

# APJRG 2010 annual report

## APJRG 2010 annual report

student & community-based research education social activism.

**providing students with support to be active citizens.**

resources to help student working groups to transform social concern into effective action.



**Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)**

**Annual Report 2011**

### Contributions

APIRG wishes to thank the following people that have contributed to this years Annual Report.

Louise Veillard, Jess Warren, Denise Ogonoski and Brooke Leifso (content and design),

Denise Ogonoski (Working Group reports)

Kirsten Mayoh (Cover design and graphics)

Michael Liu (photos)

We also want to thank our funding recipients and Working Group members for submitting their respective summarized content.

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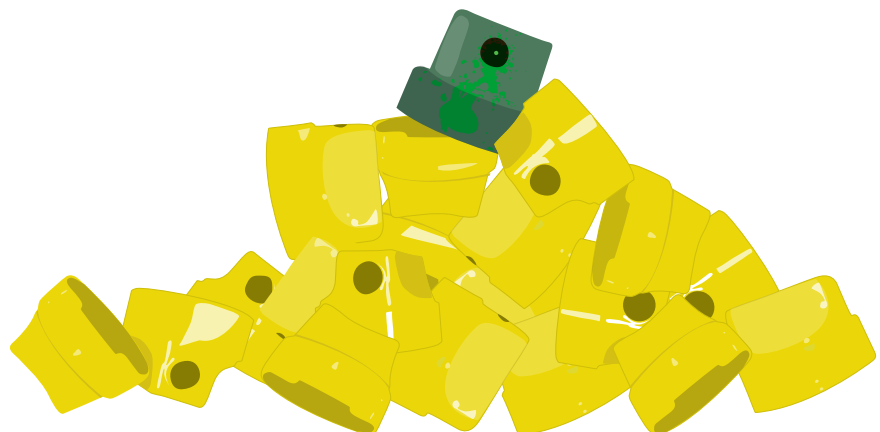
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# **Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)**

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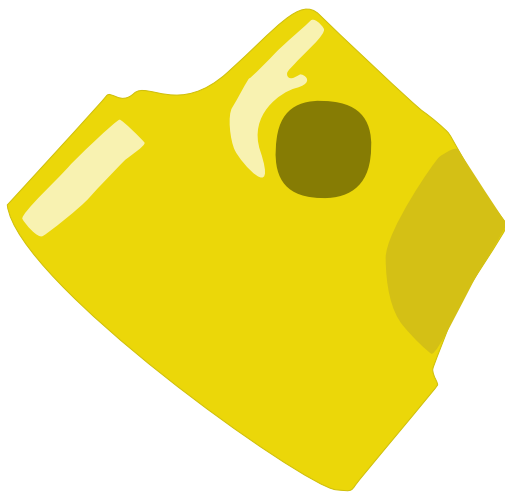
## About APIRG

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) is a student-run, student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest.

**APIRG exists to provide students with resources to be active citizens.**

## The Annual Report

Is the thing you are reading! APIRG produced an annual report each year to update the public on the growth of our organization within the university and boarder community. It highlights our successes, addresses our challenges and allows us to share our stories with the community. It is intended to be a summary record of our activities over the course of the past year.



## Organizational structure

### Staff members:

Brooke Leifso (Office Coordinator)

Denise Ogonoski

(Working Group and Volunteer  
Coordinator)

Jess Warren (Outreach Coordinator)

Staff members at APIRG implement decisions made by the APIRG Board of Directors, assist volunteers and respond to the many inquiries we receive each day. They bring the skills, knowledge, institutional memory and consistency that is crucial to the effective and efficient functioning of APIRG.

APIRG staff members provide resources and support to students who are working on various projects and campaigns. Staff members support student-run working groups and ensure that the granting process is equitable and transparent. Staff are also responsible for monitoring financial accountability of our organization and our funding recipients.

This year saw the end of an Era with the resignation of Ariel Bowering. Ariel instituted and facilitated an evolving organization from being an early board member to ushering in a new era and staff structure. APIRG wishes to thank Ariel for her dedicated service, knowledge and skill as APIRG enters its' second decade. She provided long term vision for our organization and played a key role in its' blossoming evolution. With the departure of Ariel, saw the arrival of Brooke Leifso, our new office coordinator.

Staff members sought to carve their own way: respecting old work whilst using relatively new staff structure to tweak and shed inefficiencies of the past. Small office improvements have been made while larger goals put in the first stages of implementation. Our programming theme was art and resistance. This saw an emphasis on collaborations with University and Community Organizations.

### Full-year members:

Marshall Boyd

Avery Miller

Ethan Doward

Brent Kelly

Marcus Peterson

### Board of Directors

The APIRG Board of Directors is composed of undergraduate students from the University of Alberta. Board members are responsible for overseeing all APIRG operations.

