upon a donation of [\\$29 million CAD](#) from billionaire Sylvan Adams.

Speakers on the tour criticized McGill's choice to [partner](#) with [Tel Aviv University](#) on the SASSI project due to its development of Israel's genocidal killing of Palestinians and the [Dahiya doctrine](#) for bombing civilian infrastructure.

McGill's Media Relations Office (MRO) did not provide comment to *The Tribune* on McGill's partnership with Tel Aviv University.

The Radical Walking Tour continued by passing the [New Vic Project](#) site. There, speakers discussed the [MK-ULTRA experiments](#) which took place at the site in the 1950s and 1960s—a project where the CIA performed research on mind control and brainwashing techniques on unconsenting patients, many of whom were Indigenous. Speakers went on to highlight McGill's [ongoing legal battle](#) with the Kanien'kehá:ka Kahnistensera ([Mohawk Mothers](#)) to search for unmarked graves they believe are on the grounds.

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The tour concluded by pointing out sites on campus where student demonstrations have transpired, including the **Bronfman Building**—which students blocked on Feb. 22 to call for McGill to cut ties with Israel—and the spot where a statue of James McGill stood until July 2021, which students had long demanded to be removed.

The MRO affirmed the university’s commitment to social justice in light of founder James McGill’s enslavement of Black and Indigenous peoples and participation in the transatlantic slave trade.

“In the 200 years since its establishment, McGill University has evolved to become a world-class institution of higher education marked by pluralism and diversity,” the MRO wrote in a statement to *The Tribune*.

For SSMU Vice-President External Affairs Hugo-Victor Solomon, the tour’s focus on lived experiences beyond McGill promotes important avenues for community development.

“By participating in Culture Shock, we’re extending the invitation to SSMU membership at large to [...] make connections that they wouldn’t otherwise make, and to be sensitized to issues that may really resonate with them that they haven’t had the chance to learn about yet,” Solomon said in an interview with *The Tribune*.

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“By participating in Culture Shock, we’re extending the invitation to SSMU membership at large to [...] make connections that they wouldn’t otherwise make, and to be sensitized to issues that may really resonate with them that they haven’t had the chance to learn about yet,” Solomon said in an interview with *The Tribune*.

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**TAGS:** Co-op Bar Milton Parc, Communauté Milton Parc, Culture Shock, mcgill, Milton-Parc, new vic project, QPIRG-McGill, SASSI, walking tour

Mairin Burke

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(Anakbayan Montreal)

MCGILL, NEWS

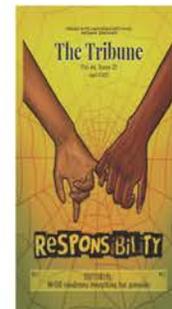
## “Lupa ay Buhay” teach-in connects Filipino peasant struggles and Canadian imperialism

by Elsie Yang — on November 5, 2024

Elsie Yang  
Author

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group's (QPIRG) 2024 [Culture Shock series](#) concluded on Oct. 29 with the “[Lupa Ay Buhay](#)” (Land is Life) [Teach-In](#), led by the Filipino youth group [Anakbayan Montreal](#). Anakbayan’s work—as a [chapter](#) of an international Filipino [National Democratic Front](#) organization—includes several youth engagement and education programs, with a focus on “connecting Canadian issues to the homeland.” QPIRG has collaborated with Anakbayan for several years, as the organization was a part of [QPIRG’s working group program](#).

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The first half of the workshop, led by former Anakbayan member Fatima Barron, provided background on the [peasant struggle in the Philippines](#), and Canada's relationship to the issue as an imperialist country. Filipino peasants are farmers, fisherfolk, and agricultural workers who produce most of the country's food, yet the [majority](#) of peasants do not own the land they till and struggle to afford food. A legacy of Spanish colonialism, this semi-feudal system is maintained by the United States through [neoliberal economic policy](#). [Peasants face](#) high land rent, high interest rates on loans for seeds and fertilizer, [land grabbing](#) from landlords or multinational corporations, and the [criminalization of peasant leaders](#).

