



Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)
Annual Report 2007



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Contributions

APIRG would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the Annual Report.

Leah Orr (content and design),
Aaron Chubb (Working Group reports)

Lise Wilson (Working Group reports)

Rose Yewchuk (Technical Support)

Michael Liu (design and graphics).

Thanks also to Working Group members and funding recipients who summarized their activities for this report.

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Page 4-5 - Paula Kirman

Page 5 - Walk for Darfur Student Group

Page 8 - Poster by Michael Liu

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Page 10 - Journalists for Human Rights

Page 14 - Biofreedom

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BRING OUR
TROOPS
HOME

DEFEND
THE RIGHTS
OF ALL!

MARRIS





Above: Walk for Darfur, 2007

Overleaf & right: Climate Action Rally, 2007

About APIRG

Mission

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

Each year APIRG produces an annual report to highlight our successes, address our challenges, and 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

APIRG Staff

Staff members:

Leah Orr, Outreach Coordinator
Aaron Chubb, Temporary Working
Group Coordinator
Ariel Bowering, Board Coordinator
Hannah Goa, Financial 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 assignments. Staff members support student-run working groups and ensure that the granting process is equitable and transparent. Staff are also responsible for monitoring the accountability of the groups to which funding is granted.

Board of Directors

Full-year members: Christopher Alderson, Jackie Ferner, Darren Lau, Nathan Leia

Half-year members: Amanda-Leigh Hanson, Damini Mohan, Stephanie Shantz, Rob Butz, Amie-Rose Stang, Omayra Issa, Julie Alton

SU Representative: Mike Shaw

Non-voting members: Rob Butz, Pete Presant

The APIRG Board of Directors is composed entirely of undergraduate students from the University of Alberta. Board members are in charge of overseeing all APIRG operations. Responsibilities include developing policy, setting organizational goals and priorities, reviewing funding 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 March 2006, ten students ran for nine available seats on the Board of Directors.

Over the course of the summer months, three board members resigned. In order to fill empty chairs, two new directors were appointed in Fall 2006.

Statement from the Board

2006–2007 Report

The APIRG board spent the summer drafting and approving its budget. This year, the process was based on consultation with interested parties (i.e. committees, staff and board members), and thus took longer than usual to complete. Though more labor and time intensive, consultation of this type is felt to be useful and we recommend it be considered as part of the process in the future. It is important, however, that the board considers its long- and short-term goals when receiving recommendations and ensures that these goals are reflected in the finalized budget.

We also developed an “Inter-disbursement and Emergency Fund Policy.” This policy clarifies the need and appropriate uses for this fund, which ensures sustainable organizational practices and uninterrupted service provision between the end of the fiscal year (April 30th) and the disbursement of the APIRG dedicated fee, which typically occurs in October.

This year we renegotiated the collective agreement, which governs the relationship between APIRG as an employer, the Non-Academic Staff Association and APIRG employees. This process went smoothly and resulted in an agreement that reflects APIRG’s unique structure.

Unfortunately, we encountered a few situations in which interactions among members, the public and student media resulted in misinformation and miscommunication. These situations were, however, successfully resolved thanks to clear, consistent communications and decisive action. We learned the importance of professionalism and confidence in such situations in the future.

In terms of internal structure, the board feels that more emphasis should be placed on strategic planning and visioning and less on inane decision making. It is also important to set priorities early on and ensure that operations reflect these priorities.

We had a fun year and feel that events such as Disorganize! 2006, Splice of Life, World Water Day and Ray Rogers’ International Week events helped not only to raise APIRG’s public profile, but also to build community. We, the outgoing APIRG board, feel that it is important that the board allow itself more time for socializing and community building in the future.



Above: Poster from *Disorganize*, September, 2006

Highlights from 06/07

Disorganize! 2006

Disorganize! 2006 was a four-day alternative orientation to the University of Alberta and the larger community. Students had many unique and exciting opportunities to explore what it is that APIRG, our working groups and our affiliates do.

We hosted an Open House in the APIRG Office, which was well attended and allowed APIRG members to meet each other and spend some time chatting and snacking. We also hosted several workshops, which explained and demonstrated composting, bicycle repair, water issues and more.

The largest Disorganize! 2006 event was a full-length musical theatre production called “Splice of Life: A Genetically Modified Musical.” In this play, an activist named Flora sneaks in on a tour of genetics labs and finds out some startling things about genetic modification. The play was well attended and well received by everyone who came to see it. Huge thanks go out to all the volunteers who made it possible and those of you who attended and donated money to the “Fight Genetically Altered Food Fund.”