### Half-year members:

Aditya Rao

Jolene Davies

Gabriel Sandstrom

Saima Butt

Byron Vass

Stephen Griffith

This includes developing policy, setting organizational goals and priorities, reviewing all funding and collaboration proposals, hiring and managing staff, and assisting with community outreach and events.

With the exception of the Students' Council appointed representative, board members are elected each year in a general election that coincides with the U of A Students' Union Executive elections. In 2010/2011, we had a record number of candidates in both our general and by-elections. In our by-election, Saima Butt, Byron Vass and Stephen Griffith filled the gaps left by the resignation of 3 resignations: Aditya Rao, Jolene Davies and Gabriel Sandstrom. This allowed us to counter-act typical atrophy that our volunteer student board often faces. This years board also saw a more integrating component of community members into our decision making process. Jose-Luis Carreon-Macedo acted as our tech portfolio and held an active affiliate role with the 2010-2011 board.

### SU Representative:

Tom L'Abbe

### Non-voting members:

Pete Present

Jose-Luis Carreon-Macedo

## 2010-2011 Year End Board Report

Hello Membership and New Board,

The previous APIRG Board would like to thank the staff, our friends, and all our volunteers who helped APIRG to run smoothly over the last year. Last year was eventful at APIRG, though not as eventful as some, thank goodness. One of the first and biggest decisions of the year was hiring the office manager, and I believe the search committee did excellent work in finding Brooke Leifso, our current office manager. One of our Boards biggest challenges was to find ways to incorporate the large number of Board members elected at AGM into what was, by October, a functional board. This challenge was easily overcome, by our great group of well meaning and hard working individuals. If I had to synthesize a theme that described our board, I would say interpretation. We had a board that was very interested in the meaning of a lot of APIRG policy and persistent. This methodology of interrogation and self-examination was invaluable in making the numerous difficult decisions we had to make. That said our Board, on the whole, made very few structural changes to the way APIRG is run, but strengthened them through a new collective agreement, further organization of our library and office improvements such as window stickers, allowing us to be more visible on campus. I guess we just thought it worked, but development and growth is always needed. During our period in office the board continued to develop relationships and activities that have advanced APIRG and its organizational goals. We have also created a body of decisions and policy, both formal, and draft that has and will serve the current Board well as it takes our organization to new heights. I have great faith in all of you and I am excited for the exciting ideas to come from the UofA social action community.

In Solidarity,

Stephen Griffith

2010/2011 APIRG Board

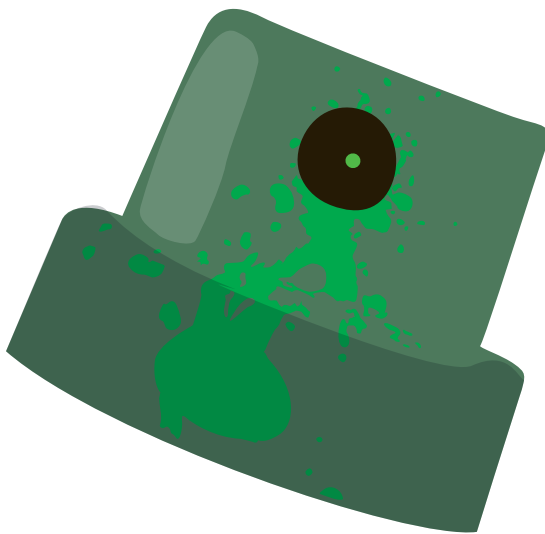


## Highlights from 2010/2011

### **APIRG Toolkit Series: Art and Resistance**

APIRG focused the 10/11 Toolkit Series on the theme “Art and Resistance”. The year’s workshops included:

- Theatre as an Activist’s Tool was an intro to Theatre of the Oppressed, Guerilla Theatre, Verbatim Theatre and more! - presented by Brooke Leifso and Jess Warren of APIRG
- Music and Social Change facilitated by Music is a Weapon and People’s Poets discussed the connection we have to music, its role in our relationships and our communities as well as its role in resistance movements - presented by Lucas Coffey of Music is a Weapon and Rod Loyola of People’s Poets
- Street Art! Explored the philosophy and practice of street art, as well as teaching skills on how to create your own street art - presented by Kim Smith
- Introduction to Flash Animation provided basic tools for creating animations that can play with the surreal and what we believe is possible - presented by Kim Smith
- Prose and Poetry talked about art, prose and poetry as a mode for evoking a desire for new possibilities and explored the English language and it’s limitations - Presented by Denise Ogonoski of APIRG and Rod Loyola of People’s Poets
- Is Hip Hop Dead? Facilitated by Test Their Logik was an examination of hip-hop culture as a tool of liberation or an instrument of oppression - presented by Test Their Logik
  - Street Art II: The Politics of Space was on how we engage with private and public spaces & how street art is used as resistance - presented by Denise Ogonoski of APIRG and Kim Smith