Barron noted how Canadian mining [harms](#) Philippine land and communities by degrading the environment and displacing Indigenous communities. She also drew attention to the [exploitative conditions](#) affecting Filipino migrant workers in [Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#). Employers often underpay or deny pay to workers, and may prevent them from seeking support.

Barron's knowledge of the topic comes, in part, from experience learning from peasant communities. She spent four months in the peasant community of Lupang Tartaria, Philippines, in the spring of 2024 as part of one of Anakbayan's "exposure trips"—opportunities meant to facilitate a deeper understanding of social conditions in the Philippines. While there, armed personnel were reportedly [building](#) barricades on farmers' agricultural land, [prompting](#) peasants to fight back.

The event drew in both Filipino and non-Filipino participants, something that, for Barron, added to its effectiveness.

"When I was in the Philippines, people [were] so happy to see Filipinos abroad and non-Filipinos caring about issues in the Philippines. It provides them a sense of motivation to show them that they're not alone in their fight," Barron said.

During the event, Barron also highlighted the importance of arts and culture in Tartarian resistance and community building, bridging the connection between participants and farmers in Tartaria through the decoration of a banner reading "Lupa ay Buhay" ("Land is Life"). While introducing the project, she noted how participants benefit as consumers of peasant labour, which produces many [essential products](#) for Canadians such as rice. Attendees added a variety of materials to the banner, including rice, string, and fabric. Others painted scenes that the presentation brought up for them.

Barron explained that Anakbayan Montreal's inclusion of art as a part of the teach-in aligns with their [political goals](#) as a National Democratic organization.

"Art is a vehicle to put forward ideas," Barron said. "Anyone can make art, and everyone should be encouraged to [...] It's also important to break down the idea that art is only for the few and the talented."

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Joliz Dela Peña, a member of Anakbayan, said that having a collective activity enriched the educational aspect of the workshop.

“The banner-making activity truly inspired us to collaborate, and it was fun to meet youth that support these types of actions [in] this way,” Dela Peña said.

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Providing alternative learning spaces like the one created in the teach-in is a key part of QPIRG’s work. According to Lola Milder, the Campus Outreach Coordinator at QPIRG, the organization’s Culture Shock programming has seen a record turnout due to an increasing number of students’ disillusionment with traditional education.

“There is an increasing distrust in the places we’ve gotten knowledge [as students] in the past, and people are realizing that what we’ve learned [in traditional school spaces] might not be accurate,” Milder said. “It makes people turn out.”

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Barron also attested to the importance of learning environments beyond school walls.

“What’s beautiful about spaces like this is learning [how] we are not alone and that there’s a broader movement of peoples fighting for change,” Barron said.

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**TAGS:** Anakbayan, Culture Shock, Lupa Ay Buhay, Phillipines, QPIRG, QPIRG McGill, QPIRG-McGill

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(Eliot Loose / The Tribune)

## NEWS, SSMU

# Fall referendum CKUT fee increase passes, SSMU Base Fee increase fails for fifth time

by Amelia H. Clark, Olivia Ardito — on November 12, 2024

Amelia H. Clark

Olivia Ardito  
Author

The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) closed the [Fall 2024 Referendum](#) polls on Nov. 8. Just 17.2 per cent of downtown campus undergraduate students cast a vote, two percent less than that of the [Winter 2024 referendum](#). Six out of eight of the referendum's ticket motions [passed](#) with a majority vote, including fee increases for [CKUT](#), the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill ([QPIRG-McGill](#)), the [Ambassador Fund](#), alongside renewals for the [SSMU Legal Essential Fee](#), [Community Engagement Fee](#), and the [Equity Fund](#). Students rejected the request for a Creation of a Contribution to Support [Francophone Affairs](#) along with the [SSMU Base Fee increase](#).

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which has been denied five times since 2019.