Other Events

Once again, APIRG undertook many internal projects and events in an effort to expose U of A students to a variety of issues and causes they may not otherwise encounter. A partial list of APIRG-sponsored or supported events includes:

- Presentation by Elizabeth May “Clearing the air on climate change: A national speaking tour on the environmental impacts of accelerating Tar Sands development,” Summer 2006
- Consensus workshop, Fall 2006
- Stand Up Against Poverty, Fall 2006



Above: Cast and crew from the play, *Splice of Life*

- Global Visions film “Power of Community,” Fall 2006
- APIRG Annual General Meeting, Fall 2006
- Presentation by Ray Rogers, founder of the Killer Coke campaign, at International Week, Winter 2007
- Public Interest Alberta’s presentation off the film “Escape from Suburbia,” Spring 2007

Board Development

Though we had a relatively high board member turnover rate, meetings ran more efficiently and retreats were more focussed and productive than in previous years. It seems that with each passing year, as APIRG develops, implements and adapts policies and procedures, decisionmaking happens more quickly and board members have time to get to know the organization and one another better.

We have also been able to provide members with more opportunities for meaningful training and skills development. These opportunities provide members with tools that enrich their time with APIRG as well in future endeavors.

Project, Event and Training Fund

Funding Objectives and Overview

In 2006/2007, \$20,000 was earmarked for the Project, Event and Training Fund. This category provides one-time funding and support to help groups and individual students to:

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



Above: APIRG funding and in-kind services supported “Informed Ignorance,” a conference organized and hosted by Journalists for Human Rights. The event was co-sponsored by the U of A Student Union, Edmonton Journal, the Gateway, and the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation.

Comments from Recipients

“The Climate Action Rally was a great success. The main objective - to inspire the public to engage in the issue of climate change in a personal and political way - was accomplished very well. We plan for the rally to continue on as a yearly event and hope to stimulate other steps to be taken towards finding solutions to this global problem.”

– Kristina Romanyshyn, Canadians for Kyoto

“This year’s Aboriginal Law Speakers Series was a tremendous success. Overall, the week had great attendance and fascinating topics.

It was made possible with the support of APIRG, ALF, Faculty of Law, and The Centre for Constitutional Studies and many other donors.

Planning for next year’s series is already underway, with many invitations going out to international guests. “

– Koren Lightning-Earle, ALSA

Project, Event and Training Fund Recipients - 06/07

Recipient	Project or event
Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair Collective	Edmonton Anarchist Bookfair 2007
Western PIRG Conference	Western PIRG Conference
Aboriginal Health Group	Aboriginal Health Speakers Series
No Sweat	No Sweat '07 Fashion Showcase
ECAWAR	War Resisters Support Campaign CD Release
Kamit African Caribbean Society	Black History Month Discussion Night and Film Screening
Parkland Institute	Power for the People: Determining our energy future
Walk for Darfur Student Group	Walk for Darfur
The Dominion	Dominion Special Issue on Canadian Foreign Policy - Launch and and Discussion Group
Canadians for Kyoto	Climate Action Rally
Medical Students for Mental Health Association	Mental Health Awareness Week
Journalists for Human Rights	Informed Ignorance Conference
Alberta Independent Media Network	AIMN website development
Yuk-Sing Cheng	Canadian Council on International Law
Aboriginal Law Students' Association	Aboriginal Speakers Week Series
Youth ARMI	Youth Access to Radio and Media Initiative (Youth ARMI)
Students' International Health Association Local Projects	Sexually Transmitted Infections Youth Education Program
Edmonton May Week Labour Arts Festival	Edmonton May Week Labour Arts Festival, 2007

Financial Summary

Year end summary

2006/2007 was APIRG's fifth full year of operations on campus. We disbursed just under \$30,000 in direct grants to student events, activities, and projects, many of which are described elsewhere in this report. APIRG funds also supported student initiatives through our publications, resource library, and educational workshops.

As with many non-profit organizations, APIRG's biggest annual expense is staffing costs (\$78,284). These costs enable us to provide a high level of services to students and to maintain a fair, competitive, and unionized work environment.

The majority of APIRG's revenue comes from a dedicated fee collected on our behalf by the University of Alberta Students' Union. The fee was supported by a majority of students in a 2001 referendum, and amounted to \$5.66 from full-time students and \$2.82 from part-time students in 2006/2007. Any students who don't wish to pay the fee for financial or ideological reasons may opt out and receive a full refund. Last year less than 20 students took advantage of the opt out program despite campus-wide advertising.

