

QPIRG-McGill



2025-2026

# Annual Report

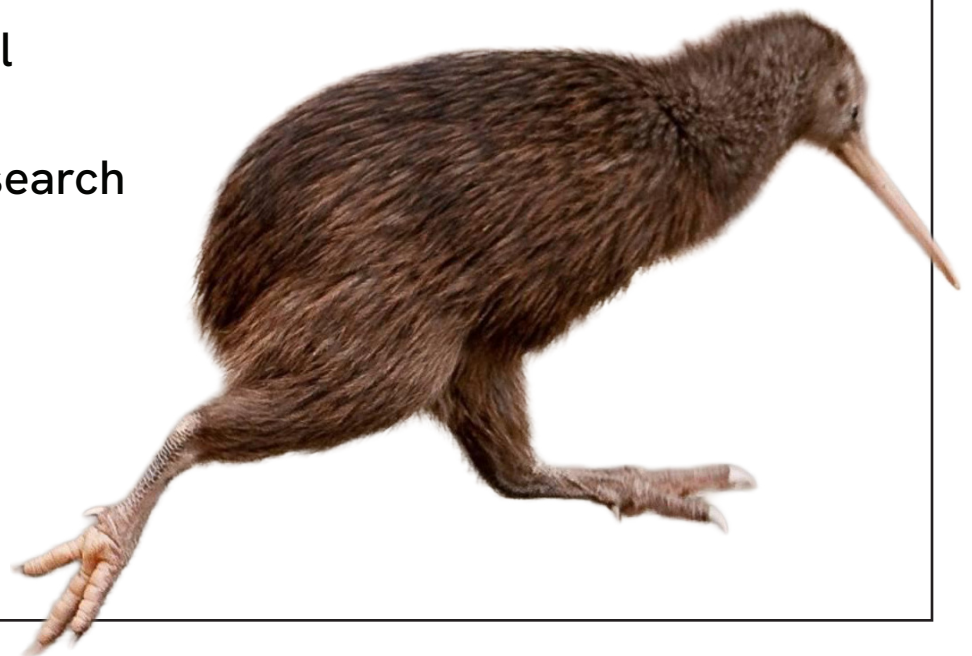


A birds-eye-view of QPIRG  
and our Working Groups  
over the past year!

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*Southern brown kiwi*  
(*Apteryx australis*)





# 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

*Wahid Al Mamun (resigned)*

*Naomi Bhalla (resigned)*

*Randi Dalquist (resigned)*

*Safia Haiboub (resigned)*

*Juliette Henderson (resigned)*

Mariana Monsalve

Harlan Porfiri

Claire Shu

### Community Board Members

*Tara Alami (resigned)*

Ha Nhuan Dong

Tamara Ghandour

Tatiana Povoroznyuk

Rebecca Reedman

*Benjamin Sauv  (resigned)*

*Davide Ventrone (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 Louis Lussier-Piette (Resource Centre Coordinator), Fadwa Bahman (CURE Coordinator), and Dina Sibaei (Campus Outreach Coordinator). Louis resigned in the fall, and the Resource Centre Coordinator position remained vacant for the rest of the year while QPIRG underwent a Workplace Health and Safety restructuring process. The accountants this year were Dan Lacroix and Stephen Kamp.

In the summer of 2025, QPIRG-McGill hired two Rad Frosh Coordinators: Naïla Gravel-Baazaoui and Casey Broughton; and two School Schmoor Coordinators: Leila Salazar and Olivia Pizzuco-Ennis. We did not fund any summer research stipends due to budget restrictions.

# QPIRG-McGill structure

## 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.



*Resplendent quetzal*  
(*Pharomachrus mocinno*)

# Reports from the Board and Staff



*Steller's jay*  
(*Cyanocitta stelleri*)

# 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	2025-26 specific
May 2025	Board Training + summer staff hiring	Hiring Resource Centre Coordinator and CURE Coordinator Intro to QPIRG training Facilitation and Consensus Training HR and Board/Staff Relations Training
June		
July		
August	Rad Frosh & School Schmool	Police Violence & Prison Abolition Training Campus Outreach Coordinator Hiring Board visioning
September		
October	Culture Shock planning + Events	
November		
December	Office closure	Legal arbitration with McGill cancelled
January 2026		
February		Finance Visioning
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 May 29th and August 6th, 2025 (Facilitators are mentioned in parentheses):

### **Introduction to QPIRG**

Carl Bystram – May 29

### **Facilitation and Consensus**

Nelly Wat – June 11

### **HR & Board / Staff Relations**

(Isabelle Oke, former QPIRG-M board member)  
– July 9

### **Police Violence & Prison Abolition**

(Ivory Tong) – August 6

## 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. Staffcomm's goal is to ensure that QPIRG remains a comfortable, equitable, and just workplace, and that staff have everything they need to succeed in their roles. Year-long commitments include contract signing, contract renewals, and monthly staff check-ins.

Staffcomm was active throughout the year with at least two active board members at all times, although it suffered from fluctuating capacity over time. The committee continues to struggle with maintaining the regularity of staff check-ins as a result, although maintaining regular meeting times

and assigning individual staff members to committee members has improved consistency from past years. Another measure instituted this year was increasing Staffcomm meetings from monthly to weekly, ensuring accountability between members. The committee will continue to prioritize consistency in the future.

The committee led an effort for QPIRG-McGill to comply with Quebec Law 27, which asks workplaces to treat psychosocial risks with the same importance as physical dangers. The committee initiated the nomination of a health and safety liaison officer and worked together with them to assess psychosocial risks at QPIRG-McGill, collecting information from current and past staff members. Together this task force built an action plan to address existing risks, which outlines a need for improved training and onboarding, the re-evaluation of conflict resolution policies, the formalization of policies towards mental health leave, and an audit and update of existing job descriptions. This project coincided with a pressing need to re-evaluate the risks faced by staff members working with the public, particularly the Resource Center Coordinator. Over the next year, Staffcomm will ensure the recommendations put forward in the Health and Safety Action Plan are enacted.

## Default Committee

The Default Committee was formed in February 2025 in order to coordinate QPIRG's response following the delivery of a Notice of Default (NOD) dated January 30, 2025 sent by Interim Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Angela Cambell notifying the board of an alleged default on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between QPIRG-McGill and McGill University. The committee disbanded in December 2025 following the agreement between McGill and QPIRG

# Report from the Board of Directors

to sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA) and release a joint statement in lieu of pursuing arbitration.

## Context

The MOA is a contract between McGill and QPIRG which governs, among other things, QPIRG's usage of McGill's name and the collection of the student levy by McGill on QPIRG's behalf.

In contract law, a default is a situation in which one party is considered to have failed to live up to their contractual obligations. In the event of an alleged default, the MOA outlines the procedure for its resolution. The defaulting party (allegedly QPIRG in this case) is entitled to written notice, after which they have 30 or 60 days (depending on the time of year) to remedy the default. If the defaulting party disagrees that they are in default, they have the right to request arbitration within 90 days of receipt of the NOD. In the case of arbitration, the MOA lays out that QPIRG and McGill will share the arbitration fees equally. If the defaulting party does not remedy the default, or request arbitration, within the timeframe specified by the MOA the other party has the right to dissolve the agreement. If the defaulting party is QPIRG, then QPIRG's funds would be allocated to a trust fund overseen by a committee made up of QPIRG members, McGill representatives and a neutral third party agreed on by both parties.

The Notice of Default delivered by Angela Cambell alleged that QPIRG was in violation of s. 11.1.2 of the MOA which states that QPIRG would be considered in default "when QPIRG violates its charter, constitution or by-laws, or any duly approved regulations, rules or policies of the University some of which appear in the University Administrative Handbook[.]". According to the letter, this violation was due to the

activities of Students for Palestine's Honour and Resistance McGill (SPHR), which was at the time a QPIRG working group. In McGill's submission of their arbitration response, McGill would specifically highlight SPHR's alleged involvement or support of several protests over the course of 2024 for Palestinian liberation and against the ongoing Israeli genocide of Palestinians, including the Bronfman Blockade on February 22nd and the encampment that occupied Lower Field from April 27th to July 10th. McGill argued that as a QPIRG working group SPHR were QPIRG members, and that their alleged activities were violations of the student handbook, ergo their alleged violations were also ours and QPIRG was thus in default of the MOA. The NOD



*Palestine sunbird  
(Cinnyris osea)*

# Report from the Board of Directors

also suspended QPIRG's roombooking rights as a pressure tactic, something which is not allowed for in the MOA.

The Letter of Agreement is a document that clarifies the relationship between working groups and QPIRG. It states that, for the purpose of section 11.1.2 of the MOA, QPIRG shall be considered in default of the MOA if one of its working groups acts in violation of the rules set out in that section.

## QPIRG's Position and the Default Committee's Mandate

QPIRG's position, as of January 2025, is that McGill's usage of section 11 of our MOA amounted to nothing more than an attempt to silence resistance to the university's ongoing support for genocide, widely acknowledged violations of international law and blatant disregard for human life for cynical financial reasons. This was backed up by McGill's usage of similar mechanisms for

similar reasons against the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) and the Post Graduate Student Society (PGSS) in 2024. It was the mandate of the Default Committee to coordinate QPIRG's legal response to McGill's allegations so as to prevent McGill from forcing QPIRG into a ruinous trust, which would have put its ability to continue operating in jeopardy. It was also the mandate of the Default Committee to organize the necessary fundraising efforts.

## Timeline of Events

### January 2025

- Angela Campbell sends a Notice of Default letter to QPIRG-McGill that includes a halt to room booking.
- QPIRG meets with SSMU executives to discuss NOD served to SSMU

### February 2025

- QPIRG confers with SPHR
- QPIRG engages Max Silverman
- QPIRG meets with PGSS executives to discuss NOD served to PGSS

### March 2025

- Angela Campbell requests meeting with QPIRG student members without legal counsel present per the MOA

### April 2025

- QPIRG attends confidential meeting with McGill administration

### May 2025

- QPIRG attends a second confidential meeting with McGill administration.
- McGill administration cancels a training unaffiliated with QPIRG because QPIRG staff were filling in as facilitators on an adhoc basis. When asked to clarify, they confirm it was due to the default proceedings.



*Guam kingfisher*  
(*Todiramphus cinnamominus*)

# Report from the Board of Directors

## June 2025

- QPIRG engages Clément Gascon as potential arbitrator

## August 2025

- Preparations for Arbitration begins
- QPIRG submits claim against McGill

## September 2025

- McGill submits response to QPIRG's claim
- QPIRG submits cross-examination questions for McGill
- McGill submits objections to QPIRG's cross-examination questions
- QPIRG submits counter-objections to McGill's objections

## October 2025

- McGill sends answers to questions to which they had not objected
- Clément Gascon agrees to McGill's objections

## November 2025

- McGill sends final submission

## December 2025

- SPHR sends official notice of renouncement as a QPIRG Working Group and QPIRG confirms this in writing.
- McGill agrees to eschew going to arbitration in favour of signing a Letter of Understanding regarding the status of working groups, as well as issuing a joint statement with QPIRG regarding free expression on campus
- For all intents and purposes, the Default Committee is dissolved and responsibility for finalizing the Letter of Understanding and joint statement is taken up by the staff and the board as a whole.

## 2026

- The Letter of Understanding and Joint Statement are finalized, the dispute is resolved.