### Other Events

Outside of the Art and Resistance Toolkit Series theme, APIRG continued to host a number of events and workshops throughout the 2010/2011 school year in an effort to expose U of A students to a variety of issues and causes that are often unheard of or ignored. Some of the activities APIRG hosted included:

- Sept 21, 2010 – DisOrganize Presents: The Fourth World War – A Film Screening gave students a intro to the conflicts going on in the world today
- Sept 22, 2010 – DisOrganize Presents: What is the G8/G20 and Why People Protest it brought in Edmontonian and G20 defendant, Leah Henderson, who was charged with “conspiracy” and arrested in a violent pre-emptive house raid during the G20 summit, to talk about what happened in Toronto this summer
- Sept 23, 2010 – DisOrganize Presents: What it Means to be a Student in Today’s Alberta invited Bill Moore-Kilgannon of Public Interest Alberta, and Aden Murphy, 2010/2011 UASU VP External to talk about policies affected students’ lives
- Sept 28, 2010 – Strategic Planning: Creative Planning for Social Change provided skills for active students to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in organizing for social and environmental justice
- Feb 9, 2010 – Wikileaks, Democracy, and Social Justice: Understanding the News Today brought in Samantha Power from VUE magazine, Laura Collison from Adamant Eve on CJSR Radio and Stephen Griffith, student and specialist on the history of the Pentagon Papers to talk on a panel about Wikileaks and what it means for democracy, free speech and espionage as well as on Julian Assange’s sexual assault allegations and the responses that have come since
- April 8, 2011 – Dance Dance Revolution: A Fundraiser for the G20 Legal Defense Fund was a dance party fundraiser featuring the Toronto hip-hop duo, Testament and Illogik, together Test Their Logik, in an evening to raise funds, awareness and solidarity for those facing charges from the 2010 G20 protests in Toronto

## Project, Event and Training Fund

In 2010/2011, APIRG distributed \$17,000 through its Project and Events Fund. This category of funding provides one-time funding and support to help groups and individual students to:

- Organize a speaker or speaker series with series with specific start and end dates.
- Organize an event or series of events with specific starts and end dates
- Undertake a project with specific start and end dates (eg. publish a research project)
- Receive training or attend a conference if part of a larger project



## Project, Event and Training Fund Recipients 2010/2011

Recipient	Project or Event
Aboriginal Student Council	Chief Clarence Louie Speaking Night
Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair Collective	Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair 2010 and 2011 Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair
Exposure Queer Arts and Culture Festival	D'Bi Young
Indigenous Sovereignty Week	Community Feast & Screening of Kanasetake: 270 Years of Resistance., Panel Discussion - History or Our story: What does Indigenous Sovereignty mean?
Oil Sands Students Delegation	Trip to Fort McMurray, bus transportation
OUTlaw	Speakers Event: Gary Kinsman
Peoples' Poets	Artists for Palestine Project
Students Against Global Apathy	Tuesday Seminars and "Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh" Film Screening and Gender Equality Week
Student International Health Association	Health Educator Training
YYC	Magic Program
Edmonton RebELLEs	Edmonton Delegation to the Winnipeg 2nd Pan-Canadian Feminist Gathering
Chakanaka Zinyemba	Film: The Obese Campus
Health and Wellness Movement Committee	2011 Health Week
Jon Weller	Film Screening: The Economics of Happiness
Medical Students for Mental Health Awareness	Mental Health Awareness Week
Music is a Weapon	People Powered Parties Initiative
Native Studies Student Association	Kim Baird "Away from the Indian Act: Treaty Governance at Tsawassen"
Rockin' Docs Summer Camp Organizing Committee	Rockin' Docs Summer Camp
Terra Informa	Northern Gateway Pipeline Story

## Financial Summary

2010/2011 was APIRG's ninth full year of operations on campus, in our nine years we've evolved to have one of the most receptive and transparent granting procedures on campus.

Our funding comes from a dedicated fee collected on our behalf by the University of Alberta Students' Union. In 2010/2011 Full time undergraduates paid \$3.14 each term while part time students paid \$1.56. As agreed upon at the time of our founding, students who wish to opt out of the fee for financial or ideological reasons may do so. Despite campus wide advertising, less than 30 students chose to receive a full refund of their terms fee. In terms of other revenue, community and events revenue remained marginal because of the focus on smaller, free events rather than larger events with admission fees. This allows our events further levels of accessibility and enables us in keeping a local focus.