APIRG began the year projecting a deficit. Through careful financial management, regular monitoring and prudent decision-making, we finished the fiscal year with an excess of revenue over expenditures of \$7,228 which will flow into our cumulative unrestricted balance.

In financial policy news, APIRG developed an inter-disbursement fund with what has previously been referred to as our reserve fund. The inter-disbursement fund covers operating costs from the start of our fiscal year in May until our fees are disbursed in October. When not in use for day-to-day cash flow, this fund generates income through investment in secure term deposits.

Statement of Financial Position

Financial Assets

	2007	2006
Cash	\$ 91,623	\$ 128,156
Investments (Note 3)	51,147	-
Accounts receivable	1,801	6,460
Prepaid expenses	1,874	2,063
	\$ 146,445	\$ 136,679

Liabilities and Net Assets

	2007	2006
Accounts payable	\$ 5,039	\$ 2,501
Net assets	141,406	134,178
	\$ 146,445	\$ 136,679

Statement of Operations

Revenue

	2007	2006
Student fees	\$ 151,248	\$ 149,029
Community and events	1,527	-
Interest revenue	1,248	34
Office and retail revenue	672	-
Other revenue	2,017	7,420
	\$ 156,712	\$ 156,483

Expenditures

	2007	2006
Board expenses	\$ 2,852	\$ 2,673
Contract work and honoraria	600	-
Direct grants	28,895	36,222
Elections	2,011	2,602
Insurance	1,000	1,000
Library	1,362	731
Office	3,852	6,816
Professional fees	8,160	5,607
Programming	6,969	9,586
Promotion and Outreach	1,835	4,141
Rent	11,151	14,484
Telecommunications	2,513	2,319
Wages and Employee Benefits	78,284	82,093
	\$ 149,484	\$ 168,274

Statement of Change in Net Assets

	2007	2006
Excess of revenue over expenditures	7,228	(11,791)
Balance, beginning of year	134,178	145,969
Balance, end of year	\$ 141,406	\$ 134,178

As required by our agreement with the Students' Union to have the financial statements audited annually, APIRG had the financial statements audited by Doyle & Company chartered accounting firm. The 2006/2007 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 financial 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 financial audit found in the appendix section of the annual report.

– Hannah Goa, Financial 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.

Working Group Coordinator Report

Well, my stint as a staff member at APIRG has come to a close. This was my second year and it was both inspirational and educational.

Working groups continue to inform the U of A community on issues of critical importance. So many events and projects were undertaken this year that I can't list them all here. To mention a few:

- La Chiva hosted two events - "Terror and the Criminalization of Dissent in Columbia" and "Popular and Indigenous Struggles in Canada and Colombia" - during International Week
- Edmonton Haiti Solidarity brought in renowned journalist Kevin Pina, SWAG hosted a Union Organizer workshop
- Legal Activist Collective opened a free store during Buy Nothing Day
- Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) hosted their first conference: "Informed Ignorance: the Effects of Today's Global Media" and launched the journal SpeakNews to raise awareness about human rights abuses
- Biofreedom's work with other groups across Canada to "Ban Terminator Seeds" helped to create the pressure needed for the introduction of a bill currently before the House of Commons
- The Olive Reading Series has become well known and respected amongst poetry circles across North America. Blood Ink and The Olive continue to publish regularly, bringing alternative literature to U of A students.



Above: Members of Biofreedom meet with Rt. Hon. Rahim Jaffer at the constituency office for Edmonton Strathcona.

Sadly and to everyone's shock, two working group members passed away this past year.

Chelsy Shillington worked tirelessly to protect the environment and brought a great deal of enthusiasm to biofreedom's work.

Lee Ellis brought passion and wisdom to CCPH from a lifetime of pursuing social justice.

Biofreedom members purchased 20 commemorative copies of the "Future of Food" DVD for schools and alternative libraries. CCPH also has plans to commemorate Lee.

Chelsy and Lee will both be dearly missed.

Working Group Coordinator

Goals for 2007/2008

- Offer more workshop and training opportunities to working groups.
- Continue to support working groups with their self-promotion needs as well as recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- Raise more awareness on campus through CJSR spots, posters, classroom talks, and presence during September Week of Welcome and other campus events throughout the year.
- Continue to assist working groups to network with each other and other like-minded organizations on campus and in the community.
- Connect working groups with other PIRGs and other PIRG working groups through www.pirg.ca.
- Continue to provide funding and services that keep our working groups functioning at optimal levels.