## Arbitration

The decision to pursue arbitration was made on the basis of the advice of our lawyer and after confidential meetings with McGill administrators failed to resolve the dispute. The decision to forgo arbitration by mutual agreement with McGill was made due to the exclusion of key pieces of evidence regarding McGill's disputes with other student groups by the arbitrator during the preliminary process. After consulting our lawyer it was decided that proceeding to arbitration presented too great a risk of QPIRG being placed into a trust. Both decisions were made by the board after the presentation of all options by the Default Committee.

## Fundraising

In order to pay for the costs of arbitration, it was deemed necessary to set up a crowd funding page. We are grateful to have received donations from individual community members as well as organizations such as SSMU External Affairs, AMURE-PSAC, Grind'Her, Association of McGill Professors of the Faculty of Arts and AGSEM. Further details about the fundraising can be found in the Finance Committee report below.

## Conclusion

Despite the enormous pressure of facing the relative behemoth that is McGill University; an organization that has its own team of lawyers, practically unlimited funds and an order of magnitude larger staff; the Default Committee and QPIRG staff performed tremendously well. We reminded McGill that we will not roll over at the first sign of trouble and, through our fundraising efforts, that we are

# Report from the Board of Directors

backed by our larger community. One of the finer decisions made was to engage as our lawyer Max Silverman, from the law firm Grey Casgrain, who took our cause to heart and worked tremendously hard on our behalf.

Thank you to all the committee members who worked tirelessly over the course of the last year.

## Finance Committee

Finance Committee's main focuses this year were firstly, fundraising to cover our unexpected legal fees; secondly, allocating the additional revenue afforded to us by the successful fee levy increase; and finally, applying to grants.

Our legal battle began in January of 2025, but out of an abundance of caution, we did not disclose details surrounding the financials until after our last AGM. This report will therefore cover part of the 2024/25 year. QPIRG immediately sought legal counsel after receiving a notice of default from McGill University, as stated above. To pay our legal fees, \$1000 each were reallocated from the Library and Promo budget lines towards Legal, roughly \$2500 in total. After it became clear that we would be moving towards arbitration to resolve the alleged default, in June 2025, QPIRG set up a fundraiser to fund our legal fees externally, as the arbitrator was projected to be much more expensive than our own legal counsel. To date, we have raised \$14,678.28, totalling \$17,178.28 including QPIRG's contribution. Our legal fees are therefore completely covered. We are deeply grateful to our community for showing up for us in this moment to fight the repression of political expression on campus.

This year, due to the increase of the fee levy, QPIRG-McGill has had a surplus of funds. In order to decide how to distribute these funds, the Finance Committee planned a finance "semi-visioning" meeting with the board and staff.

The main goal of this meeting was to emerge with a clearer plan for allocating both our annual surplus and running surplus, to best meet our mandate. This was done by first zooming out and asking the questions: what does/should QPIRG do? What are QPIRG's organizational priorities? We explored these questions by first discussing where power is held at the university and how QPIRG fits into that. We then transitioned into looking at past budgets, noting what seemed most neglected within the priorities we just found. Next, we individually decided on our top five priorities for QPIRG, which Ivory then condensed into a list generalizing everyone's ideas. Finally, we voted for our top three priorities on the synthesized list (see Fig. 1). The resulting priorities were supporting student organizing, the library and upkeep of institutional memory, and radical research.

The second and critical part of this meeting was brainstorming and deciding on what activities / expenditures most support these priorities. From this section, we came away with the following ideas:

### **For supporting student organizing:**

- Providing resources: space for meetings, free printing, giving funding outside of working groups
- Popular education specifically on past activism at McGill and beyond, on student rights
- Implementing volunteer platforms (software, service)

# Report from the Board of Directors

## **For the library and institutional memory:**

- Adding more hours to library position, or creating a new one
- Adding a book budget
- More hours or new position for Textbook Loan program
- More staff hours on archival work

## **For Radical research:**

- Expert-led workshops
- Increasing CURE coordinator hours
- Providing resources for committee members: space, library, printer, food during meetings
- Having a stipend for student rad research projects

Finally, we discussed how to move forward with implementing these ideas, specifically how the budget can shift to reflect the decided priorities and support the above ideas. One of the biggest shifts was the amount of money going to working groups, which had previously represented roughly 30% of our programming budget. We wanted to find ways to support organizing outside of the working group program, and as such, the main project the Finance Committee took up in the wake of this meeting was revising the discretionary funding policy. Finally, in terms of implementation of the other ideas, we decided that individual committees should deliberate on how these ideas relate to them and come up with tangible items.

As mentioned above, following a two-year suspension, discretionary funding was reinstated this year, alongside the exceptional introduction of retroactive funding to address needs that emerged during the hiatus. This retroactive component recognizes that many community members continued to initiate and

sustain local projects at personal financial cost, and seeks to partially alleviate those burdens.

The funding pause also provided the Committee with an opportunity to reassess and refine its funding policies. Central to this process was a renewed commitment to supporting organizations and initiatives that face structural barriers to accessing institutional funding. In alignment with this objective, the Committee established a set of priority areas to guide allocation decisions:

- Homelessness initiatives in Milton-Parc
- Palestine organizing
- Decolonization and Indigenization efforts
- McGill student organizing
- Migrant justice initiatives

In contrast to previous years, the Committee operated with a funding surplus, with \$8,500 available for disbursement by the end of August. To better meet community needs, the maximum funding request was increased from \$250 to \$500.

To improve transparency, consistency, and efficiency in funding allocation, the Committee developed and implemented a more structured application and evaluation process. This includes:

- A standardized application form
- Clearly defined mandatory and preferential criteria
- An internal evaluation rubric
- A two-stage selection process, whereby applications are first reviewed by the Finance Committee before being presented to the General Meeting

# Report from the Board of Directors

Consultation with the Board highlighted a shared interest in strengthening accountability and maintaining ongoing awareness of funded initiatives. In response, the Committee introduced an impact reporting mechanism. While various enforcement strategies were considered—including withholding partial funds pending report completion—the Committee ultimately chose to incentivize compliance by prioritizing applicants who submit impact reports in future funding cycles.

Throughout these revisions, the Committee carefully navigated a key trade-off between accessibility and rigor. While a more thorough vetting process can help ensure alignment and commitment, it may also create barriers for applicants. Efforts were therefore made to balance ease of access with responsible stewardship of funds.

Additional policy adjustments included the introduction of endorsement requirements and the exploration of petty cash disbursements as a last-resort mechanism to enhance accessibility, allowing for reimbursement in cash where necessary.

The Finance Committee continued to look at grants from the public sector as a means of diversifying our income. We did not receive the Documentary Heritage Communities Program grant from Libraries and Archives Canada, due to certain materials in our library, such as pins, being ineligible for the funding. We have also been looking forward to the reopening of the funding program “Renforcer la vitalité des communautés d’expression anglaise du Québec”, which has long been delayed, but is now open as of March 2026. We made a successful grant application to Venture For Canada, a delivery organization

for the federal government’s Student Work placement program, which will subsidize two of our existing jobs over the summer. We have also applied to the Canada Post Community Fund grant for a project seeking to improve the library, and to the Fonds étudiant solidarité travail Québec (FESTQ) to subsidize our resource centre coordinator position over the summer. Results for the last two grants are pending.

Finally, on a logistical note, we created a new Finance Committee account in our Google Workspace to which all board members have access, and reorganized past Finance Committee materials onto that account. We hope that this change will ease onboarding to the Finance Committee, further democratize our finances, and facilitate access to our financial documents within the organization.

Thank you to our members for all of their hard work over the past year: Davide Ventrone, Tatiana Povoroznyuk, Tamara Ghandour, Safia Haiboub, Juliette Henderson, Rebecca Reedman, Mariana Monsalve Orozco, Harlan Porfiri, Claire Shu, and Ha Nhuan Dong.

## Board Dynamics

This year, Board members generally worked well together and were able to reach decisions with consensus on a regular basis. The environment of Board meetings has been one of open discussion, collaboration, and commitment to addressing the needs of the organization. Overall, the biggest struggle faced by the board in terms of dynamics has been long-term engagement. A few of the board members appointed at the last AGM

# Report from the Board of Directors

and more who were appointed thereafter are no longer with QPIRG. The relatively transient nature of board member terms does pose challenges, specifically that some roles of the Board such as administrative tasks have fallen on staff members. In order to address this, we created a rotating Board administrative position (the Board “whip”) to take on said administrative tasks. In general, this system seems to be working well and as we near the AGM, Board engagement has been more consistent and less reliant on staff.

## Future Goals

A priority for the board in 2026-2027 will be improving the Board engagement and capacity. The new position of Board “whip” will continue into the next year, with the goal of lessening administrative load on staff members. An effort to audit and improve our digital recordkeeping will further enable the board to work as efficiently as possible.

Following the results of our finance-focused visioning session, the Board is excited to support the expansion of and revitalization of certain programs at QPIRG-McGill. This includes increased hours for the Resource Centre Coordinator, the creation of a part-time Free Textbook Loan Coordinator position, and the return of discretionary funding. These are in service of our newly identified priorities as summarized in the Finance Committee section of this report.

The board is also committed to reducing psychosocial and other risks staff, Board members, and volunteers are exposed to

when participating in QPIRG-McGill activities. The board hopes to use the newly adopted Health and Safety Action Plan to intervene in identified risks throughout the next year. The Board hopes to ensure all members of our community are able to feel safe and supported during their time at QPIRG-McGill, ensuring the strength of the organization into the future.

*Atlantic puffin*  
(*Fratercula arctica*)



# Report from the staff

## Year in Review

This year, QPIRG went through a period of growth; we experienced both a significant existential challenge, and enormous support from our community. There has been a major resurgence of energy and engagement in every QPIRG committee and among our board. Our programming has exploded in popularity. At the same time, we have faced more high-profile opposition from both the University and right-wing media, in the form of a meaningful legal challenge to our existence, and national media backlash against our events. This is not a unique response for an organization that publicly supports Palestine, and reflects the increasing hostility of an evermore isolated right wing on this issue.

In our three permanent positions: Ivory Tong is now entering their eighth year as Finance & Administration Coordinator, and Nelly Wat is in their fifth year as Outreach & Promotions Coordinator. Carl Bystram is now in their fourth year as Working Groups and Community Research Coordinator.

As part-time staff: Dina Sibaei joined QPIRG as the Campus Outreach Coordinator in September 2025 and will be leaving QPIRG after she graduates this summer. Fadwa Bahman was hired as the CURE Coordinator in June. Louis Lussier Piette was hired as Resource Centre Coordinator, but resigned from his position in the fall.

Our School Schmoool Coordinators were Leila Salazar and Olivia Pizzuco-Ennis, and our Rad

Frosh Coordinators were Naïla Gravel-Baazaoui and Casey Broughton.

Joseph Liang finished their second year as our SSMU Popular Education Coordinator, and Alana Cabezas was hired by SSMU as a second



*Blue-footed booby  
(Sula nebouxii)*

# Report from the staff

PopEd Coordinator in May 2025. They will both be leaving QPIRG after they graduate this spring.

## Challenges

Last year, we went through an existential legal threat with a declaration of default on our Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University. After almost a year of talks and negotiations, we ultimately avoided arbitration and came to an agreement, after which SPHR resigned as a working group, but QPIRG-McGill was able to resume its normal operations.