The SSMU Base Fee increase was rejected with 58.1 per cent of voters casting a “No” vote. The motion sought to raise the semesterly fee that

students pay for SSMU services by \$14.68 CAD for full-time students to a total of \$85.81 CAD and an increase of \$7.22 CAD for part-time students to a total of \$41.66 CAD. SSMU claimed the increase in funds would allow the organization to eliminate its current deficit of between \$400,000 to \$1.3 million CAD, and increase [SSMUnion](#) members’ salaries to reflect inflation. Without the added increase, SSMU [stated](#) that the organization will have to cut staff as well as funding for clubs, initiatives, programs, and student financial assistance.

In a written statement to *The Tribune*, SSMU President [Dymetri Taylor](#) explained that he believes the referendum question was rejected due to waning interest in the student union.

“Frankly, I’m neutral about the results,” Taylor wrote. “I hope that this serves as a waking-up call that perhaps the SSMU needs to work on improving its relationship with the student population and showcase why it is a vital part of our university’s culture, which has been degraded in recent years.”

Voters also rejected the Creation of a Contribution to Support Francophone Affairs. A vote in favour would have support creating an opt-outable fee of \$1.00 CAD per semester to support francophone clubs and translation services. The measure failed with 59.7 per cent of voters selecting “No.” Maëla Dube, the SSMU Francophone Affairs Commissioner, explained to *The Tribune* that current francophone groups receive little to no funding from SSMU.

“I think [it] is a reflection of the experience of being francophone at an anglophone university in Quebec while also being a consequence of current governmental politics that make advocating for francophone rights and promoting the French language difficult,” Dube wrote.

While SSMU did not get some of the results it hoped for, many other organizations were successful in the referendum. CKUT, a campus and community radio station based at McGill, received its first fee increase since 2012, with 60 per cent of participating students voting “Yes.”

In a written statement to *The Tribune*, Madeline Lines, a representative for the radio station, relayed that CKUT staff, volunteers, and community members are “elated and relieved” with the result.

“CKUT’s deficit will be eliminated, staff will receive a more livable wage, and the workshops, student jobs, and overall offerings the station will be able to offer will be expanded,” Lines wrote. “CKUT will be able to go from surviving to thriving with this result.”

Voters also approved the Committee Engagement Fee Renewal with a 67.9 per cent “Yes” vote. The \$0.72 CAD per semester opt-outable fee funds students and clubs at McGill, and seeks to give students

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McGill  
announces  
intent to end  
contractual  
agreement  
with SSMU,  
taking parties  
to mediation

April 9, 2025



Seven out of  
nine candidates  
withdrawn  
from PGSS  
election

April 9, 2025

autonomy to create events.

SSMU Community Engagement Commissioner Nika Rovensky highlighted that the fee increase will help establish new initiatives, such as the creation of a free food pantry that seeks to address food insecurity on campus.

The QPIRG fee increase from \$5.00 CAD to \$6.75 CAD passed, with a 53.8 per cent “Yes” vote. The increased funding will help QPIRG maintain programs like its [free textbook loan program](#), upkeeping its [alternative library](#), and supporting independent research projects over the summer.

“Passing this referendum ensures that we can strengthen the communities around us, and that we can support activists who fight for social change for the years to come,” the QPIRG team wrote to *The Tribune*.

The group also noted how significant this favourable vote is for them, especially considering students’ financial limitations.

“We don’t take it for granted that students have voted to increase our funding at a time of unprecedented inflation, when their own finances may be severely constrained,” QPIRG wrote. “We aim to give them back greater value than what they contributed to us.”