APIRG began the year projecting a small deficit allowing us to use up past surpluses. However, due to returned grants, more than expected button making revenue and frugal spending with a focus on low cost training events and local collaborations and small events, we finished the fiscal year with a surplus of just over \$1000.00. This year, more than ever, we've stretched our money to provide innovative programming on campus and support to students.

APIRG gave \$22,000 in direct grants and in-kind support to student campaigns events, activities and projects as well as community groups addressing in the Undergraduate and larger communities public interest. We highlight many of these projects and groups in later pages of this report. APIRG funds also supported student initiatives through our resource library and tool kit workshop series; educational and skill building, which highlighted art and resistance.

As with many non-profit organizations, APIRG's biggest annual expense is staffing costs, which includes both salaries and benefits. This enables us to provide a high level of services to students and to maintain a fair, competitive,

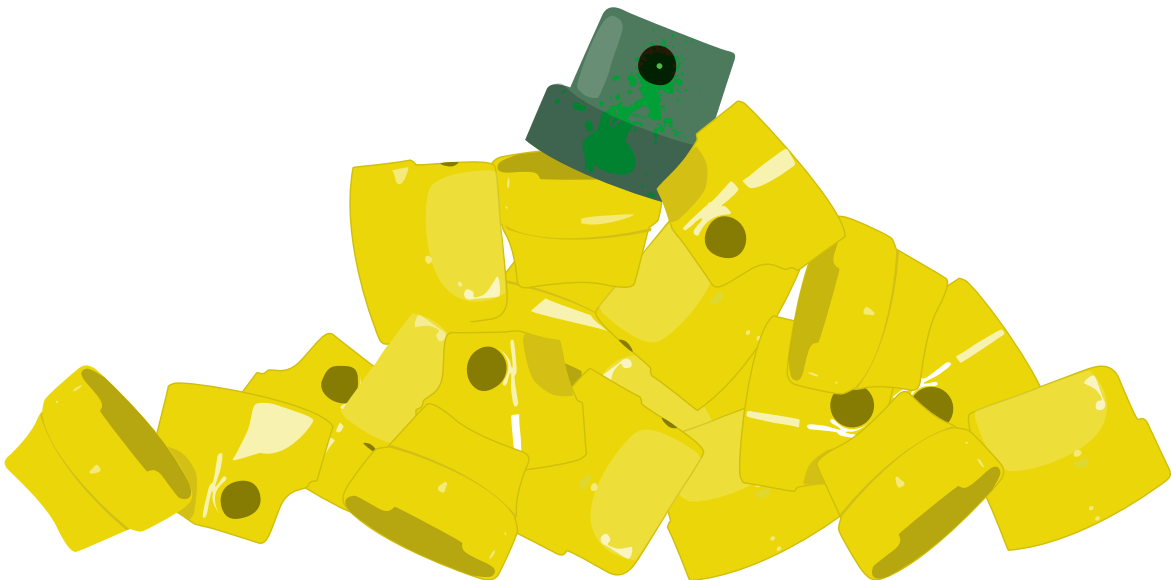
and unionized work environment.

As required by our agreement with the Students' Union to have our financial statements audited annually, APIRG had the financial statements audited by Doyle & Company chartered accounting firm. The 2010/2011 audit verified that our financial statements (presented in this report in their entirety) are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

If you have any questions about APIRG's finances that go beyond the scope of this report, you are welcome to make an appointment with APIRG's Office Coordinator. Our books are open to the public and we welcome your feedback about our spending priorities. We are accountable to you!

For more information, please see the complete audited financial statements found in the appendix section of the annual report.

–Brooke Leifso, Office Coordinator



## Working Groups

### What are working groups?

Working Groups (WGs) are collectives of student and community members who work together on an issue. WGs may focus on research, events, actions, publications, and other diverse activities. They tend to have long-term goals with activities and membership that continue beyond the current academic year. WGs are required to hold regular meetings and must maintain a membership that includes U of A undergrads.



EOGG 2011 Garden

## Active Working Groups in 2010/2011

Centre for Organizing and Popular Education (COPE)

Cardiovascular Health Advocates, Researchers, and Innovators of Tomorrow (CHARIOT)

Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG) (Formally University Farm of Organic Growers)

Friends of the Lubicon Alberta (FOLA)

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF)

Greenpeace on Campus

The Olive Reading Series

Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN)

Solidarity With Iran's Democratic Movement (SIDM-E) ('10)

Stand With Fort Chipewyan

University of Alberta Council of Canadians

University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective (UAWCC)

Voices for Choices



## Working Group Year End Report – 2010/2011

### Cardiovascular Health Advocates, Researchers, and Innovators of Tomorrow (CHARIOT)

Working Group Since: Fall, 2010

CHARIOT is a cardiovascular health organization built on the principle of proactive philanthropy. Our goals are to advocate the importance of cardiovascular health, fund-raise for cardiovascular health related charities, and to act as a centre for students of the University of Alberta to come together and collaborate towards making a difference in the Edmonton community!