The QPIRG library has been a vital community resource at a time when third spaces are ever more scarce due to the housing crisis. Running an open space like this has not been without its challenges, however, and peaceful cohabitation has been at times difficult.

In response, our organization went through an overhaul of its workplace health and safety practices, starting this fall. As our library sees increased traffic due to successful outreach, we saw the need for a clear policy and training pertaining to crisis de-escalation, conflict resolution, and the psychosocial well-being of staff and members of QPIRG. The Staff Committee and an elected Health and Safety Officer performed a review of potential risks in the workplace and developed a list of written recommendations to mitigate these risks. We are now in the process of writing a comprehensive Action Plan to ensure the health and safety of all members, in compliance with CNESST.

Another challenge has been simply caused by our popularity: we have more volunteers than

ever, and we have at times struggled to respond to the interest in our programs. We are taking steps to re-organize the way we handle volunteer training, including organizing group onboarding.

## Goals

Our goals this year have been well defined in our visioning, and include plans to manage our current budget surplus. Our collective discussions stressed the importance of QPIRG-McGill's ability to function as institutional memory for student movements, as well as the library's position as a third space on McGill campus. We also wanted to re-energize our community research programs, starting with re-opening our research stipends this summer, and to boost our community outreach: we have just re-opened our discretionary funding applications.

On the whole, we also want to continue to develop our programming and build on our successes. Our current committees are more vibrant than ever due to consistent efforts throughout the past year, and QPIRG-McGill is very much embedded in student movements on campus.

In solidarity,

The QPIRG-McGill Staff

Carl Bystram, Fadwa Bahman, Dina Sibaei, Ivory Tong, and Nelly Wat

# Alternative Library



## *Library space at 3516 Av du Parc*

Louis Lussier-Piette was hired as our Resource Centre Coordinator this year. Unfortunately, in November 2025, he resigned from his position. The Library Committee, as well as one of our Popular Education Coordinators, Joseph Liang, took over responsibilities related to management and outreach for the Alternative Library for the remainder of the year. They planned numerous events to promote engagement with the library and its space:

- Library Day open house
- Jazz Night fundraiser, featuring the musical stylings of some of our volunteers!
- Crafternoon
- Archiving & Auditing Volunteer Training

- Device-Free Hour
- Board Game Night
- Tatreez workshop (as part of Spring Into Action)
- Linocut workshop

We also discussed collaboration with SSMU's Open Educational Resources program; these online free textbooks are now available in our catalogue, and will soon be available in the library for borrowing.

Over the summer, the library is looking forward to hosting a book club with an external facilitator. Stay tuned to hear the announcement coming soon.

# Alternative Library



Device-free Hour.

## LINOCUT WORKSHOP



3516 Parc Ave  
Sat, 25 April  
1 pm



QPIRG

TICKETS

JAZZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

JAZZ

21 NOV  
QPIRG LIBRARY

18H-21H  
3516 AV DU PARC

BEE / LILLY ROSE / BLOODFARTS

*Barn owl  
(Tyto furcata)*



# Outreach Report

## Outreach

Dina Sibaei and Nelly Wat

## Year in Review

The Outreach team (Outreach & Promotions Coordinator and Campus Outreach Coordinator) is responsible for volunteer and campus outreach and organizing and promoting QPIRG events. Dina Sibaei joined QPIRG as the Campus Outreach Coordinator in September 2025 and Nelly Wat continued as the Outreach and Promotions Coordinator.

This year, we established a much stronger presence on campus through regular tabling in the SSMU Building, the Leacock Building, and Redpath Library. As always, we tabled at Activities Night in the fall and winter semester and had many positive interactions with students. We have also found that having meaningful items at the table—such as a kuffiyeh—helps draw students in and start conversations. We purchased a QPIRG tablecloth for tabling

purposes, which has made our displays more visually appealing! We also wheatpasted in Milton-Parc and on the streets surrounding McGill campus and handed out flyers on McTavish, outside SSMU. Our efforts have paid off in a noticeably higher level of recognition of QPIRG among McGill students.

In addition to on-campus outreach, we have found it productive to flyer at relevant events both at McGill and beyond, including screenings and events at Concordia. These efforts have helped us connect with students who may not otherwise encounter QPIRG and diversify our audience at events.

We began hosting monthly group volunteer training instead of one-on-one trainings in 2026 due to the administrative load required to schedule the latter. These sessions consistently drew small but engaged groups of participants (typically 4-5 people), allowing for a more collaborative onboarding experience. Due to the absence of a Resource Centre Coordinator for We hope to continue conducting these trainings.



# Outreach Report

However, several challenges remain. Communicating QPIRG's scope to new students can be difficult, given the breadth of our programming. While we currently provide a volunteer guide, developing a more accessible and user-friendly overview of the organization, along with clearer pathways for involvement, could strengthen engagement.

We have also experienced some challenges with volunteer retention over the past year. We suspect this is partly due to the absence of a Resource Centre Coordinator, as well as a lack of consistent structure for volunteers and a regular, dedicated meeting space. Strengthening these elements could help foster a greater sense of continuity among volunteers.

This year, we also made efforts to maintain a regular newsletter, aiming for distribution approximately every two weeks. This has been a fruitful tool for sharing updates and promoting events, ultimately maintaining engagement with our broader community. Collecting newsletter sign-ups at tabling events has also proven to be an important strategy for building a consistent audience.

In 2025, QPIRG received a lot of media coverage, both positive and negative. In response to our Anti Canada Day picnic on July 1st, which was organized alongside the Palestinian Feminist Collective and the Kanien'keha:ka Kahnistensera and drew in approximately 100 participants, a handful of furious opinion pieces were published on right-wing media outlets. The Tribune and the McGill Daily published articles covering some of our events and promoting our projects, such as the

**Interested in supporting**  
**grassroots movements**  
**in Montréal?**

**Join the QPIRG**  
**Board of Directors!**

**Drop-in info sessions**  
3516 Av du Parc

NOV 14TH	1-3PM
NOV 18TH	3-5PM
NOV 19TH	6-7PM (ONLINE)
NOV 24TH	3-5PM

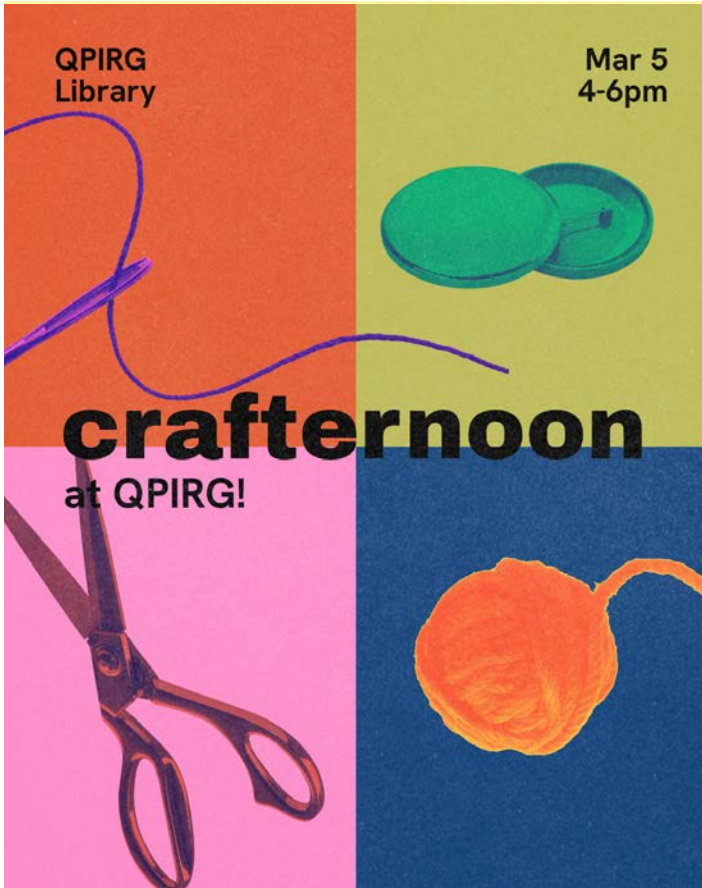


Free Textbook Loan Program.

In addition, our legal arbitration with McGill, which began in January 2025, reached many students and community members. We promoted our legal fundraiser on social media, and our supporters generously donated a total of \$14 678.78 to our legal fundraiser.

This spring, we brought back the Outreach Committee, which is responsible for all tasks related to outreach and promotion. Since early February, Dina has been leading Outreach Comm in promoting Spring into Action as well as a Board Information Session ahead of our Annual General Meeting at the end of April. The session was successful, which we believe was due to the informal atmosphere, the

# Outreach Report



fact that it was on campus and easy to spot, and the free pizza! We hope to build on this approach in future outreach efforts.

Carl Bystram ran QPIRG Radio on CKUT 90.3 every third Friday of the month this year. The show includes updates from QPIRG, as well as long form interviews with local organizers on diverse community-focused topics.

We also benefited from having a dedicated outreach budget later on in the year.

## 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:

### **Streamline volunteer onboarding and engagement**

- Develop a more structured and accessible onboarding process with clearer pathways for getting involved. This could include creating systems for communication, sign-ups, reminders for meetings and events. Strengthening this structure will help make participation feel more tangible and ongoing, rather than informal or disconnected.
- One of our key priorities is to implement a volunteer management platform and expand its use to our working groups. We believe this could be a valuable tool to centralize our outreach efforts and provide newer students with an accessible, less intimidating entry point into organizing on campus and in the city. In doing so, QPIRG can play a more active and visible role at the centre of organizing efforts on campus.

### **Improve volunteer retention**

- Establish more consistent communication channels (such as regular email updates) and create clearer structures for participation. In addition, organizing regular social events for volunteers could be key to strengthening relationships and encouraging long-term involvement.

### **Expand outreach to new and diverse participants**

- Continue developing strategies to reach students beyond existing networks, as many events currently attract repeat participants. Broadening our audience will be an important priority moving forward.

# Outreach Report

## **Increase event documentation and social media visibility**

- Strengthen pre- and post-event promotion by taking and sharing more photos at events.

## **Host more social events in our library**

- Build on the success of past library-based events by organizing more social activities. These events help draw people into our space, highlight available resources, and provide opportunities to share information about upcoming programming and opportunities.

## **Expand our outreach database**

- Develop a more comprehensive and organized outreach database that includes postering and flyering locations across the city, as well some kind of system for tracking relevant events and opportunities for outreach and announcements. This could also include building and maintaining a database of organizations that can be used for targeted outreach to different communities and purposes.

*Common parakeet  
(Melopsittacus undulatus)*



# Popular Education

## Year in Review

This year, we had two Popular Education Coordinators, hired by the outgoing Vice President External in the Students' Society of McGill University's department of External Affairs. Our Popular Education coordinators were Alana Cabezas and Joseph Liang. The Popular Education Committee welcomed new participants, as well as returning volunteers, staff, and board members.



October 21st-30th

Poster design by Tricia Robinson  
@triciarobinsonillustration

Thank you so much to all the facilitators, lecturers, and volunteers who made our event series possible, as well as People's Potato, Nilufar, Parc-Ex Curry Collective, Pushap's, and Restaurant Biryani for catering.