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**TAGS:** base fee increase, CKUT, fall referendum, QPIRG-McGill, ssmu

Amelia H. Clark, Olivia Ardito

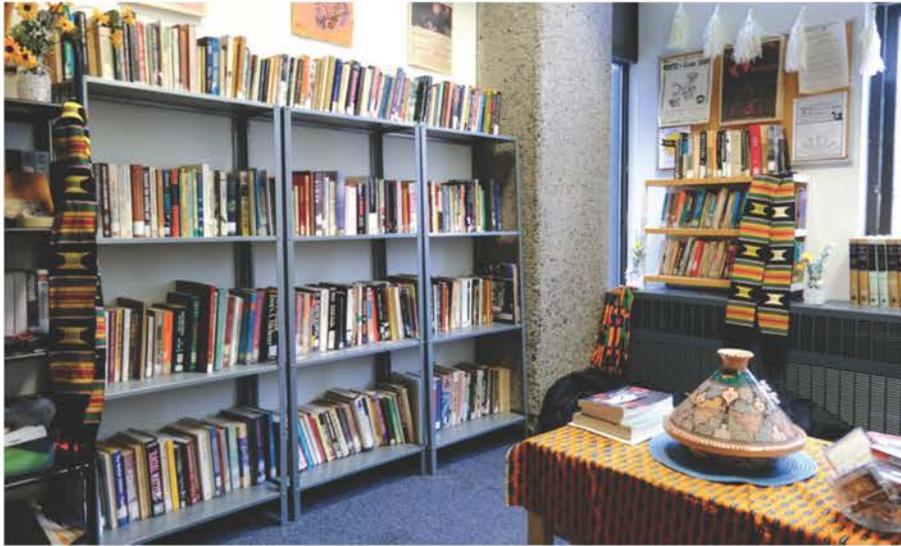
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<https://www.thetribune.ca/news/fall-referendum-ckut-fee-increase-passes-ssmu-base-fee-increase-fails-for-fifth-time-12112024/>

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(Hannah Nobile / The Tribune)

MCGILL, NEWS

## The Tribune Explains: Black Students' Network Community Library

by [Kaitlyn Schramm](#) — on February 4, 2025

**Kaitlyn Schramm**  
Author

McGill's Black Students' Network ([BSN](#)) opened a [Community Library](#) on Feb. 28, 2024, for Black History Month. The Community Library is funded by SSMU student fees that uphold the BSN's budget alongside the [Black Equity Fund](#), which McGill launched as part of its [Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism](#) in 2020.

### Why was it opened?

BSN President Nkwazi Banage, U3 Arts, is responsible for the creation of the Library, and is currently in charge of running it. Banage aims to keep the library accessible and free for the entire student body, relying on the participation of volunteers to spread awareness.

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“The project was born out of my personal frustration from when I was unable to find an Angela Davis book that [McLennan Library Building] claimed to carry,” Banage elaborated. “These libraries house books that are often not prioritized in mainstream academic collections, and they offer an accessible space for underrepresented perspectives in academia.”

The Community Library is in the BSN office, unit 415 on the fourth floor of the [University Centre](#), and includes a selection of over 400 books curated for Black students.

Banage elaborated on why she finds community libraries to be important spaces within larger institutions.

“These student-led libraries often curate collections that reflect the interests and realities of McGill’s student body, while providing a platform for peer-driven engagement with Black literature,” she emphasized.

#### What other McGill community libraries exist?

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill ([QPIRG-McGill](#)) hosts another student-run community library that focuses on providing anti-oppressive literature. QPIRG-McGill has been operating since the 1980s, providing resources for students such as offering textbook loans and hosting events over the years.

QPIRG-McGill’s Resource Centre Coordinator, Tatiana Povoroznyuk, reflected on the group’s library space.

“One of the biggest values of having a community library is that it truly is run by the community and we can make decisions quickly and without a lot of the barriers that, for example, McGill libraries face in trying to improve their collections and add voices that may not be super well-spread,” Povoroznyuk said in an interview with *//The Tribune//*.

The Union for Gender Empowerment ([UGE](#)) and [Queer McGill](#) jointly run the reportedly largest anglophone queer library with over 1,000 titles. The library is located in the UGE’s office—room 413 of the University Centre.