#### Some Activities Undertaken:

SACH (conference), Lister Food Price Adjustment, Minor collaborations with other student groups, filming a food price documentary, student survey for food choice.

Through news articles and advocacy events, we believe that we have propagated a movement towards change and bettering of our food situation. We have successfully raised awareness of the food crisis and have established multiple projects to instill the change that we aim for. Our conference SACH has even impress the Health and Wellness Team of the UofA to host a similar but larger event.

### Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG)

Working Group Since: Winter, 2010

Website: <http://eogg.org/>

The Edmonton Organic Grower's Guild (EOGG) loves to grow stuff together. We grow organic produce and encourage learning and eating. We charge no fees and welcome folks from all walks of life.

We are a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization that is playing a prominent role in Edmonton's collective organic food scene. We are also celebrating this growing season by doubling the size of our Collective Urban Garden on the South Campus grounds.

The garden is fully equipped with all the tools and equipment, and is located right next to Foote Field, only a short LRT ride away.

### Friends of the Lubicon Alberta (FOLA)

Working Group Since: Winter, 2007

Website: <http://www.lubicon.org/>

FOLA is an advocacy group based out of the University of Alberta. We exist to promote awareness of the plight of the Lubicon and demand compensation for the destruction of Lubicon land and the recognition of the Lubicon's right to self-government.

#### Some Activities Undertaken:

FOLA was interested in video-documenting Lubicon community members perspectives on the 2009 election. This include several trip to Little Buffalo with up to 12 group members and members of the broader student body and public. Though many interviews were conducted and FOLA retains the video-documentation, the project itself fell through due to lack of commitment of members and the issue being more complicated than first anticipated.

The Group's activities have led to increased awareness and public participation; new educational tools; greater collaboration between students groups on parallel issues.



FOLA Little Buffalo Trip Participants

### Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF)

Working Group Since: Winter, 2011

Website: <http://fifblog.blogspot.com/>

We are a group of Library and Information Studies students who are interested in promoting intellectual freedom and social responsibility. We believe that issues concerning censorship, freedom of expression, and

social justice go hand-in-hand, and hope that through information updates and direct action, we will be able to emphasize the importance of intellectual freedom and social responsibility in the personal and professional lives of our readers and our communities.

#### Some Activities Undertaken:

Since receiving the APIRG grant, we have held our year end planning meeting on March 16th soliciting interest in chairs and project leaders for the upcoming year. We have also planned for the spring Homeless Connect event which we will be participating in on Sunday May 15th, 2011. We held a sorting and book packing party on April 8th in order to prepare our existing inventory for delivery. We will also be collecting a large donation from EPL the week before Homeless Connect.

#### Greenpeace on Campus

Working Group Since: Winter, 2009

Website:<http://www.apirg.org/setup/Working-Groups/gpoc.html>

The movie screenings, lectures, and advocacy weeks served to disseminate information and informed students about issues connected to environmental justice. Our goal was to give students information that would help them become more aware of current events and issues facing Albertans that are prohibiting us from ensuring a sustainable future. The awareness campaign and art installations were used to provide space for students to become actively engaged in challenging the destructive and oppressive system that we live in. Our Socially Responsible Investment Campaign provided an opportunity for our group to engage in a campaign targeting the Students' Union to implement an ethical investment policy. This satisfied our educational and outreach goals, as we were increasing awareness about the tar sands and other environmental and social problems that our Student government was perpetuating by investing in unethical companies. In addition, our members were able to be actively involved in perusing a more just and sustainable world by lobbying the Students' Union to adjust their policies. Tabling was used to increase volunteer support and engage students in becoming and active and informed citizens.

#### The Olive Reading Series

Working Group Since: Spring, 2003

Website:<http://olivereadingseries.wordpress.com/>

Since 2000 poetry lovers in Edmonton, Alberta, have gathered on the second Tuesday of the month from September to April, to enjoy the unique mix of talent and novelty afforded by The Olive Reading Series. The Olive has featured poets from Edmonton and across the country, both brilliant up-and-coming poets and well-established masters. Once our headline poet has read, we open the stage to hear what some of our local talent has brought.

2010/2011 Readers:

September 2010: Rachel Zolf

October 2010: Gary Barwin

November 2010: Jenna Butler

December 2010: University of Alberta Creative Writing Undergraduate Class

January 2011: Louis Cabri

February 2011: Robert Kroetsch

March 2011: Dennis Cooley

April 2011: University of Alberta Creative Writing 300 Class



EOGG Corn Stalks!

## Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN)

Working Group Since: Fall, 2009

Website: <http://psnedmonton.ca/>

PSN's main goal is to raise awareness and educate Edmontonians, both on and off campus about the situation in Palestine and offer them concrete ways to get actively involved in supporting Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination. This year PSN planned and implemented more than 20 events and actions combined on their own and several more in collaboration with other groups on campus and in the community.

### Some Activities Undertaken:

- Gideon Levy – Speaker, September 24th
- Criticize Israel, Go to Jail? with Professor Michael Keefer, author of Antisemitism Real and Imagined, September 27
- 
- Action: Demand the OECD Cancel its Tourism Conference in Jerusalem, October 12
- Norman Finkelstein: Israel and Palestine: Past, Present, Future, October 29th
- Film Screening: Budrus at Global Visions Film Festival, November 13
- George Galloway - Free Palestine, Free Afghanistan, Free Speech, November 25th
- Midnight on the Mavi Marmara - A fundraiser for the Canadian Boat to Gaza, featuring Victoria activist Kevin Neish, November 10
- Photo Exhibit: Human Drama in Gaza, November 15 – November 29
- Breaking the Silence: a speaking tour with Abousfian Abdelrazik, November 20
- Film Screening: Paradise Blues with Canada Palestine Cultural Association, January 15
- Film Screening and Discussion: To Shoot an Elephant, January 13
- Action: Thank the Bay for Dropping Ahava Products, January 12
- Speaking Event: Voices From the Palestinian Diaspora, February 2



psn table

- THIRD ANNUAL EDMONTON ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK MARCH 14-19, 2011  
A week of presentations, workshops, film screenings, and cultural events to raise awareness around the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against
  - Action: Support Freedom of Speech at York University
  - Action: Support Academic Freedom and Queen's University Rector Nick Day
  - Action: Suggested Voting in Mountain Equipment Co-op Board Election 2011
- Speaking Event: The Rise of Street Politics: Prospects for a New Middle East and Northern Africa, March 28
- Film Screening of Paradise Now, April 7th
- Vittorio Arrigoni Candlelight Vigil, April 19th
- Rally to Commemorate Nakba, May 15th

## Stand With Fort Chipewyan

Working Group Since: Fall, 2009

Website:<http://www.ualberta.ca/~swfc/index1.html>

Stand with Fort Chipewyan (SWFC) is a non-partisan, campus advocacy organization based out of the University of Alberta. We are dedicated to raising awareness to the concerns expressed by the people of Fort Chipewyan, as well as lobbying the government to engage in actions to firmly establish the effect of oil sands development on the health of residents.

### Some Activities Undertaken:

- Letter Campaign calling for the overhaul of the Regional Aquatic Monitoring Program (RAMP). August 31, 2010.
- Send Stelmach To Fort Chip! October 19, 2010.
- An Evening With Dr. John O'Connor and George Poitras. November 5, 2010.
- Stand With Fort Chipewyan 101 Video Launch. March 29, 2011.

RAMP has finally been completely discredited. The provincial government has promised its overhaul, but has yet to do so. SWFC is trying to keep the pressure on. If RAMP is replaced with a comprehensive and scientific system, government studies will likely find results that match those of independent science that suggest that the Athabasca Watershed is being polluted by oilsands development. If this occurs, the pressure will be on the government of Alberta to assess the public health of Fort Chipewyan, and deliver justice to the simple demands the community has been making for years.

## University of Alberta Council of Canadians

Working Group Since: Winter, 2008

Website:<http://uofacouncilofcanadians.wordpress.com/>

The University of Alberta Council of Canadians is a student group, working group of APIRG and chapter of The Council of Canadians. Started with the frustration about the state of our government and hope that change is possible, we take a stand on important political, social, economic, environmental and cultural issues. COCUA's focuses include stopping the potential of CETA, the implementation of Water Markets and challenging the destructive Tar Sands. In addition, we would like to raise awareness about the mass arrests during the G8/G20 Summit in Toronto, June 2010. However, our mandate is broad and based off of The Council of Canadians' and so our members drive what we do.

### Some Activities Undertaken:

- Yves Engler - Free Presentation, January 27th
- Meet, Greet and Doc! - "Shout Out for Global Justice", January 29th
- The Canada-European Union Trade Agreement (CETA): Implications and Effects - Stuart Trew (for International Week) January 31st
- Water Week - Various locations and times, March 21st - 26th



## **University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective (UAWCC)**

Working Group Since: Spring, 2003

Website: <http://uawcc.wordpress.com/>

The University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective (UAWCC) exists to provide a supportive environment for educating, networking, and organizing around gender issues both on campus and into the wider community. The UAWCC has an open and flexible membership, which welcomes individuals who wish to attend and/or organize events, help to keep our office open and running smoothly, and collaborate with other campus and community groups and issues.