– Lise Wilson, Working Group Coordinator

New groups for 2006/2007 include Campus Sustainability Coalition, Friends of the Lubicon Alberta, La Chiva and the Legal Activist Collective. We all look forward to seeing what next year brings for these groups.

Two working groups (Mexico Working Group and Humanities 101) because core members moved on to different things or graduated. Student turnover is something APIRG deals with on a yearly basis. If retaining working groups is one of APIRG's goals, more effort needs to be made by the groups themselves (and possibly the Working Group Coordinator) to continually recruit members.

Alternatives to the Canadian Banking and Economic System, biofreedom, Student Worker Action Group, the Olive and the Women's Centre Collective have all been with APIRG for three or more years and continue to bring in new members. What seems to keep these groups going are committed core members, new student volunteers and issues that are consistently of interest and/or concern to U of A students.

Challenges for next year include recruiting new volunteers and retaining, promoting and assessing the effectiveness of working groups. It is often difficult to assess the effects of working group activities on wider communities but perhaps regular polling of the student body, with questions designed to determine awareness of working groups and the issues they are raising or hanges at policy levels could be used as determiners of success. APIRG working groups are likely having more effect on politics and awareness in the wider community than first meets the eye, but focused qualitative research might flush this more thoroughly than simply acknowledging that groups are "planting seeds" of awareness, dissent and social change.

I do believe that working groups have been and can continue to be effective in their pursuits and goals. APIRG recently passed the five-year mark and I think many of groups and committees are only getting started. I am looking forward to looking back in another five years and seeing how much of an impact working groups seeking social change have had in our community. APIRG is an important resource here on campus, and I believe many projects and groups would simply not exist, or would not be as successful, without us.

As I step down, I am excited to join the ranks of volunteer working group members at APIRG.

In Solidarity,
Aaron Chubb
(former) Working Group Coordinator

Active Working Groups – 2006–2007

Alternatives to the Canadian Banking System (ACBES)

www.altbank.apirg.org

ACBES strives to research ways in which to change the current Canadian economic system into one that is more sustainable (economically and environmentally), seeking alternatives that focus on local and community supported systems. Our goal is to produce a documentary on our findings. The first draft of which has been completed. We are now concentrating our efforts in finding personal stories, potential interviewees, and continuing our research. Activities were slow for 2006-2007, but we hope to continue working on various aspects of the project during 2007-2008.

Active Citizens Television (ACTV)

www.interACTV.ca

The goal of ACTV is to produce and distribute a television program that provides citizens with the skills and capacity to live sustainable, low-impact lifestyles within environmentally healthy and ecologically conscious communities. The program will focus upon do-it-yourself skills and techniques to reduce one's ecological footprint, consumer awareness, citizen empowerment and community networking, and dispelling the negative connotations of environmentalism in Alberta.

Activities and Achievements

- Established board of directors, secured non-profit status, finalized business plan and created a myspace profile (www.myspace.com/interactv) and website. Set up a long-term marketing strategy.
- Created a 15 min. highlight reel featuring the music of local band AUDio SQUADron and special guest host Severn Cullis Suzuki.
- Hosted pilot wrap-up party and media event with local musical talent Trevor Tchir.
- Featured in Canada Press article, CBC Radio interview on Radioactive, Global News interview and front-page coverage and centre-spread article in Ed Magazine.
- Networked with several local organizations at the Earth Day Festival and the Edmonton Renovation Show. Participated in workshops, cold calling companies, and simply talking about our show.

Next year we intend to research and develop 9 future episodes, and hold regular meetings.

Biofreedom

<http://biofreedom.ca/>

Biofreedom is committed to consumer advocacy and education concerning Genetically Engineered (GE) foods. The group's main focus is a public awareness campaign about the issues concerning genetic engineering and mandatory labeling of GE food products, using tools like postcards, flyers, meetings and events.

Activities and Achievements

- Held monthly meetings, produced a bi-monthly e-newsletter, printed and distributed 4000 postcards and brochures.
- Bought 20 "Future of Food" DVDs in memory of Chelsy Shillington. Donated DVDs to schools and other institutions.
- Participated in "Splice of Life: A Genetically Modified Musical" with APIRG.
- Attended the official founding of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN).
- Met with Strathcona MP Rahim Jaffer to discuss mandatory labeling and "Ban Terminator" legislation.
- Presented to a fourth-year "Ethics in Genetics" class at the invitation of Professor Locke.
- Purchased and screened "The GMO Trilogy."
- Tabled at numerous conferences and events.
- Distributed free organic, non GMO seed packages at Earth Day.