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**Recap: McGill to lay off an estimated 99 people to help offset \$45 million CAD deficit**

April 9, 2025

**TAGS:** bsn, library, QPIRG, UGE



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(Drea Garcia Avila / The Tribune)

## MCGILL, NEWS

# ‘Gaza as a Compass for Thinking’ talk explores Palestinian resistance amid targeted attacks

by [Amelia H. Clark](#) — on March 25, 2025

**Amelia H. Clark**  
Author

*Content warning: Mentions of genocide, death, and dismemberment.*

The eighth event of Quebec Public International Research Group (QPIRG) McGill’s [Spring into Action](#) series, “[Gaza as a Compass for Thinking](#),” took place on March 21. It explored the theme of “home” through accounts of Palestinians reclaiming their towns that had been reduced to rubble.

Keynote speaker and professor in McGill’s Department of [Philosophy](#), [Alia Al-Saji](#), drew upon her years of research regarding the Israel-

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Palestine conflict to discuss how the Israeli state has systematically debilitated the infrastructure of Palestine's healthcare system. Al-Saji described how this action has maximized the harm done by targeted

bombings, using the dismemberment of civilians as a means of colonization.

Al-Saji began the talk with a history of how Palestinians have experienced *qahr*—which refers to the impact of colonial duration in Palestine—over the last few years. She first critiqued how the West paints Palestinians as either perpetual victims or vengeful terrorists. Al-Saji stated that it is critical to outline the logic of Palestinian resistance to understand that Palestinians' rational agency is what motivates people to work against the actions of the Israeli state.

"What does it mean not to pity, but to bear witness to Palestinian resistance in returning to live on the land that Israel has made 'uninhabitable?'" Al-Saji said. "For that matter, what does it mean to call the land 'uninhabitable' or 'unlovable?' For whom and by which standards of humanity?"

Carl Bystram, QPIRG McGill's community research and working groups coordinator, emphasized the importance of platforming talks that raise awareness for advocacy in Palestine in an interview with *The Tribune*.

"We want to give a platform to educators that are speaking out about resistance to colonialism," Bystram said. "When you're looking at a place that is in the media, mainly through this horrific process of victimization, you're not able to really pay attention to the experiences of people and how they understand themselves."

One of the event organizers, Yasmine Mkaddam, U2 Arts, highlighted how the talk exemplified Spring into Action's goal of spreading awareness through education. The high attendance showed the importance McGill students place on student activism.

"Social media holds such a big space in decolonization and awareness, but I think that for true advocacy, we need to protest, educate, and advocate," Mkaddam said. "It goes beyond simply a post."

Al-Saji continued the talk by explaining how the Israeli government creates *Ashla'a*—meaning dismembered body parts—every day in Palestine. She described how strategic bombings or hellfires are routinely used to debilitate citizens in Gaza, especially those who show active resistance. Dismemberment is not a side effect of these targeted strikes, but the intended effect, Al-Saji argued.

"It matters how one dies dismembered under the rubble, how amputation takes place without anesthesia, and what care is available to the disabled body thereafter," Al-Saji said. "The prognosis of maiming is no longer disability, but debilitating pain and slow death through infection and sepsis when the healthcare system has been shut down."

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April 9, 2025

Al-Saji noted that few news sources cover the aftermath of severe bombings and attacks beyond the body count. For Al-Saji, this lack of care shown to those grieving speaks to the dehumanization of Palestinians. In one such case on Aug. 10, 2024, Israel dropped 39 U.S.-made bombs on the al-Tabin school in the Daraj district in Gaza, which Israel justified by claiming it to be one of Hamas' headquarters. This theory was proven false after the attack, at which point over 100 civilians, who had been using the school as a shelter after being displaced by Israel, were killed. Paramedics were unable to discern whom the dismembered body parts belonged to, and allotted bags of dismembered remains by weight for burial.

Al-Saji stressed that following Israel's violation of the ceasefire on March 18, McGill students ought to stay up to date on Palestinians' acts of resistance.

"Since Tuesday, the genocide has not so much resumed as intensified," Al-Saji said. "And while the past hurts, histories of the present are excruciating."