### **Some Activities Undertaken:**

- Meet and Greet (October 7, 2010)
- Women's Health Week (October 12 - 15, 2010)
  - included a Yoga Presentation with the U of A Yoga Collective, Charting Cycle Information Session with Dinah Bear, and a movie screening and discussion presented by Voices for Choices.
- 2 CSL students hosted a screening of Finding Dawn for Indigenous Sovereignty Week during the Fall term

Individuals who attended Centre events gained a greater awareness of the Centre and its activities, and it is hoped that these individuals engaged in some personal reflection and perhaps chose to participate in feminist action beyond the Centre. Limited partnerships with other groups (such as the Yoga Collective and Voices for Choices) also increased the visibility of the Centre and offer opportunity for future collaborations.

## **Voices for Choices**

Working Group Since: Fall, 2010

Website: <http://www.apirg.org/setup/Working-Groups/voices-for-choices.html>

Voices for Choices is a non-hierarchical, collective group of individuals who are working to establish and promote a pro-choice, sex and queer-positive, as well as woman-friendly presence on and around the University of Alberta campus and the City of Edmonton.

### **Some Activities Undertaken:**

- Annual Meet and Greet – September 29th: Recruitment and campus awareness of group.
- Movie Night – October 15th : Watched Revolutionary Road and discussed main themes and media portrayals of abortion with new members.
- Bakesale – November 22nd and 23rd: Raised funds for the group
- Weekly Tabling – September through April: Increased group visibility and answered questions from the public
- Involvement Week and SexFest Tabling (January and February) : Recruitment, increased group visibility and answered questions from the public
- LRT Advertisement Community Design Contest – February 11th – March 11th: Increased community involvement

This year, VFC learned a lot about what works and doesn't work for activities. Tabling, bakesales, poster-ing and web presence have the collective effective of increased group awareness as well as spreading information and education about pro-choice issues. For example, these methods helped to gather support for opposing Bill C510 in a letter campaign. We also learned that our projects work best when they include community involvement, such as the LRT Ad Design contest.

## **Appendix**

### **2011 Financial Statements**

**Alberta Public Interest Research Group**  
**Financial Statements**  
**April 30, 2011**

## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

**To the Board of  
The Alberta Public Interest Research Group**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **The Alberta Public Interest Research Group**, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at April 30, 2011 and the Statements of Changes in Net Assets, Operations and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, 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.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian Audit Standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparations and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

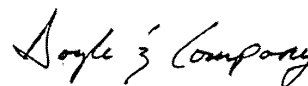
**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

In common with many non profit organizations, The Alberta Public Interest Research Group revenue from fundraisers and events the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraisers or event revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets.

**Qualified Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Alberta Public Interest Research Group and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

September 7, 2011  
Edmonton, Alberta



Chartered Accountants

## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Statement of Financial Position

As at April 30, 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	179,887	164,373
Investments (Note 3)	-	10,913
Prepaid expenses	1,288	2,272
	<b>181,175</b>	<b>177,558</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	12,489	9,927
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	148,563	145,865
Internally restricted net assets	20,123	21,766
	<b>168,686</b>	<b>167,631</b>
	<b>181,175</b>	<b>177,558</b>

**Approved by the Board of Directors:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

If you wish for a signed copy of the Financial  
Statements, please contact us at [apirg@ualberta.ca](mailto:apirg@ualberta.ca)

## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Statement of Change in Net Assets

For the year ended April 30, 2011

	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	21,766	145,865	167,631	169,828
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	1,055	1,055	(2,197)
Funds committed during the year	26,871	(26,871)	-	-
Funds paid out during the year	(22,055)	22,055	-	-
Inter fund transfer	(6,896)	6,896	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>19,686</b>	<b>149,000</b>	<b>168,686</b>	<b>167,631</b>

## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Statement of Operations

For the year ended April 30, 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Student fees	169,900	165,965
Community and events revenue	1,071	6,236
Interest revenue	750	397
Office and retail revenue	1,845	735
Other revenue	142	3,299
	<b>173,708</b>	<b>176,632</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Board expenses	3,872	3,547
Contract work and honoraria	1,400	2,583
Direct grants	21,691	16,334
Elections	2,297	2,411
Insurance	1,945	1,026
Library	872	1,062
Office	5,421	16,363
Professional fees	5,591	6,223
Programming	8,199	11,622
Promotion and outreach	5,375	5,565
Rent	12,490	11,799
Telecommunications	2,138	1,989
Wages and employee benefits	101,362	98,305
	<b>172,653</b>	<b>178,829</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>(2,197)</b>

**Alberta Public Interest Research Group****Statement of Cash Flows****For the year ended April 30, 2011**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from funding agencies and other income	173,708	177,172
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(169,107)	(173,622)
	4,601	3,550
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Decrease in investments	10,913	42,660
<b>Increase in Cash During the Year</b>	<b>15,514</b>	<b>46,210</b>
<b>CASH - Beginning of year</b>	<b>164,373</b>	<b>118,163</b>
<b>CASH - End of year</b>	<b>179,887</b>	<b>164,373</b>

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# Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2011

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### 1. Purpose of the Organization

Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act. The Alberta Public Research Interest Group supports work on public interest issues through research, education, and action initiatives of the students of the University of Alberta as well as those of the greater University and the Alberta communities.