## Culture Shock

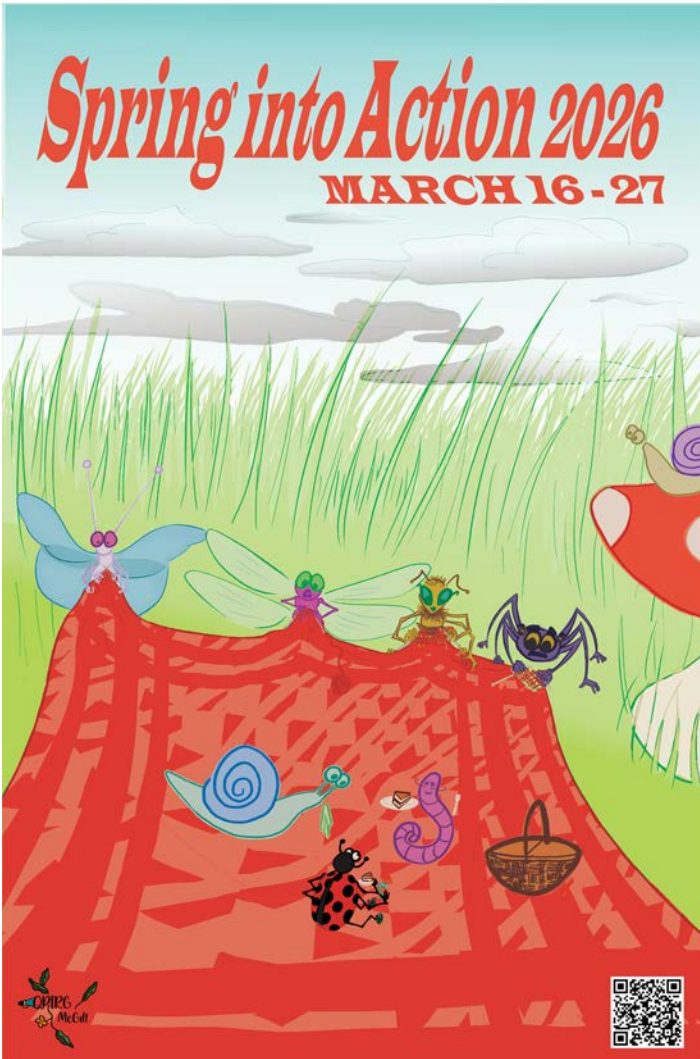
The theme of Culture Shock 2025 was Land. From migrants navigating an imperial border imposed upon Land to unhoused community members criminalized for occupying Land, this year's Culture Shock workshops challenged us to reject that Land is an object of capitalist possession, and recenter it as the root of our struggle. Workshops included:

- Community Dinner
- Panel on Migrant Justice (collaboration with Get Organized)
- Walking as method: Exploring hostile design in Milton-Parc - walking tour
- Keynote Address with Ellen Gabriel
- Textures of the land: Reconnecting with our roots - film screening and mirror collage
- Severed (2025) - film screening
- WHERE I COME FROM THE GROUND IS RED - writing and zine workshop

## Spring into Action

The theme of Spring into Action 2026, Common Thread, explored the connections between struggles that appear distant, the shared conditions that link them, and the responsibilities we hold to one another across borders, movements, and timelines. "Common Thread" also evoked the generative process of mending and repair, of weaving together

# Popular Education



Poster design by Lily Paris @lilydotparis

a fabric of solidarity and justice that emerges from shared struggles. The workshops included:

- Community Dinner
- Guerilla Gardening
- Mapping Extraction
- Solidarity Crochet
- Neighbourhood Solidarity
- Manthan Film Screening
- Tatreez Workshop
- Palestine Organizing Panel Discussion

## Other Projects

### Rad courses guide

Outgoing popular education coordinator Emily Hardie started a database of rad courses taught by leftist professors at McGill. The database is currently available on the QPIRG linktree.

### Access to Information workshop

We ran a workshop on submitting access to information requests for public institutions. The workshop was popular and we have tried to repeat it with others, including CSU and the LSA.

### Anti-Canada Day BBQ + fundraiser

### Challenges with SSMU

In July, we held an anti-Canada Day BBQ. We faced some conflict with the SSMU VP External, who took down the Instagram collaboration because the event was deemed too inflammatory. Throughout this year, we have had difficulties with VP External, who has been hesitant to collaborate on projects. This has forced us to be more creative about collaborations and funding for events that otherwise could have accessed VP External funds.

### Fix Student Democracy workshop

We held a workshop about SSMU elections encouraging rad candidates to run.

### Film screenings

We held a number of film screenings, starting

# Popular Education

in the summer and continuing throughout the semester. They were all very well attended.

- Reel No. 21 AKA Restoring Solidarity
- Parade: Queer Acts of Love and Resistance
- The Revolution Will Not Be Televised
- Criminal Queers

## Challenges

The SSMU environment proved difficult this year. We found difficulty finding funding because typical sources of SSMU funds, including the Community Engagement Fund and Community Solidarity Fund were exceptionally backlogged or difficult to apply to.

The current executives terminated Midnight Kitchen, an important sister group and often a provider of free meals for our events. This forced us to find other caterers and often raised our event costs.

The current executives also terminated Midnight Kitchen, an important sister group and often a provider of free meals for our events. This forced us to find other caterers and often raised our event costs.

Thank you to all Pop Ed volunteers this year!



*Village weaver  
(Ploceus cucullatus)*



## Introduction

Rad Frosh is a 3-day alternative orientation program coordinated annually by QPIRG-McGill. Rad Frosh caters to the needs and interests of incoming first-year students who want to explore a range of environmental and social justice issues at McGill and in Montreal. Rad Frosh provides new students with unique and exciting opportunities to meet fellow students with similar interests, and to be introduced to numerous community and activist organizations from McGill and Montreal. Our amazing coordinators this year were Casey Broughton and Naïla Gravel-Baazaoui.

This year's theme, All Roads Lead to Rad, invited us to trace the ways our stories, struggles, and

resistance intersect. The blurb for the theme read as follows:

Rad Frosh 2025 is about building bridges: between individuals, movements, and generations; across experiences, identities, and struggles. Like the bridges that stretch across the St. Lawrence/ Kchitegw (or Moliantegok), the metro lines converging underground, or back alleys weaving between neighborhoods, our paths cross in unexpected and powerful ways. We are held together by invisible threads, shared routes, and intersecting resistance. Though we each arrive at McGill from different places, we're now en route together, navigating the same systems, the same city, the same moment.

Rad Frosh 2025 is a place to map those intersections. Through workshops, seminars,

# Rad Frosh



## *Casey and Naila welcoming the froshies*

panels, art, and tours, we explore the shared routes of resistance carved out by activists, organizers, and communities across Tio'tia:ke/Mooniyang and beyond. Through sharing space, walking together, and talking amongst each other, we knit together bonds of friendship and networks of support. You don't have to come with all the answers, just curiosity, openness, and a willingness to build together.

The poster this year was designed by QPIRG-McGill's own Nelly Wat. A Metro line, a road, and a Rad thread are all being woven together, just as Rad Frosh aimed to weave together our participating students and organizations. The icon

of a bicycling raccoon, keffiyeh flying in the wind, represented how we hope to give our Froshies a boost forward and connections they can carry with them throughout their time at McGill and into the future.

## Schedule

### Friday, August 29th

- Speed friending
- Campus tour
- Community dinner
- Panel: McGill and Lawfare
- Songs for Sovereignty Concert

## Saturday, August 30th

- Breakfast and blackout poetry
- SLAM-MATU Tenants' Rights workshop
- Community lunch and table-hopping friending
- Community and union fair, with art pop-ups
- Tatreez workshop
- Queer Karaoke

## Sunday, August 31st

- Breakfast picnic and Mount Royal hike
- Beaver Lake picnic lunch
- Milton-Parc tour
- Rad Frosh x Dis/Orientation BBQ
- Dahomey film screening

## Venues

Our "home base" venues/meeting points were the SSMU building on Friday, and Bar Milton-Parc on Saturday. Sunday was mostly outdoors. We also booked several events at QPIRG Concordia, and went to Sala Rossa for the concert on Friday.

## Challenges

There were some communication issues between would-be participants and Rad Frosh; for instance, we forgot to make an explicit refund policy, or gather consent for photographs. Regularly reminding participants who indicated "interested" on MyInvolvement to pay for their tickets on Zeffy was also a challenge.

Logistically, we struggled to find spaces that were big enough to comfortably accommodate all of our participants, leading to some events feeling overcrowded. We also should've left more time between events on Saturday and

Sunday to reduce the feeling of being rushed for participants, facilitators, coordinators, and staff. Frosh participants also indicated in the post-event feedback form that they would've enjoyed more events specifically focused on socializing and intermingling.

## Successes

We sold out our tickets this year! Turnout was incredible and there was high engagement throughout the weekend. The main driver of our visibility was being on the same platform as the faculty froshes, MyInvolvement; in the past, we have sometimes been relegated to a separate platform. In addition, the coordinators revitalized the Rad Frosh Instagram account, which also contributed to outreach.

While all of our events went well, we would especially like to highlight the lawfare panel, queer karaoke, the tatreez workshop, the barbecue, and the CKUT station visit portion of the campus tour. Planning these events in collaboration with other groups (in this case, Queer Karaoke MTL, Dis/Orientation at QPIRG Concordia, and CKUT) elevated them above and beyond the sum of our parts. Additionally, the subject-specific knowledge of our coordinators and workshop facilitator were massive assets to our lawfare panel and the tatreez workshop.

As always, we are incredibly grateful to Rad Frosh's volunteer facilitators, who are the point of contact for the frosh participants. They did an incredible job welcoming the students this year, and received high praise from the feedback form. All our thanks to our lovely facilitators: Shea, Mia, Evelyn, Anwyn, Clara, Emma, Joseph,

# Rad Frosh



## *Community Fair at Co-op Bar Milton-Parc*

Eva, Mariana, Ki'ra, Cecelia, Jaanashee, Anna, Fatema, and Francis!

We would also love to thank the many, many individuals and groups who came together to make this weekend such a success: Midnight Kitchen, Association of McGill University Student Employees, Association of McGill Research Employees, Association of Graduate Student Employees of McGill, Association of McGill Professors of Law, Association of McGill Professors of Education, Association of McGill Professors in the Faculty of Arts, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) External Affairs department, CKUT, the Union for Gender

Empowerment, Syndicat des locataires Montréal - Montreal Autonomous Tenants' Union, Suzane Obeid, Anakbayan Montreal, Queer McGill, Climate Justice Montreal, the Yellow Door, Independent Jewish Voices, the SSMU Eating Disorder Centre, Lowkiki, the Citizens' Committee of Milton-Parc, toothworld, Trans Patient Union, Tiohtià:ke Strike, Socialist Books, Prisoner Correspondence Project, Take Back Tekanontak, the Mohawk Mothers, and Queer Karaoke MTL. Finally, we thank the people without whom Rad Frosh could not exist: all the participants!

# School Schmool

This year's School Schmool Coordinators were Leila Salazar and Olivia Pizzuco-Ennis. 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
- Design promotional materials
- Update Religious Holidays
- Print & publish promotional materials

### AUGUST

- First draft of Agenda should be finished



*Cover design by Panos @notdirtynapkins*

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

### SEPTEMBER

- Promotion of Agenda
- Launch party!
- Distribution
- Exit interview

# School Schmool

- Pass on any notes & reflections for next year's coordinator
- Brief written report (for the QPIRG Annual Report)

## Budget

### Expenses

Printing (1,000 agendas printed using sustainable materials): \$7,993.64

Stipends/Honoraria: \$2725

Cover: \$200.00

Food and transportation: \$238.98

Total expenses:

\$11157.62

### Revenue

Launch event: \$390.60

Total requested: \$11157.62

Total approved: \$3157.62

Total revenue: 3548.22

Deficit: \$8000\*

\*pending funding application from the Sustainability Action Fund.