Blood Ink

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~jekerr/>

Blood ink is a literary journal published quarterly by students at the University of Alberta. Blood ink's mission is to provide U of A students with a flexible forum for showcasing experimental writing. In time, we hope to become a highly respected showcase for creative writing of all types at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton and on the national and international levels and to encourage conversation between U of A contributors and the literary community abroad. We imagine Blood Ink to be shaped by its submissions.

In 2006-2007 we produced several issues of our quarterly publication, which are archived in the APIRG office and on our website.

Campus Sustainability Coalition

www.csc.ualberta.ca

The mission of the Campus Sustainability Coalition is to transform the University of Alberta into a participating, sustainable member of society. Through a partnership among students, faculty, staff, and community members, we strive to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability through campus operations and curriculum.

Faculty, staff, students and university organizations have quickly joined. The CSC has taken a leading role in defining the University's sustainable development, playing a major role in three of five campuses.

Activities and Achievements

- V.P. Facilities and Operations Don Hickey announced in an Express News article on May 14th that the University would be working with CSC to develop the University's sustainable development plan.
- We have been asked to participate in the sustainable development of the South Campus
- We are working on building a partnership between both Climate Change Central and the Alberta chapter of the Canadian Green Building Chapter.
- During Residence Services development of its 'Residence Master Plan' the CSC will be a conduit for campus experts to ensure sustainable, resource efficient and healthy living spaces for students.
- Both the Students' Union and the Graduate Student's Association have asked us to provide them with motions.
- 'Kyoto House': Dr. Leach of the School of Business, Residence Services and students are working to test what it takes to reduce a households emissions to levels 6% below 1990 levels, and to do so on a student budget and follow the progress on a blog throughout the year .
- Prairie Reclamation Project: a collaboration between East Campus Students Association, Residence Services and Eco House and led by Michael Rawson Clark of the Campus Sustainability Coalition. Over 70 native plant species were planted in a reclamation-style experiment to prove that creating an urban ecosystem based on natural systems existing pre-Edmonton is possible.
- Faculte Saint Jean Campus Project: to purchase paper through the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada and its third party certification of paper products. This project is a collaboration between the GSA, CSJ, Residence Services, Campus Vert, the ERSC and many others.

Campus Community Garden

www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/ecopage

In addition to creating nature connected recreational opportunities for students, the mandate of the garden is to:

- * Promote local, organic food production by producing food in a sustainable manner, without the use of pesticides, chemicals, or genetically modified plants
- * Provide the campus community with an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge within a living laboratory
- * To provide organic, fresh and healthy food for garden volunteers and the wider Edmonton community--through either the Campus food bank or similar programs

Activities and Achievements

The Campus Community Garden is a temporal working group and as such is active primarily in the summer. The coordinator from 2006-2007, Travis Kennedy, did a fabulous job of maintaining and upgrading the Garden's layout and content.

Campus Community for Public Healthcare (CCPH)

cph@apirg.org

The Campus Community for Public Health Care (CCPH) is composed of University of Alberta students, faculty and staff who seek to raise public awareness of and support for maintaining and improving the public health care system. We question why our governments are taking steps towards privatization. Membership in CCPH is open to anyone who is a supporter of public healthcare and who would like to get involved in protecting and enhancing it. Our steering committee meetings are open to the public and members are encouraged to participate. We seek to maintain the integrity of the Canada Health Act so that the rights insured by it are available for future Canadians. To meet these ends we have created a group with staying power, as public health care is a right that will need to be continually fought for.

Activities and Achievements

The focus of the 2006-2007 year was to create a stronger relationship with groups sharing similar goals around the province.

- Screened the film "Big Bucks, Big Pharma."
- Through the CSL course "Citizenship for Democracy" CCPH acquired a student intern who researched similar groups around the province, assessed media coverage of the issue of public and private healthcare and presented these findings in a summary for CCPH.
- Held regular meetings.

- Brought people from Red Deer to May Day 2007.
- Maintained website and email listserv.
- Focused on group organization, structure and communication, recruiting.
- Created and distributed brochures.
- Participated in the establishment of Friends of Medicare (FOM), Edmonton Chapter.

Note that CCPH is a distinct entity from FOM in that it exists to organize students when there is a clear and present danger to public healthcare and that it is primarily student and campus community led.