### 2. Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Fund Accounting

The board has approved an Inter-Disbursement Fund Policy to maintain a sustainable organization. This fund is used to pay the operating expenses of the organization from the start of the fiscal year (May 1) until the funding from the University of Alberta Students' Union is received in October.

The board also internally restricts funds for conferences and training, projects and events, and a working group fund.

- (i) The conference and training fund provides one-time funding and support to help students attend conferences or training sessions. The funds may cover registration or transportation costs.
- (ii) The project and event fund provides one-time funding and support to help groups and individual students to organize events or undertake a project.
- (iii) The working group fund provides funding and resources to a wide variety of working groups that are focusing on local and global issues.

#### (b) Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenditures in the period they are acquired. Capital assets are reported at cost except for donated assets, which are reported at estimated fair value when acquired.

#### (c) Revenue Recognition

Alberta Public Interest Research Group follows the deferral method of accounting for revenue. Restricted revenues are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

#### (d) Financial Instruments

The financial instruments of Alberta Public Interest Research Group consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that APIRG is not exposed to significant interest or foreign currency risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

**Alberta Public Interest Research Group****Statement of Cash Flows****For the year ended April 30, 2011**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from funding agencies and other income	<b>173,708</b>	177,172
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	<b>(169,107)</b>	(173,622)
	<b>4,601</b>	3,550
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Decrease in investments	<b>10,913</b>	42,660
<b>Increase in Cash During the Year</b>	<b>15,514</b>	46,210
<b>CASH - Beginning of year</b>	<b>164,373</b>	118,163
<b>CASH - End of year</b>	<b>179,887</b>	164,373

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## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2011

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## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2011

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**2. Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**(e) Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures 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 could differ from those estimates.

**(f) Donated Services**

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group benefits greatly from donated services in the form of volunteer work for various activities. The value of donated services is not recognized in these financial statements because of the difficulty of determining their fair value.

**3. Investments**

Investments represent a Canadian Term Deposit purchased at cost from Servus Credit Union with a maturity date of October 13, 2010 and annual interest rate of 0.45%. Upon maturity of the investment the principal and interest were transferred into a savings account.

**4. Library**

The Group operates an in-house library that has books, periodicals, cassette tapes, VHS tapes, DVDs, and CD's available for members. These items may be borrowed from the library for a certain period of time.

Library materials have been expensed in the year purchased over the years which is consistent with our policy. The purchases during the year were \$872 (2010 - \$1,062).

**5. Economic Dependence**

Alberta Public Interest Research Group receives a significant portion of its revenue from students dedicated fees. These fees are collected by the University of Alberta Students Union on behalf of APIRG and are forwarded three times a year after APIRG receives approval from the Audit Committee of Students Council.

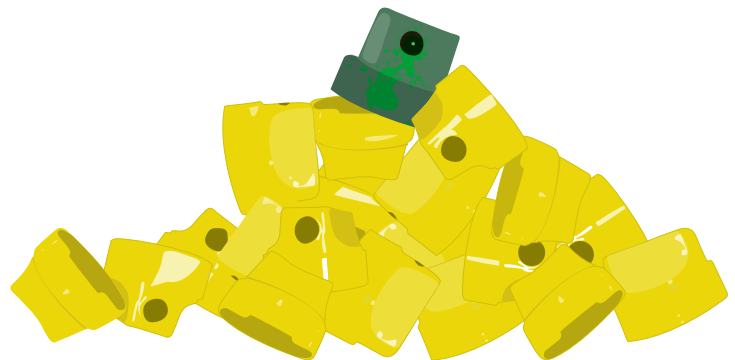


## Notes

APIRG encourages all students to become active citizens!

- apply for direct funding for your event, project, or group
- Run for our Board
- Come out to our programming and Workshops
- Sit on one of our volunteer committees

If you have questions about this report or about APIRG in general, please contact us at [apirg@ualberta.ca](mailto:apirg@ualberta.ca)



# APJRG 2010 annual report

## APJRG 2010 annual report

student & community-based research education social activism.

**providing students with support to be active citizens.**

resources to help student working groups to transform social concern into effective action.