## Content

This year's theme is rogue archives. Rogue archives are the ways our communities hold on to memory and knowledge outside of institutions. They resist erasure and honour the lived histories of Indigenous, Black, migrant, Queer, Trans, disabled, and low-income communities.

## Printing and Distribution

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. All 1,000 copies were distributed in the fall!

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 that we shared with the QPIRGs and 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.

The digital edition of the agenda was uploaded onto the School Schmool archive at [schoolschoom.com](http://schoolschoom.com).

## 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

# School Schmoool

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!

*Wood duck  
(Aix sponsa)*



# Community Research

QPIRG-McGill's community research programs underwent a significant transformation this year, with the creation of the Radical Research Committee. As a departure from previous CURE projects, which were primarily executed alone, our new CURE Coordinator Fadwa Bahman runs this committee.

After a recruitment call last summer, the committee developed a list of common values and goals, as well as a shared understanding of their own context and the role of community research. The committee's primary research project this year centred on migrant justice, and we collaborated with the Justice Migrante clinic and Solidarity Across Borders.

Over the past year, the committee has collaborated on research related to Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) applications for refugees, collected a resource list of active and accessible legal clinics for migrants, and organized a migrant justice workshop to raise awareness about migrant justice issues specific to Québec.

For the spring and summer period, the committee is focusing on developing a migrant justice zine aimed at addressing a community research gap in Montréal, Québec. The goal is to share this resource with the local community, partner organizations, and students. Plans are also underway to host a zine launch event, along with a hands-on zine-building workshop at the end of the summer to further engage the community.

Additionally, an information session was held by the CURE coordinator during the winter semester, resulting in the recruitment of a few new members to the research committee.

## Zines, zines, zines

This year saw a renewed interest in the zine library. We collaborated with ARCMTL on a panel on zine archiving in the city, and Carl Bystram gave a tour of the zine library in



*Galah  
(Eolophus roseicapilla)*

# Community Research

collaboration with the Association of Canadian Zine Archivists. As a part of the Community Research Exchange Program, we collaborated with professor Gordon Burr to send a class of students to create finding aids for the zine library. The project was very well received!

Finally, QPIRG-McGill supported a zine launch for Empty Seats: Palestinian Admitted to McGill Held in Administrative Limbo, which took place at the Critical Media Lab. This project collected testimony from Palestinian students barred from entering Canada even after admission to McGill, as well as responses from McGill students. The zine is now archived at the QPIRG-McGill library.

## New collaborations

We collaborated with Gwendolyn Muir from the Justice Migrant Clinic, an immigration lawyer and organizer, to put together a workshop about Bill C-12 and getting involved in migrant justice activism, which took place at McGill university and was open to all.

We also collaborated with professor Jayne Malenfant, asking working groups to sign up to be paired with students from their class for a community education based project. While the number of groups signing on was rather low, it was nevertheless successful, since it did introduce a few students to grassroots groups.

## Summer Stipends

The call out for summer stipends is now active! This program was previously axed due to budget

difficulties, and it is now spearheaded by Carl, Fadwa, and Saeema from the Radical Research Committee. We are hoping that this initiative will breathe some more vitality into the community research landscape of the city.

# Funding and Endorsements



*Rock ptarmigan  
(Lagopus muta)*

# Discretionary Funding, Event Co-Sponsorships, and Endorsements

## 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. In May 2024, we closed discretionary funding indefinitely due to lack of funds. We will finally be reopening our Discretionary fund this summer to requests up to \$500.

## 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

### **2025-07-02 - Wild Pride**

General Assembly – March for Your Pride Without Compromise

### **2025-07-30 - Wild Pride**

Tabling on August 8 and 9

### **2025-07-30 - South Asian Diaspora Action Collective (SADAC)**

Hindutva & the nexus of global far-right extremism:

responses of social justice movements

### **2025-07-30 - McGill Students for Care Through Tech**

Disconnected: Homelessness and the Digital Divide

### **2025-09-10 - SADAC**

Update and Call for Support: Mr Roy remains in Canada and is in need of Financial Support

### **2025-10-20 - Save MK Coalition**

### **2026-03-05 - Solidarity Across Borders**

Lettre ouverte à la Mairesse pour faire de Montréal une ville sanctuaire

### **2026-03-05 - Comité autonome du travail du sexe (CATS) - Sex Work Autonomous Committee (SWAC)**

Déclaration d'appui à la grève du travail du sexe

### **2026-04-02 - Caring for Space**

Workshop: Nervous System Regulation for Activists

### **2026-04-02 - SPHR Concordia**

Support Gaza Fundraiser

### **2026-04-16 - Trans Patient Union**

lettre ouverte appelant à augmenter le budget du GrS pour les chirurgies d'affirmation de genre pour l'année 2026-2027 et à l'intégration des chirurgies d'affirmation de genre à la RAMQ

### **2026-04-16 - Guerilla Grafting**

### **2026-04-16 - Solidarity Across Borders**

Emergency Rally Against Amadou's Deportation

# Financial Report

## Finance Ivory Tong

In the financial year ending August 31, 2025, we had a surplus of \$8539. However, a crucial error that has been made in the past with regards to QPIRG's finances is not noting which funds are restricted or unrestricted. Since we act as a fiduciary for several of our working groups, some of their funding is also in our accounts. Bearing that in mind, only around \$4000 of our surplus funds are actually accessible to QPIRG's main operations, with the other \$4500 representing the cumulative surplus of the working groups.

Importantly, we completed our audit dated Aug 31, 2025. Our audit was conducted by an independent auditor's office, Amstutz Inc. Working with Ron Amstutz was once again, a great experience, and we thank him for his patience and hard work. The audit is essential for us to maintain our financial health and we are very grateful that the auditors were able to render the report to us.

## Other updates from the year

Much of the financial management this year was shared with the Finance Committee, for which I am very grateful. It has been a long-term goal to engage board members more deeply in our finances, given that they are legally responsible for it. There were several barriers to this goal: our board has a high turnover rate, with one-year terms; board members tend to be quite young and are often students, with no experience with financial management; and

there is a lot of highly specific accounting jargon that poses a barrier to learning. The Finance Committee members this year featured people returning to the board, who already had high familiarity with QPIRG and its finances, as well as people who were very eager to learn. It is my goal as the Finance Coordinator to continue improving my own knowledge of accounting in order to better clarify any jargon and facilitate the onboarding of new Finance Committee members.

With regards to grants, QPIRG had to return a portion of a grant we had received several years ago, the Enabling Accessibility Fund from Employment and Social Development Canada. This grant was meant to fund the installation of a permanent ramp at our offices at 3516 avenue du Parc. Unfortunately, the costs associated with that project were much, much higher than anticipated; for instance, we had not budgeted to hire an architect to make precise plans to submit to the city. We ultimately purchased a temporary ramp and made various other accessibility improvements to our office building, but were not able to spend all of the funding.

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 2025 jobs, we received three YCW grants, one for School Schmoool and two for Rad Frosh. The positions were funded at 70%. We did not receive a grant from Canada Summer Jobs. Importantly, our funding from Young Canada Works was jeopardized and delayed by our failure to fill

# Financial Report

out forms in a timely manner. This is reflected in our financial statements for the year, which shows a net negative for the Government Grants budget line. Ultimately, we did end up receiving two out of three Young Canada Works grants, which will be reflected in the upcoming financial statement. One small change I noticed this year in the grant applications for summer of 2026 is a deprioritization from the federal government of marginalized groups in the workforce.

Our expenses breakdown for the cost of our legal fees was as follows:

- \$689.50 - Consultation with Grey Casgrain law firm
- \$5 748.75 - Flat fee for the work of our lawyer, Me Max Silverman
- \$11 559.59 - Arbitration fees for Woods LLC

Our lawyer kindly gave us a flat rate for all of his amazing work on our case, ultimately giving us a tremendously favourable solidarity rate. However, this still far exceeded the \$500 per year that QPIRG budgets for legal fees; to levy the funds, we initially reallocated funding from some of our other programming budget lines, and then reached out to student unions at Concordia and McGill for some very generous donations. We were thus able to cover the fees of our legal counsel, but per the Memorandum of Agreement between QPIRG and McGill University, we are obligated to equally split the cost of arbitration. This is an obvious unfair burden on QPIRG; to compare QPIRG and McGill's finances, our cash at August 31, 2025, was \$44 324, whereas McGill's cash at April 30, 2025, is over 2000 times higher, at \$117

100 000. I would recommend changing this clause in our MOA in the future. We launched a very successful fundraising campaign to be able to move forward to arbitration, for which we are grateful beyond words.

Our opt-outs this year were approximately 15% of the student population. This amounted to a total opt-out amount of \$66 989.50 for the 2025-26 year. The upward trend in opt-out percentage continues to hold, although the growth this year was less dramatic than last year's. It is important to note that this opt-out



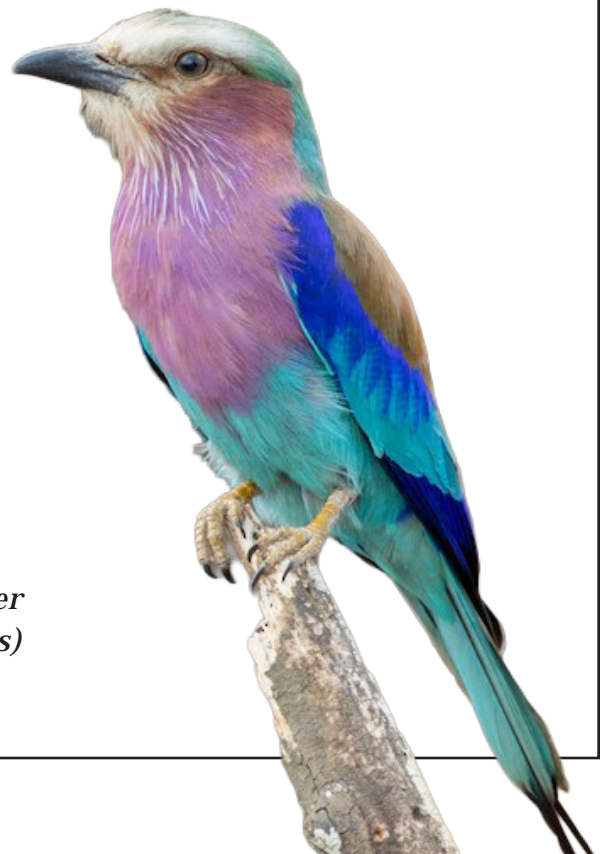
*Eurasian hoopoe*  
(*Upupa epops*)

# Financial Report

rate is not impacted by any opt-out campaign that we know of, and I believe it reflects a growing financial insecurity among the student body instead of an ideological conflict. That being said, it is important to continue budgeting with a conservative opt-out rate in mind to prepare for an organized right-wing movement on campus.