Edmonton Haiti Solidarity (EHS)

EHS is an organization promoting awareness about the struggle of the Haitian people and participating in projects that advocate for Haitian sovereignty, popular democracy, and social justice for the people of Haiti. EHS is also committed to promoting awareness about Canada's presence in Haiti.

Activities and Achievements

- Hosted a documentary screening and Q&A with Kevin Pina's (filmmaker and journalist based in Haiti).
- Participated in the "Troops Out of Afghanistan" and Anti-Wa marches and rallies.
- Participated in a "Canadian Foreign Policy Panel Discussion" and interview on CBC Radio on December 5th, 2006.
- International Day in Solidarity with the People of Haiti.
- Screened the film "Aristide and the Endless Revolution."
- Hosted the local stop of the "Canada-Haiti Labour and Women's Solidarity Tour."

Humanities 101

Humanities 101 offers a non-credit post-secondary Arts courses to the underprivileged population in Edmonton. Individuals with experience such as professors and/ or graduate students from a variety of disciplines donate their time to teach weekly sessions. We had a partnership with the Learning Centre Literacy Association (in the Boyle Street Co-Op building) as a location for classes.

Activities and Achievements

Humanities 101 did not offer any classes in 2006-2007. Committee members used the year to reevaluate the focus and direction for the group, and met with several community partners to ask for their input and interest in continuing partnerships. There was interest expressed from most of our partnerships, and further outreach was also successful. We also sought advice on recruiting and retention of volunteers and students. Please contact the APIRG office to learn about some of the tools and partnerships that were established.

Between administering the program at the different sites and maintaining an active relationship with our community partners, the time commitment was fairly extensive for the dwindling number of committee members. With the impending graduation of our last few members, we chose to dissolve Humanities 101 as a working group. We would like to thank APIRG for supporting us throughout our history, and wish them the best of luck with ongoing and upcoming social activism projects.

Friends of the Lubicon Alberta (FOLA)

www.fola.ecope.ca

FOLA is an advocacy group based out of the University of Alberta. We exist to promote awareness of the situation facing the Lubicon people and demand compensation for the destruction of Lubicon land and the recognition of the Lubicon's right to self-government. We are working closely with national Friends of the Lubicon, based out of Toronto, who are the chief negotiators for the Lubicon Nation.

Activities and Achievements

- Met with Chief Bernard Omniyak and Lubicon elders in Little Buffalo.
- Attracted media attention over the summer of 2007 at various rallies in front of the Legislature in Edmonton.
- Made and sold T-shirts to raise funds (can be purchased at the APIRG office)
- Have held meetings and recruited members

Journalists For Human Rights (JHR)

www.apirg.org/wg/jhr.php

JHR is a charitable organization committed to using the power of the media to effect positive social change. We design and produce media-driven awareness campaigns to engage and educate students in issues of human rights and justice. Our chapter at the University of Alberta consists of individuals who recognize the power of media and journalism to effect positive change.

The continuing partnership with the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) has allowed JHR to achieve its ever-expanding goals and host successful events.

Activities and Achievements

- *Speak News*: As part of JHR's goal to create a media publication, Tasneem Karbani conceived, designed, and produced JHR Alberta's first print publication. Issues were released in September and November. Partnered with another independent newspaper – *Antidote* – which now features a two-page spread of *Speak News*.
- Hosted several news/journalism workshops and were featured at the SU's High School Leadership Conference in November, the Rural Roots Change for Children summit in April and at other high schools in the city.
- *Speak Silence*: A 25-hour vow of silence in commemoration of the 25 million victims of HIV/AIDS, with a concert at SUB stage to open and close the event.
- *Informed Ignorance: The Effects of Today's Global Media*: A full-fledged media conference and pre-concert.
- Held a fundraising concert featuring Radiovacana, Emcee E and the Hidden Gems, and The Jesse Dee Three. Proceeds went to Global Minds' health and education work in Ecuador and JHR's media conference.
- Screened 'No Past to Speak Of,' about infant rape and AIDS. There was a speaker from the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers who spoke on sexual abuse.
- Took part in the CSL program by working with two students who worked on our news publication *Speak News*.
- Held bi-weekly meetings.