*A previous version of this article misspelled Carl Bystram's last name and misquoted his statement. The Tribune regrets this error.*

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**TAGS:** Gaza, healthcare, palestine, QPIRG, QPIRG-McGill, spring into action

Amelia H. Clark

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(Hannah Nobile / The Tribune)

## MONTREAL, NEWS

# Robbie Madsen challenges misconceptions of homelessness in QPIRG-McGill talk

by Russel Ismael — on April 1, 2025

**Russel Ismael**  
Author

The Quebec Public Research Interest Group at McGill ([QPIRG-McGill](#)) hosted a workshop called “[What does homelessness look like in our communities?](#)” on March 25 as part of the annual [Spring into Action](#) series. Robbie Madsen headed the discussion, speaking about the 15 years of homelessness they experienced while travelling across Canada.

“It’s important for people to come out to listen to the stories [of homelessness],” Madsen said. “Because that’s the only way people’s minds can be elevated to higher levels of thinking.”

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The programming challenged the preconception that poverty is a requirement for homelessness. Madsen and other participants

described how the rising cost of living in many cities is inflating unhoused populations, regardless of income level.

“Some people think that homelessness means jobless[ness], and that’s not true. We’ve done research that shows that it’s nowhere close to being true, especially in the States,” Madsen said. “There [are] people that earn \$50,000 USD a year that are in the shelters because they can’t afford their rents anymore.”

This trend is also observed in Canada; Madsen described Toronto as a “tent city,” where people with full-time jobs comprise around 20 per cent of the city’s unhoused population. Although Montreal’s equivalent statistic is only three per cent in comparison, this number may increase as the cost of living continues to skyrocket.

In an interview with *The Tribune*, Carl Bystram, a QPIRG-McGill organizer, recognized this growing income insecurity and stressed how important it is to include speakers like Robbie Madsen in the conversation.

“Homeless people are oppressed,” Bystram said. “There’s a housing crisis in Montreal right now, and a lot of people are feeling it. I think [...] more and more people are finding themselves on the street, and the people out on the streets are very misunderstood by society.”

In an email to *The Tribune*, Lil Borger, an independent community organizer in Milton-Parc, highlighted simple ways that McGill students can support the unhoused community.

“It’s a bit cliché, but the easiest thing students can do to support the unhoused community is to treat them like people,” Borger wrote. “Make eye contact, smile, and if you have the time/capacity, see if there’s something they need that you could help with.”

Bystram shared the same sentiment, believing more empathetic actions from all people—not just students—can help improve the lives of unhoused community members.

“There are a lot of organizations that are working [to support the unhoused] in the neighbourhood, so just get involved,” Bystram said. “A part of it is just having more conversations on how it is happening, having humanizing conversations, just talking to people in your neighbourhood who are experiencing hardship.”

The workshop identified homelessness as a systemic issue that has deep historical roots, especially for Indigenous peoples. Madsen themselves experienced this, describing the irony of being unhoused and Cree, as their ancestors thrived on the very same land.

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April 1, 2025



**Divest McGill protests RBC's fossil fuel investments**

March 25, 2025

“How can someone be homeless in their own homeland?” Madsen asked the audience. “I’m not allowed to live in what my ‘normal’ house would be. It’s been that way for 200 years in Canada. I’m still not allowed, even though we’ve acknowledged the Indian residential schools and the Sixties Scoop and the murdered, missing Indigenous women and all kinds of stuff.”

Borger echoed that while students can help address the unhoused crisis, institutions like McGill have more power and resources to tackle this systemic issue.



**SSMU fights injunction against PAGIP in appeals court, demands anonymous plaintiff come forward**

March 18, 2025

“A question I always ask students is: How is it that there are so many unhoused individuals spending time on the street in Milton-Parc, and yet you never see any of them on the McGill campus space?” Borger queried. “McGill definitely has a lot of power to help support the unhoused community, and I do not think they do anywhere near enough. There should be consistent and ongoing educational opportunities provided by McGill to connect students with the community around McGill to learn, get involved, and support.”