Our accountants are Dan Lacroix and Stephen Kamp, whose diligence and knowledge is greatly appreciated, as they do so much for the financial health of QPIRG-McGill. Fanie Blais also works with them as a payroll technician. 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: Arts' Undergraduate Society, the McGill Association University Teachers, the Students' Society of McGill University, the Association of McGill University Support Employees, Hot Tramp, Grind'her, the Association of McGill University Research Employees, the Concordia Student Union, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia, Queer McGill, Élèves des champs, the McGill University Gender, Sexuality, Feminist, and Social Justice Studies Students' Association, Sustainable Concordia, Frigo Vert, CURE Concordia, the McGill Sociology Students Association, and many, many generous supporters to our legal fees fundraiser.

# Working Group Reports



*Lilac-breasted roller*  
(*Coracias caudatus*)

# Working Group Reports

## Accessibilize Montreal!

### Events and Activities

We had internal skill shares amongst members of the group, we conducted consultations for the MAI Centre on accessible practises in the arts, and we advised on a focus group for social research on caretaking.

We cross promoted digital archiving workshops for disabled people based at Mcgill. One member worked on a workshop for disabled memoir. One member advised on accessible coding strategies.

### Campus Connections and Plans for the Future

This year we were focusing more on internal processes, so we did less outreach with the McGill community, but that said, we did help cross promote digital archiving workshops for disabled people.

We are working with potential collaborations with local arts nonprofits to host some accessibility workshops in 2027.

## Black Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance

### Events

- Co-organized several drum circles for drum teachings and song transmission for 2S & QTBIPOC with Moe Clark - June 2025, September 2025, December 2025 and March 2026



- Tattoo gathering - Traditional Markings ceremony for Indigenous Sex Workers with Mel Lefebvre -July 26, 2025
- ISWAC drop-in meetings, monthly between April - September 2025

We also attended & participated in the following community events:

- Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK event: Launch of the INDex community resource navigation tool - May 8, 2025
- Launch of 2S Mural with MIKANA and artist Cedar Eve
- Opening of Stella Exhibition at MEM "By and For 30 Years of Sex Workers Resistance"
- Shared songs and drumming for December 17 Vigil for Sex Workers at MEM with Stella
- Cabaret LaPerle 30th Anniversary Celebration - January 2026

### 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, communicating

# Working Group Reports

and meeting up monthly to distribute the funds.

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 2025 growing season, we hosted 3 small gatherings at the garden where community members helped care for and harvest our new Prairie Sage patch.

The Indigenous Sex Work & Art Collective (ISWAC) operates under the umbrella of BIHRA. In addition to our ongoing work of responding to mutual aid requests and maintaining collaborative relationships with other sex work advocacy groups in the city, this year members of the collective decided to organize monthly drop-ins for our members held at Le Frigo Vert, which happened between April - September 2025. We had a community memorial to honour and remember one of our members who passed in Spring 2025. And we held a ceremony for traditional markings specifically for indigenous Sex workers in July 2025.

We participated in the Housing Justice Gathering (Oct 28-30 2025) organized by Dr Jayne Malenfant.

## Plans for the Future

We will continue our ongoing projects with Nii'kinaaganaa Foundation, the Cedar Tea Project garden, and ISWAC. In general, our collective wants to honor our current needs and continue rebuilding our sense of larger community after the isolation of the pandemic (longterm goal haha, it takes as long to rebuild

as it took to break down). We want to continue to meet regularly and have the capacity to offer support for ad hoc / emerging issues. We want to continue connecting with other groups who have similar priorities as us, particularly around sex worker advocacy and prisoner support.

## CIRCLZ

### Events and Main Activities

This year we had a writing retreat and we filmed a documentary. We had no public event yet.

We were underfunded this year, by losing an important part of our usual funding (QPIRG Concordia) and we will lose two more next year. We decided to downsize our activities and rethink our structure. Our activities focused on filming a documentary of our work but before we knew we would lose our funding, we did have a writing retreat.

We don't know if we will survive the funding cut. We have to reflect on it. We are considering changing our content, maybe change our format.



## Climate Justice Montreal

### Events

We hosted a presentation and talk on making the case for fare-free transit at TROVEP's Foire Populaire on October 2. On October 23, we hosted a teach-

# Working Group Reports

in about our free, expanded, and accessible transit campaign in English, and a French version of the event on March 5. We co-hosted a Valentine's Day-themed event with Concordia's Social Justice Centre called "Break-Up with AI" to launch our series of zines on the environmental impacts of AI. Most recently, we hosted a book-swap and bake sale to raise funds for the MAMO Premières Nations and Camp souveraineté KM 134. Throughout the year, we have co-presented documentary films with Cinema Politica. "We worked with a researcher from Concordia through SHIFT's Research and Advocacy program and determined that the most feasible non-reformist reform that could act as a step towards our ultimate demands is to advocate for free transit for anyone under 18 years old. Throughout the process, we have been doing popular education around car culture and public transit.

## Activities

We re-oriented our False Solutions to Climate Change education series to focus mainly on AI, and developed a series of zines to complement our events and engagement activities.

We attempted to capitalize on the STM strikes in the fall to further our advocacy objectives while still supporting the striking workers, but we mobilized a little bit too late to make a real impact there. We took too much direction from the unions, who did a poor job with their communications campaign and with citizen engagement. It was a big learning opportunity." "We were not as involved in McGill-based activities as we would have liked to be this year. We had planned to speak at an anti-RBC event with Divest McGill and Working Alternatives McGill, but our representative had a medical emergency.

## Campus Connection

Many of our newer members this year are McGill students, and we are active and visible in student organizing spaces in general, but we can't pinpoint those recruitment successes to any McGill-based activities beyond our participation at Rad Frosh at the start of the school year.

It's McGill-based in an indirect way, but we frequently show up and support the advocacy work of the Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers).

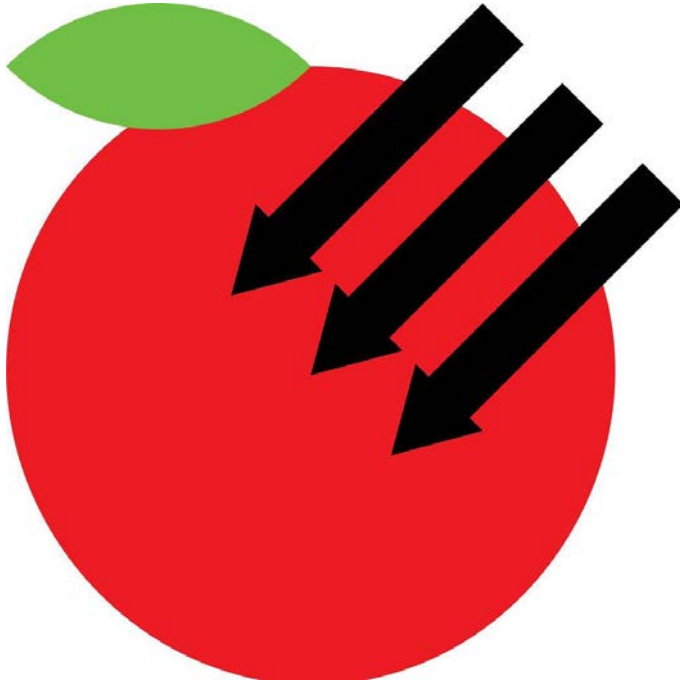
## Plans for the Future

We will be developing a campaign video for the transit campaign, to be released in June. We are entering the final phase of SHIFT's Research and Advocacy program (the activation phase), so we are gearing up to organize a coalition of transit groups and families over the summer and push for free transit under 18 years old.

Next year, we hope to join the program again as next year's focus will be on collaborating with other organizations around the theme, A Livable City for All: Development without Displacement. The least fleshed out pillar of our transit campaign is the expansion of our transit systems because of the risk of gentrification and displacement, so we are eager to address the weaknesses of our campaign.

We will be holding our 2026 visioning day in May, so details regarding next year's activities are yet to be precisely determined. Our capacity has been growing, but no major organizational changes have occurred.

# Working Group Reports



## Food Against Fascism

### Events and Main Activities

Our main activity was serving a weekly meal and coffee at de l'église metro every Saturday from 12:00-2:00.

Through partnerships with Cultivaction and Les Greniers Agricoles we were able to give away freshly grown fruits and vegetables from the summer to the fall.

During the winter we gave out gloves, hats, hand warmers and socks alongside our meal service.

We did catering for events throughout the year:

- Koumbit 20th Anniversary - Apr 25 2025
- May Day Solidarity Across Borders Fundraiser - May 2025

- CACV Ethel Parking Structure Manifestation - May 23 2025
- General Audience : Anti Fascism (+presentation) - May 28 2025
- LEV4Palestine BBQ - June 07 2025
- TRAPS MTL Picnic - July 27 2025
- AMPP Fundraiser - Aug 29 2025
- Trans Rights Manif - Sept 20 2025
- Espace Tapage B7 Music Launch for Béton Armé - Sept 27 2025
- Anarchist Tech Conference - Oct 13 2025
- Termite Collective - Oct 25 2025
- Bloodmoon Fest Anti Fascist Black Metal Show - Nov 28 2025
- Last Generation Event - Dec 09-10 2025
- Land Defenders Benefit Show at Toscadura - Feb 12 2026
- SLAM Refuse Together Workshop- Mar 22 2026
- CACV Tabling/Outreach - Mar 25 2026
- Rafales - ORA - Mar 29 2026
- CACV Tabling/Outreach - Apr 01 2026"

### Campus Connection

We helped cook and serve food for the Anti Canada Event at the CCMP with QPIRG-McGill. We prepared food for the Working Group Picnic (even though it got rained out). We had one Student volunteer help with multiple servings from Dr. Jayne Malenfant's class, and we went on CKUT/Qpirg Radio Show.

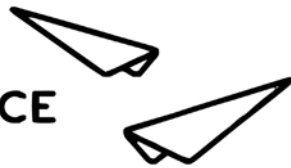
### Plans for the Future

We plan to continue our weekly service, continue our partnership with Les Greniers Agricoles and Cultivaction and to provide solidarity servings

# Working Group Reports

to events based on our capacity. We intend to seek out and grow new partnerships with other local organizations. We restarted collective cooking using the kitchen at Le Centre des Femmes de Verdun, which is the first collective cooking we've done since moving to Verdun. Currently we are hoping to do so once a month. We added two new core members to our team.

## PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT



### Prisoner Correspondence Project

#### Events

**Writer's Block:** a monthly online meet-up for penpals to get together and write letters, meet other penpals, support each other, and add letter-writing to our calendars so it doesn't fall to the wayside.

**Resource Blitz:** a monthly in-person volunteer event to fill resource requests. Volunteers photocopy, compile and package resources from our library of zines and send them to our members inside prison for free.

**Seeking Queer Penpals:** an online workshop designed for people who are curious about becoming a penpal to a queer prisoner. We walked participants through the PCP expectations and guidelines, answered questions about the project, and matched participants up with penpals on the spot.

**Teach-in with YouthLine:** online workshop titled "Building Solidarity with Queer and Trans Prisoners", focused on the specific challenges that queer and trans people face in prison and how prisoner pen pal projects like PCP organize to support queer and trans incarcerated people in Canada and the US in moving towards prison abolition.

**Queer/Trans Abolitionist Organizing workshop:** in collaboration with Divest McGill, we led a workshop introducing participants to prison abolition and its intersections with queer and trans organizing. We gave a brief introduction to the history of the movement, to the principles and mandates that guide PCP's work and abolitionist approach, and explored some of the ways that queer and trans people can work concretely to abolish prisons.