Legal Activist Collective

www.apirg.org/wg/lac.php

The goals of the LAC are to raise awareness of social justice issues related to law amongst the student body and to help students to take action on social justice issues in the community. We look at how the Western justice system addresses (or fails to satisfactorily address) class, gender, disability, cultural and sexual diversity, and other social issues. We hope to create space for dialogue and present ideas for improvements to the existing system. The Legal Activist Collective seeks to find ways to make law more inclusive, applicable and useful to everyone regardless of income or background.

Activities and Achievements

- Alan Young & Innocence Project Event. Explained the real reasons behind wrongful convictions in Canada and inspired the Faculty of Law to attempt to create an Innocence Project
- *Deadline* Film Screening. This event helped increase attendance at the Alan Young speaking event and recruited some participation in the Innocence Project
- *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of A Low Price*. Discussed the possibilities of living without Wal-Mart. Created a Free Store in the Law Centre for Buy Nothing Day.
- *Two Worlds Colliding*. A lively discussion and inspiration to develop a 'zine to create a record of police misconduct in Edmonton
- *Road to Guantanamo*. Attendees were educated about the conditions in illegal prisons.
- *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*. Attendees learned about corporate malfeasance.
- ThinkGreen boxes were placed around Faculty of Law to encourage conscious consumption.
- Campaign to have Law wear union-made. Attempts to effect Class of 2007 law wear were unsuccessful as decisions were made last year. Grad Committee purchasing Class of 2008 receptive to the campaign, committed to putting best efforts into purchasing from more socially responsible suppliers if financially possible; if so LAC will assist in promoting sales.
- Advised members through mailing list of community events of interest

La Chiva

www.lachiva.apirg.org

The overriding goal of La Chiva is to foster public awareness of the current Colombian social and political situation through proactive campaigns that reflect our commitment to social change. We hope to inspire students and community members to keep La Chiva running well beyond the current academic year and beyond the university environment. To our knowledge, La Chiva is the sole entity in Alberta that seeks explicitly to highlight the situation in Colombia.

Activities and achievements

- Ran a film series, including the screening of "Innocent Voices."

- Co-hosted a presentation by Ray Rogers, founder of the Killer Coke campaign.
- Presented at Students' Council at the U of A regarding the university's exclusivity contract with Coca-Cola and Coke's contributions to anti-union violence in Colombia.
- At International Week 2007, La Chiva hosted 'Terror and the Criminalization of Dissent in Colombia', and 'Popular and Indigenous Struggles in Canada and Colombia'.

Mexico Working Group

The raison d'être of the Mexico Working Group is to increase links between Alberta and Mexico, and promote cultural understanding between our two peoples. Every activity undertaken by the Mexico working group will adhere to the ultimate goal of creating a positive long term impact in both communities. The group chose to dissolve, as key members graduated or moved away.

SWAG

www.swag.apirg.org

Members of SWAG organize around issues that affect us as working class students, including rallying against tuition increases, strike support, and organizing events to raise awareness about issues in the labour movement. Much of our organizing focuses on students as workers - either students who work jobs while going to school, or students as workers in training. This includes teaching students how to organize unions, working with unions on campus, and improving the conditions of student labour.

Activities and Achievements

- Members catalogued a great many of the rare anarchist texts in the Rutherford Library, which has agreed to re-order any books which are not otherwise available in later editions.
- Brought up a speaker from New York to speak at a May Week

The Olive

Website: www.apirg.org/wg/olive.php

The Olive is a reading and zine series that holds monthly poetry readings from September to April. Each reading focuses on the work of one poet, and an open stage. For each reading we publish a small, free zine that contains the featured reader's poetry, and we offer an honorarium to the guest poet. Through the continued generous financial

support of APIRG, we are able to offer these chapbooks free of charge to all audience members, who consist mainly of undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Alberta, as well as faculty, staff, and community members. This helps us to keep our poets' work accessible to everyone.

Activities and Achievements:

- The Olive Reading Series occurs on the second Tuesday of each month, September through April, amounting to 8 evenings over the academic year. Last year's featured poets included Jason Christie, Rob McLennan and Rhona McAdam.
- As of December 2006, we relocated to Hulbert's in Belgravia in order to greatly expand our audience in the university community.
- Because of our honorarium system, quality chapbooks, great venue and appreciative audiences, we are now recognized as one of the premiere locations in western Canada in which to read.

The University Of Alberta Women's Centre

Website: www.ualberta.ca/%7Euawcc/index.htm

Location: SUB 4-16

The U of A Women's Centre exists to provide a supportive environment for education, networking and organizing around women-specific issues within the campus community and beyond. The Centre is a space dedicated to community building and activism, supporting women and women-positive groups to connect, dialogue, organize and create around issues and ideas. We offer funding and administrative resources to support groups in carrying out their projects. Our library of books, magazines and articles is here for use by students, faculty and community members. We can also help connect individuals to various women's service providers on and off campus.