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**TAGS:** housing insecurity, milton parc, QPIRG, QPIRG McGill, robbie madsen, spring into action

Russel Ismael

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<https://www.thetribune.ca/news/robbie-madsen-challenges-misconceptions-of-homelessness-in-qpirg-mcgill-talk-01042025/>

# Appendix B: Audited Financial Statements

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.

Financial Statements

August 31, 2024

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.

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**Amstutz Inc.**  
**Comptables Professionnels Agréés**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of  
QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.

**Opinion** - We have audited the financial statements of QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC. (the Organization), which comprise the balance sheet as at August 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at August 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**Basis for Opinion** - We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements** - Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

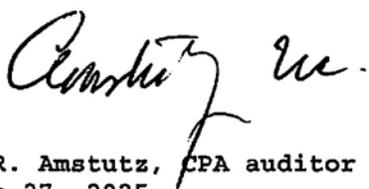
Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements** - Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



By: R. Amstutz, CPA auditor  
March 27, 2025  
Montreal, Quebec  
Permit No: A105202

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
year ended August 31, 2024

	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Student fee levies	\$ 262,358	\$ 256,425
Revenues - events and working groups	28,463	21,787
Grants	44,223	14,026
Other revenues	949	518
Interest income	<u>853</u>	<u>148</u>
	<u>336,846</u>	<u>292,904</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and fringe benefits	197,266	193,334
Working groups and projects (Note 8)	46,585	80,716
Rent	24,000	24,150
General office expenses	14,892	8,721
Professional fees	10,003	12,897
Meetings and events	6,997	20,719
Discretionary fund	4,425	7,797
Insurance	3,818	3,711
Amortization	3,805	1,536
Repairs and maintenance	1,650	642
Telecommunication	1,186	827
Bank charges	<u>753</u>	<u>590</u>
	<u>315,380</u>	<u>355,640</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ <u>21,466</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>(62,736)</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
 year ended August 31, 2024

	<u>Invested in capital assets</u>	<u>Un- restricted</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u> <u>Total</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 7,831	\$ 21,087	\$ 28,918	\$ 91,654
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	21,466	21,466	(62,736)
Amortization	(3,805)	3,805	-	-
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>9,999</u>	<u>(9,999)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>14,025</u>	\$ <u>36,359</u>	\$ <u>50,384</u>	\$ <u>28,918</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
BALANCE SHEET  
as at August 31, 2024

	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 12,530	\$ -
Reserved cash - external projects	-	22,705
Term deposit, 2.25%, maturing September 1, 2025	32,307	32,307
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	22,569	26,138
Rent deposit	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	69,406	81,150
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)</b>	<u>14,025</u>	<u>7,831</u>
	\$ <u>83,431</u>	\$ <u>88,981</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Bank indebtedness	\$ -	\$ 4,481
Accounts payable and accrued charges (Note 6)	10,833	15,158
Deferred contribution	-	17,719
Accounts payable - external projects	<u>22,214</u>	<u>22,705</u>
	<u>33,047</u>	<u>60,063</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	14,025	7,831
Unrestricted	<u>36,359</u>	<u>21,087</u>
	<u>50,384</u>	<u>28,918</u>
	\$ <u>83,431</u>	\$ <u>88,981</u>

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS (Note 7)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....Director

.....Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
year ended August 31, 2024

	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 21,466	\$ (62,736)
Item not affecting cash		
Amortization	<u>3,805</u>	<u>1,536</u>
	25,271	(61,200)
Changes in non cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	3,569	(18,373)
Rent deposit	(2,000)	-
Accounts payable and accrued charges	(4,325)	(1,567)
Deferred contribution	(17,719)	-
Accounts payable - external projects	<u>(491)</u>	<u>541</u>
	<u>4,305</u>	<u>(80,599)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>(9,999)</u>	<u>(6,558)</u>
	<u>(9,999)</u>	<u>(6,558)</u>
<b>(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(5,694)</b>	<b>(87,157)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u><b>18,224</b></u>	<u><b>105,381</b></u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ <u>12,530</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>18,224</u></b>

Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of the following:

Cash	\$ 12,530	\$ -
Reserved cash - external projects	-	22,705
Bank indebtedness	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,481)</u>
	<b>\$ <u>12,530</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>18,224</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
as at August 31, 2024

1. STATUTES OF INCORPORATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

The organization, incorporated on February 15, 1989 under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act, is a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income taxes.