#### Activities

As always, PCP's main focus this year was penpal recruitment and prisoner support. Our volunteer drop-ins on Tuesdays--coordinated by PCP collective members and frequented by a team of volunteers--were spent reading, sorting and responding to letters from members, adding new members to the penpal listings, sending resources, and facilitating penpal matchups over email.

Our annual newsletter was printed, packed and mailed to over 3500 2LGBTQ+ prisoners across the US and Canada, thanks to the effort of inside members who submitted writing, artwork and playlists (the theme was music!), the Outside Collective, and volunteers in

# Working Group Reports

both New York and Vancouver who attended “newsletter stuffing parties.”

We have also engaged a team of remote volunteers to help us bring our resource library up to date by reading and reviewing all of the existing material, and researching resources to fill gaps in the library.

On the advocacy front, we penned and circulated an open letter in partnership with MTF (Movement for TransFeminism) against the Quebec Minister of Public Safety’s recently announced policy stating that transgender prisoners would be housed according to their genitalia rather than their gender identity (there was previously no stated policy and trans prisoners were assessed on a case-by-case basis). The letter was signed by more than 50 community organizations.

## Campus Connection

In addition to the workshop we hosted with Divest McGill, we also hosted a screening of the film Criminal Queers with QPIRG-McGill!

## Plans for the Future

In addition to our regular activities, we plan to send out a survey to our entire inside membership of roughly 4000 2LGBTQ+ prisoners across Canada and the US, in order to better understand their needs, struggles and revolutionary desires! In tandem with the survey, we will be updating our database to make the penpal listings more user-friendly, and to more accurately reflect how inside members identify and what they are looking for in a penpal.

We are also going to be doing trainings as a collective to sharpen our advocacy skills and strategy, so that we can take on more of a vocal leadership role in the struggle for the dignity and liberation of queer and trans people in prison. We’re hoping to collaborate with other organizations who are aligned in the struggle, especially those concerned with media coverage around trans prisoners.

We are also working on new merch as part of our effort to fundraise to cover growing costs of newsletter production. stay tuned <3

## Salon du Livre Anarchiste

### Events and Main Activities

We hosted the Anarchist bookfair on 18th October 2025 at Batiment 7. We decided to do a more local version in a one day event. We had tabling for local vendors, presentation and workshops during the day. The event ended with a punk show collab with Noise Not Borders that raised money for Atelier Tlachiuk. We served food and gave away some at the end.

We recruited new collective members, reviewed our policies and are in the works of planning Bookfair for 2026.

### Campus Connection

We haven’t coordinated anything with QPIRG McGill this year, but we’d be down to table if there’s opportunities. Or have students volunteer with the MAB collective

# Working Group Reports

## Plans for Next Year

We are planning to do the bookfair again in October 2026, going for 2 days this time and going back to our original space: CEDA. We also added new members! and are looking into maybe adding a few more.

## Prison Radio

### Events

#### Prison Justice Volunteer Recruitment

In collaboration with Termite Collective, we participated in a volunteer recruitment day at Frigo Vert in the fall. The day was quite successful, and we came away with several new volunteers.

#### New Year's Eve Noise Demo

As usual, we helped to organize some of the logistics of the New Year's Eve Noise Demo that takes place at Federal Training Centre, a federal prison in Laval.

#### **My brother, Soleiman: The fatal nexus between incarceration and mental health**

We co-sponsored this event organized by the Social Justice Centre at Concordia. It was a film screening, panel discussion, and Q&A, featuring Soleiman's brother and founder of #JusticeforSoli, Yusuf Faqiri, as well as two community members of the Termite Collective.

### Activities

Prison Radio's main activity is our radio show which airs twice monthly on CKUT. Although

we occasionally air archival episodes, the majority of our episodes are content created by collective members specifically for the show. Our shows, which include interviews and news segments, help to bring news and information about prisons onto the radio, and give those that are incarcerated a place to hear about prisoner struggles happening globally. In addition to being broadcast on CKUT, our episodes are also released as podcasts. We also have social media accounts to create more visibility.

In particular this year, we ran a series called Prison Radio Abroad, where PRS collective members interviewed different organizations across Europe on the subject of transformative justice and migrant struggle. Another project we were involved in was a mini-podcast series focusing on different women's groups in northeast Syria, and we aired an episode of that series dedicated to restorative justice.

### Campus Connection

Our show is based out of CKUT, a McGill campus and community radio station, so we attract a lot of McGill student volunteers.

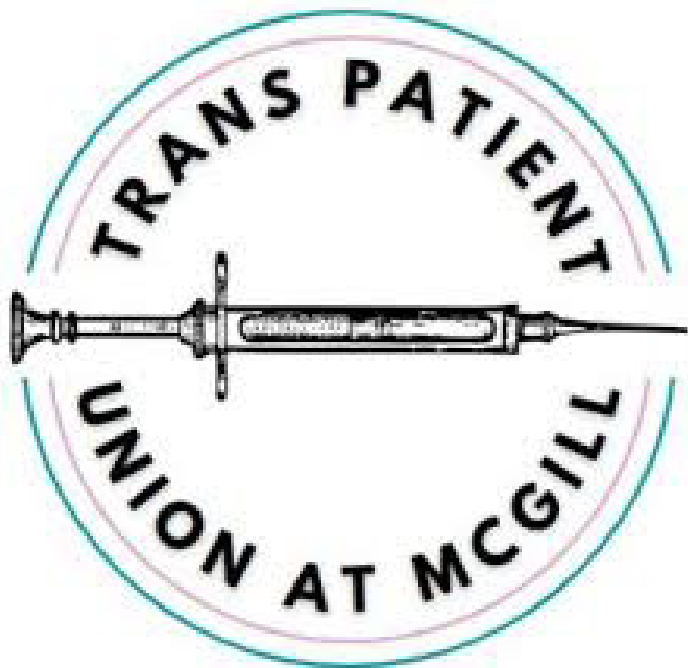
### Plans for the Future

Our immediate plan for the summer is to co-host Prisoners' Justice Day, an annual day of remembrance that takes place on August 10th to commemorate the lives of people who have died while incarcerated.

Over the next year, we hope to continue to make great and engaging radio! We intend to continue

# Working Group Reports

supporting those who are incarcerated by putting their voices on air, and corresponding with them. We also hope to grow our visibility on social media and organize our podcast archives to make our work more accessible.



## Trans Patient Union

### Events and Main Activities

- Workshop with Engineering Undergraduate Society of McGill University with McGill iGEM, September 20, 2025
- Community workshop for Exposures Film Festival, How to survive Healthcare as a Trans patient in Montreal, September 19, 2025
- Participant in Medical Ethics and Health Law Course panel at McGill Faculty of Medicine, Jan 8, 2026
- Community workshop performed for FASA,

- How to survive Healthcare as a Trans patient in Montreal with DIY HRT focus, Jan 30, 2026
- Pasties, Punchlines and Pronouns Community Fundraiser with all-trans performers. At Wiggle room. March 15, 2026
- McGill Social Work student's workshop, recommendation letter focus, April 13, 2026" "Advocacy

### GrS & RAMQ advocacy

- Meeting most months with a coalition of trans and queer community organizations to touch base and make progress on
- Met with GrS Montreal external relations twice, corresponded over email
- Met with Mannon Masse and her staff
- Sent official meeting request to Sonia Belanger
- Wrote an Open Letter about the GrS budget and the exclusion of gender affirming surgeries from RAMQ.
- Met at a retreat with other key activists with experience in law, and CIUSS reform, and a GAC surgeon advocate. Putting together action plan for GrS surgery reform.
- McGill SSMU referendum - Vote Yes to Greenshield student insurance
- Worked with Queer McGill to do tabling, postering, post about the fee passing and the new coverage

### McGill Wellness Hub

- Continued to meet with admin and medical director of the wellness hub
- Been keeping up with the new HRT doctor and soon-to-be HRT nurse practitioner

# Working Group Reports

- Advocating on their banning American McGill patient 19 and under to access HRT, due to Trump's executive order.
- Laser & Electrolysis under RAMQ
- Testing to see if it's feasible in practice to get laser & electrolysis covered for transfems on the face prior to HRT

## Resources

- PSA & resource on 'Intro to Trans Fertility Preservation in Montreal' in French and English (November 2025)
- 'DIY HRT Resources: HRT Science, Guides, and Suppliers' in French and English (November 2025)
- 'Guide to Accessing HRT In Montreal' in French and English (November 2025)
- Ongoing resource projects
- Update laser/electrolysis survey and resource
- Updating recommendation letter resource
- Other Resources
- Meet a Patient Project: connected about 10 patients
- Provided individual assistance to about 25 patients

## Surveys & interviews

- 'Did you receive partial or no reimbursements from SMMU for GAC' survey launch Fall 20205
- GrS Phalloplasty survey, in English and French, March 2026. 18 responses
- Completed 16 interviews, 14 of them with BIPOC trans patient
- Interviews been slower, we have been

working on updating our data analysis and data processing methods, we well as change the way we do interviews.

## Workshops & events

- Workshop with Engineering Undergraduate Society of McGill University with McGill iGEM, September 20, 2025
- Community workshop for Exposures Film Festival, How to survive Healthcare as a Trans patient in Montreal, September 19, 2025
- Participant in Medical Ethics and Health Law Course panel at McGill Faculty of Medicine, Jan 8, 2026
- Community workshop performed for FASA, How to survive Healthcare as a Trans patient in Montreal with DIY HRT focus, Jan 30, 2026
- Pasties, Punchlines and Pronouns Community Fundraiser with all-trans performers. At Wiggle room. March 15, 2026. Sold out, well attended, revenue of 2.5k!
- Included the making of TPU shirts and other merch for the first time ever!
- McGill Social Work student's workshop, recommendation letter focus, April 13, 2026

## Other Activities

- Monthly newsletter back on since January 1st! in French and English
- Applied to 2 major grants
- Summer plans
- Continue Trans surgery reform advocacy (GrS & RAMQ reform)
- Continue revamping the way we do interviews (especially in the fall)

# Working Group Reports

- Aiming to publish version 2 of the laser & electrolysis survey
- Planning a fundraiser with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada for summer 2025
- Planning a Summer/Fall community fundraiser
- Possibly 1 community workshops over the summer
- Tabling at an anti-oppressive Pride event

## Unruly Writers' Club

### Events

- Hybrid open mic night with the access in the making lab where members got to showcase their work in progress and do a sing along together.
- Bimonthly writing workshops and coworker sessions, open mic night for members, which was hybrid and a collaboration with the access in the making lab
- Advised the MAI Centre on accessible arts practices.

### Campus Connection

Some of our regular members are McGill undergraduate with students and professors. We also cross promoted events of the <https://disabilityarchiveslab.com/>

### Plans for the Future

Continuing our bimonthly writing workshops, and a potential co-organizing of a book launch called the way disabled people love each other by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha in fall of 2026



## Women of Diverse Origins

### Events

We organized the March 8 International Women's Day demonstration in downtown Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal, which brought over 6,000 people (some estimates were closer to 10,000) into the streets under the theme "Defiant and United: Women against Austerity, Fascism, Imperialism, and Militarism." The colourful and lively march gathered a wide range of community groups, worker organizations, and political collectives, and connected local struggles to international ones. It seemed that people felt an urgent need to take to the streets in response to the CAQ's and the federal government's attacks on women, workers, immigrants, and to the worsening housing crisis across Quebec and Canada, as well as in reaction to the ongoing genocide in Palestine, the escalation of imperialist violence against Iran and Venezuela, the situation in Sudan, and other crises around the world.