Activities and Achievements

The WCC held regular meetings throughout the academic year. The following are some highlights:

- Montreal Massacre table/display in SUB.
- Disability Roundtable event.
- Made "Viva la Vulva" t-shirts and vulva cookies for the Vagina Monologues.
- Participated in University of Calgary study on women's centres.
- Participated in the 'ReelFemme' screening committee.

Appendix

Complete Financial Statements

Footnotes

Alberta Public Interest Research Group
Financial Statements
April 30, 2007

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the
Alberta Public Interest Research Group

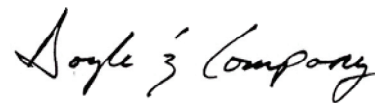
We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Public Interest Research Group as at April 30, 2007, and the statements of change in net assets, operations and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, Alberta Public Interest Research Group derives revenue from other sources, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group and we were not able to determine whether adjustments might be necessary to current assets, net assets, revenues and excess of revenue over expenditures.

In our opinion, the statements of change in net assets and operations present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the society as at April 30, 2007 and the results of operations of the company for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

August 10, 2007
Edmonton, Alberta



Chartered Accountants

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Financial Position

As at April 30, 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Financial Assets		
Cash	91,623	128,156
Investments (Note 3)	51,147	-
Accounts receivable	1,801	6,460
Prepaid expenses	1,874	2,063
	146,445	136,679
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	5,039	2,501
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	138,168	134,178
Internally restricted net assets	3,238	-
	141,406	134,178
	146,445	136,679

Approved by the Board of Directors:

_____ Director

_____ Director

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Change in Net Assets

For the year ended April 30, 2007

	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Balance, beginning of year	7,355	126,823	134,178	145,969
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	7,228	7,228	(11,791)
Funds committed during the year	3,238	(3,238)	-	-
Funds paid out during the year	(3,845)	3,845	-	-
Inter fund transfer	(3,510)	3,510	-	-
Balance, end of year	3,238	138,168	141,406	134,178

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Operations

For the year ended April 30, 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Student fees	151,248	149,029
Community and events revenue	1,527	-
Interest revenue	1,248	34
Office and retail revenue	672	-
Other revenue	2,017	7,420
	156,712	156,483
Expenditures		
Board expenses	2,852	2,673
Contract work and honoraria	600	-
Direct grants	28,895	36,222
Elections	2,011	2,602
Insurance	1,000	1,000
Library	1,362	731
Office	3,852	6,816
Professional fees	8,160	5,607
Programming	6,969	9,586
Promotion and outreach	1,835	4,141
Rent	11,151	14,484
Telecommunications	2,513	2,319
Wages and employee benefits	78,284	82,093
	149,484	168,274
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	7,228	(11,791)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended April 30, 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Operating Activities		
Cash received from funding agencies and other income	161,371	150,938
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(146,757)	(168,274)
	14,614	(17,336)
Investing Activities		
Increase in investments	(51,147)	-
Decrease in Cash During the Year	(36,533)	(17,336)
CASH - Beginning of year	128,156	145,492
CASH - End of year	91,623	128,156

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2007

1. Purpose of the Organization

Alberta Public Interest Research Group (Group) 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) 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.

(c) Financial Instruments

The financial instruments of Alberta Public Interest Research Group consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Group 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.

(d) 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.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2007

2. Significant Accounting Policies continued

(e) 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 measurement.

3. Investments

Investments represent Canadian Term Deposits purchased at cost from Servus Credit Union with a maturity date of July 26, 2007 and interest rate of 3.00%.

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 maybe 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 their policy.

5. Comparative Figures

The comparative amounts were audited by another firm of chartered accountants. Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Notes

Notes

Volunteer at APIRG!

APIRG would like to thank all its volunteers for their dedication and hard work during the 2006–2007 year.

APIRG and its working groups are always looking for new volunteers and participants. Many positions are available for people of all backgrounds and experiences. Whether you have hours or a few minutes a week, APIRG has opportunities for you. We're always looking for help with:

- Board participation
- University and community outreach
- Staffing the APIRG resource centre
- APIRG office support
- Media and technical support
- Arts and graphics support
- Skill sharing

Let us know what drives your passions!

Phone 1.780.492.0614 or email apirg@ualberta.ca.