The organization is a student-initiated, student-funded, student-run organization that actively works towards social and environmental justice. Through socially-engaged research, popular education, action advocacy, and working groups, the Organization connects McGill students with the greater Montreal community.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Cash and cash equivalents

The organization's policy is to disclose cash and cash equivalents, including bank overdrafts with balances that fluctuate frequently from being positive to overdrawn and term deposits with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. They are amortized over their estimated useful lives using the following methods and rates

Office equipment	20% declining balance
Leasehold improvements	25% straight-line
Computer software and equipment	30% declining balance

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at cost or amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, term deposit and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued charges and accounts payable - external projects.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
Accounts receivable	\$ 22,329	\$ 24,198
Other receivables	<u>240</u>	<u>1,940</u>
	\$ <u>22,569</u>	\$ <u>26,138</u>

4. CAPITAL ASSETS			<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amorti- zation</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Office equipment	\$ 7,717	\$ 3,624	\$ 4,093	\$ 5,116
Leasehold improvements	10,524	2,263	8,261	328
Computer software end equipment	<u>48,762</u>	<u>47,091</u>	<u>1,671</u>	<u>2,387</u>
	\$ <u>67,003</u>	\$ <u>52,978</u>	\$ <u>14,025</u>	\$ <u>7,831</u>

5. LINE OF CREDIT

The organization has an authorized line of credit on a credit card of \$5,000, bearing interest at the rate of 15.70%.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED CHARGES	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 4,614	\$ 9,783
Government remittances	-	1,156
Accrued salaries and vacation	<u>6,219</u>	<u>4,219</u>
	\$ <u>10,833</u>	\$ <u>15,158</u>

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7. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The organization is committed under a lease agreement for its office space expiring September 14, 2026 to pay annual rent as follows: 2025 - \$25,094, 2026 - \$25,596, 2027 - \$2,165.

The organization is committed under a lease agreement for office equipment expiring in September 2026 to pay annual instalments as follows: 2025 - \$4,139, 2026 - \$4,139.

8. WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECTS

	<u>2 0 2 4</u>	<u>2 0 2 3</u>
School Schmool	\$ 10,387	\$ 4,743
Mobilizing For Milton Parc	4,220	-
Trans Patient Union	3,766	-
Unruly Writers Club	3,370	-
McGill SPHR	2,912	-
Rad Frosh	2,886	17,469
Community Cooks Collective	2,175	2,007
Accessibilize Montreal	2,139	2,393
Prisoner Correspondence Project	1,845	1,780
Women of Diverse Origins	1,746	1,780
Black Healing Centre	1,736	6,748
Circles	1,687	1,884
Pan-Asian Collective	1,653	2,139
BIHRA	1,500	-
Food Against Fascism	1,498	650
Prison Radio	1,068	422
Building Community	850	1,501
Montreal Street Patrol	500	-
Climate Justice Montreal	497	-
CNT	150	-
Work Study Program	-	21,225
Summer Stipends	-	4,472
Library	-	3,482
Harm Reduction	-	2,175
Reclaim Turtle Island	-	1,780
C.U.R.E.	-	1,500
McGill BDS	-	996
Beyond Equity	-	650
Montreal Anarchist Bookfair	-	500
Root to Branch	-	320
Solidarity across Borders	-	100
	<u>\$ 46,585</u>	<u>\$ 80,716</u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
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9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Risks and concentrations

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the organization's risk exposure and concentrations at the balance sheet date.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization's main credit risks relate to its accounts receivable.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the organization will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable and accrued charges and its accounts payable - external projects.

10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The figures presented for comparative purposes were audited by another chartered professional accountant and are therefore not covered by this audit report.



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