Speakers at the rally were representative members of FDO-WDO, as well as from organizations like the Women's Committee of the

# Working Group Reports

Immigrant Workers' Centre, Divest 4 Palestine and Anakbayan Montreal (a Filipino Youth Group). The presentations covered the main themes of the march as well as highlighted struggles, campaigns and realities here and elsewhere. The slogans chanted during the demonstration did the same. Concrete links were made between the struggle for women's rights and the multiple political, social, and economic crises internationally and in Canada in 2026. Hundreds of Flyers were distributed to bystanders, explaining why we were marching. There were also performances at the start of the march (a "1 Billion Rising" Choreography by Filipino migrant women workers, to represent a stand against violence against women), a women's choir singing along the route and a Fanfare band that collaborated with FDO-WDO for the first time this year. FDO-WDO also made further progress in solidifying ties with other women's organizations: inviting them to organizing meetings and collaborating on slogans, songs and statements, such as Colectiva Tribu, the Iranian Women's Association and the Table des Groupes de Femmes de Montreal.

Our march got a lot of media coverage radio, television, print and online, both before and during the event. The coverage included interviews and reportage. We also used social media to publicize the march and the messaging.

## Activities

In the lead-up to March 8, we held a banner-making and art build with over 30 participants. People created collective and individual artwork, shared a meal including a free Iftar, and built momentum together ahead of the demonstration.

We also organized a training and workshop for volunteer "Guardians" ahead of March 8. The session focused on training Guardians on protest safety, and coordination, and created space for participants to connect and ask questions about the feminist anti-imperialist movement in Montreal. The Guardians were then mobilized during the March 8 rally and march, where they supported crowd management and de-escalation. This role was particularly important given the presence of agitators and groups with conflicting viewpoints this year, which created a situation that could have easily escalated.

We also participated in a film discussion event at Cinema Politica Concordia on March 9, where two of our members spoke about the work of the group and led a discussion on the film *Looking for Simone* (a critical film that looks at the feminist author and philosopher, Simone de Beauvoir).

On March 11, one of our members presented on FDO-WDO at an all-day international workshop, "Contemporary Feminist Movements Across Geographies. Insights from Argentina, Iran, India, Turkey and Canada," held at Concordia's Social Justice Centre. "Throughout the winter and early spring of 2026, we organized across Montreal to prepare for March 8, bringing together women from different communities, sectors, and political traditions (name groups: Divest4Palestine, South Asian Women's Community Center, PINAY Quebec, Filipino Parent's Association, PLEDJ, Offensive Populaire Montreal, North Star Media, Alliance Ouvriere, etc). This included outreach, political education, coalition-building, and logistical coordination with community groups, worker organizations, and allied collectives. FDO-WDO is always a space open to all who support our Basis of

# Working Group Reports

Unity. This year saw some new participants and mentoring was part of what we also did.

We led the organization of a large-scale public demonstration in downtown Montreal on March 8, coordinating speakers, mobilization, and messaging that linked struggles against austerity, imperialism, and repression locally and internationally.

We facilitated a workshop, art build, and a guardian training at QPIRG-McGill to ensure collective readiness and safety for the demonstration.

We also engaged in political education and public interventions, including film discussions and talks, and published statements on international issues such as opposition to imperialist war, such as a public statement condemning the escalation against Iran and our yearly political statement.

## Campus Connection

As part of our preparation for March 8, we organized a guardian training and workshop. Many of the guardians were McGill students. There were also students from other institutions and community members. We also engaged with students through broader mobilization efforts and participation in campus-adjacent events such as Cinema Politica Concordia. We held some of our organizing meetings in QPIRG-McGill space.

## Plans for the Future

We plan to continue building our organizing as anti-imperialist feminists and with a focus

on strengthening ties between community groups, workers, and students. We will continue political education activities and public events, and begin preparations for next year's March 8 mobilization.

We also intend to deepen our work on international solidarity and anti-imperialist organizing, while maintaining a strong presence in local struggles affecting women, migrants, and working class communities.

Since this is the 25th year that FDO-WDO has been around we plan to have some events to mark this anniversary during the year, including honouring some elders of our movement.

No major structural or constitutional changes took place this year. The group continued to grow through the addition of new members and by strengthening collaborations with other organizations.

Following the March 8th activities, the collective has decided to continue meeting with the goal of developing a more formalized structure and clearer roles. This aims to ensure the group's long-term sustainability, deepen its democratic practices, and support its capacity to grow and take on expanded yearly activities.

# Appendix A: Media Coverage

# Media Coverage

[Geoff Russ: Ordinary Canadians shouldn't have to pay to educate people who hate them](#)

Geoff Russ, National Post, 2025-06-23

[EDITORIAL: Woe, Canada: No day to celebrate](#)

Postmedia News, Toronto Sun, 2025-06-22

[McGill group's anti-Canada event crosses the line](#)

Kevin Klein, Winnipeg Sun, 2025-06-24

[Far-left McGill University group hosting "anti-Canada Day" BBQ](#)

Walid Tamtam, True North Wire, 2025-07-01

[4 McGill unions say university is threatening free speech over pro-Palestinian support](#)

Maura Forrest, CBC, 2025-08-09

[McGill Unions "Condemn in Strongest Possible Terms" McGill's Notice of Default to QPIRG](#)

Adair Nelson, McGill Daily, 2025-08-27

[The Tribune Explains: QPIRG's Free Textbook Loan Program](#)

Amelia H. Clark, The Tribune, 2026-01-13

[QPIRG Prepares Students for SSMU elections](#)

Adair Nelson, McGill Daily, 2026-01-26

[Archiving a DIY history](#)

Ryan Pyke, The Link, 2026-02-15

[Tatreez workshops rewrite narratives around connection and belonging](#)

Winie Coulanges, The Link, 2026-03-29



*Red-winged blackbird  
(Agelaius phoeniceus)*

**Appendix B:**

**Audited  
financial  
statements**

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.

Financial Statements

August 31, 2025

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, 2025, 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, 2025, 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.

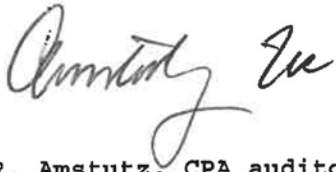
Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

**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 23, 2026  
Montreal, Quebec  
Permit No: A105202

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
year ended August 31, 2025

	<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Student fee levies	\$ 294,118	\$ 262,358
Revenues - events and working groups	34,508	28,463
Grants	(4,555)	44,223
Fundraising	9,779	-
Other revenues	1,640	949
Interest income	<u>345</u>	<u>853</u>
	<u>335,835</u>	<u>336,846</u>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and fringe benefits	194,105	197,266
Working groups and projects (Note 8)	52,526	46,585
Rent	24,000	24,000
Professional fees	20,217	10,003
General office expenses	17,080	14,892
Meetings and events	5,260	6,997
Insurance	3,899	3,818
Amortization	2,972	3,805
Repairs and maintenance	2,400	1,650
Bank charges	1,898	753
Discretionary fund	1,860	4,425
Telecommunication	<u>1,079</u>	<u>1,186</u>
	<u>327,296</u>	<u>315,380</u>
 <b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	 \$ <u>8,539</u>	 \$ <u>21,466</u>

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, 2025

	<u>Invested in capital assets</u>	<u>Un- restricted</u>	<u>2 0 2 5</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u> <u>Total</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 14,025	\$ 36,359	\$ 50,384	\$ 28,918
Excess of revenues over expenses	-	8,539	8,539	21,466
Amortization	<u>(2,972)</u>	<u>2,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>11,053</u>	\$ <u>47,870</u>	\$ <u>58,923</u>	\$ <u>50,384</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, 2025

	<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 44,324	\$ 12,530
Term deposit, 2.25%, maturing September 1, 2025	32,414	32,307
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	-	22,569
Rent deposit	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	78,738	69,406
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)</b>	<u>11,053</u>	<u>14,025</u>
	<u>\$ 89,791</u>	<u>\$ 83,431</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued charges (Note 6)	\$ 6,404	10,833
Accounts payable - external projects	<u>24,464</u>	<u>22,214</u>
	<u>30,868</u>	<u>33,047</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	11,053	14,025
Unrestricted	<u>47,870</u>	<u>36,359</u>
	<u>58,923</u>	<u>50,384</u>
	<u>\$ 89,791</u>	<u>\$ 83,431</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, 2025

	<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 8,539	\$ 21,466
Item not affecting cash		
Amortization	<u>2,972</u>	<u>3,805</u>
	11,511	25,271
Changes in non cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	22,569	3,569
Rent deposit	-	(2,000)
Accounts payable and accrued charges	(4,429)	(4,325)
Deferred contribution	-	(17,719)
Accounts payable - external projects	<u>2,250</u>	<u>(491)</u>
	<u>31,901</u>	<u>4,305</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase in term deposit	(107)	-
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,999)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,999)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	31,794	(5,694)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>12,530</u>	<u>18,224</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ <u><u>44,324</u></u>	\$ <u><u>12,530</u></u>

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, 2025

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  
as at August 31, 2025

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 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ 22,329
Other receivables	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>
	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>22,569</u>

4. CAPITAL ASSETS			<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	Accumulated <u>Amorti- zation</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Office equipment	\$ 7,717	\$ 4,442	\$ 3,275	\$ 4,093
Leasehold improvements	10,524	3,915	6,609	8,261
Computer software end equipment	<u>48,762</u>	<u>47,593</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>1,671</u>
	\$ <u>67,003</u>	\$ <u>55,950</u>	\$ <u>11,053</u>	\$ <u>14,025</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 13.45%.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED CHARGES	<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 1,913	\$ 4,614
Accrued salaries and vacation	<u>4,491</u>	<u>6,219</u>
	\$ <u>6,404</u>	\$ <u>10,833</u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP - MCGILL INC.  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
as at August 31, 2025

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: 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: 2026 - \$4,139.

8. WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECTS

	<u>2 0 2 5</u>	<u>2 0 2 4</u>
School Schmool	\$ 12,939	\$ 10,387
Regards Noirs	7,230	-
Rad Frosh	7,041	2,886
Trans Patient Union	6,600	3,766
Prison Radio	1,957	1,068
Prisoner Correspondence Project	1,914	1,845
Circles	1,658	1,687
Unruly Writers Club	1,503	3,370
Food Against Fascism	1,502	1,498
BIHRA	1,492	1,500
Accessibilize Montreal	1,433	2,139
Black Healing Centre	1,432	1,736
Montreal Anarchist Bookfair	1,400	-
Community Cooks Collective	1,363	2,175
Women of Diverse Origins	1,154	1,746
McGill SPHR	1,148	2,912
Climate Justice Montreal	600	497
Pan-Asian Collective	160	1,653
Mobilizing For Milton Parc	-	4,220
Building Community	-	850
Montreal Street Patrol	-	500
CNT	-	150
	<u>\$ 52,526</u>	<u>\$ 46,585</u>

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.

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.



2025-2026

# Annual Report

A birds-eye-view of QPIRG and our  
Working Groups over the past year!

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