



APIRG

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

**ANOTHER
WORLD IS
POSSIBLE**

Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)
Annual Report 2010

Contributions

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

Jess Warren, Denise Ogonoski, Brooke Leifso (content and design), Denise Ogonoski (Working Group reports)

Michael Nunweiller (Cover design and photos)

Michael Liu, Jess Warren and our lovely volunteers (photos)

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

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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

Staff members:

prior to June 2009:

Ariel Bowering, Office Coordinator

Jess Warren, Outreach Coordinator

Lise Wilson, Working Group and
Volunteer Coordinator

after June 2009:

Ariel Bowering, Office Coordinator

Denise Ogonoski, Working Group
and Volunteer Coordinator

Jess Warren, Outreach Coordinator

APIRG Staff

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.

2009-2010 was a year characterized by new beginnings, with two new staff and a new staffing structure. The hiring of Jess Warren and Denise Ogonoski into the newly formed positions of Outreach Coordinator and Volunteer and Working Group Coordinator. Ariel Bowering took up the newly appointed role of Office Coordinator and Lead Hand. Thus, it became a year of implementation, of orientation and of review and assessment.

Thank you to the new staff for their patience with new systems and it's perspective kinks and congratulations for getting through a year of transition and constant orientation. We also wish to acknowledge Ariel Bowering for her vision and guidance throughout this year of transition and new beginnings.

Full-year members:

Justin Benko

Aditya Rao

Brennan Blomm

Geoff Kershaw

Jolène Davies

Drummond Lambert

Megan Ford

Half-year members:

Rafael Sumalinog

Sahro Osman

SU Representative:

Thomas L'Abbe

Non-voting members:

Pete Presant

Board of Directors

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 2009, six students ran for nine available seats on the Board of Directors. Subsequently elected three new board members in a by-election at the October Annual General Meeting.

Statement from the Board

2009–2010 Board Report

The 2009-2010 APIRG board participated in a year of strengthening our organizational processes as well as training 2 new staff and overseeing the transition of APIRG's longest-standing staff member, as well as the hiring of a third and final addition to the staff in April 2010. This complete transition to all new staff members within one year has meant that the 09/ 10 APIRG Board has been irreplaceable as the decision-makers and movers of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group.

The revised staffing structure implemented in 08/ 09 was put into practise this year and has seen great results in productivity and in the effectiveness of Board/ Staff support structures. All three existing positions have very little overlap and allow for adequate Board supervision, with clear responsibilities and tasks in each. The Board has enjoyed having these references, as well as their own "job descriptions" pertaining to their own Board portfolio, to help in the day-to-day running of APIRG.

Board members once again headed funding round sub-committees where Board members would review applications for funding and Working Group status, and develop recommendations of support that would then be accepted or revised by the Board as a whole. This year saw a sharp incline in the number of both funding and Working Group applications. Board members also developed a policy-making sub-committee which reflected upon what kinds of policies APIRG is lacking and got started on drafting up new policy for the organization to implement. This process is continuing into the 10/ 11 Board year.

As in other years, this Board experienced attrition amongst its membership. New Board members were instated at our AGM and our Board was on the whole a dependable and responsible group. They advised the incoming Board for the 2010/ 2011 year at the transition Board retreat and communicated what it meant to be part of the governing body of a not-for-profit, student-led and funded organization.

APIRG provides a unique opportunity for undergraduate students at the UofA and the broader Edmonton community to build skills, share knowledge, grapple with complex issues and effect positive change in a myriad of ways. The 2009-2010 board would like to conclude by encouraging you to get involved in APIRG in whatever ways you can; whatever your passion or talent there is a need for it at APIRG.

Highlights from 09/10

APIRG Workshop Series

APIRG focused this year on increasing capacity in groups that it supported. In this vein we hosted a monthly workshop series organized and presented by APIRG staff, Working Group members and guests. 2008-2009 workshops included:

- Stenciling and Logo Design: presented by Jay Moore
- On line collaborative communities: presented by Colin Piquette of FOLA
- Decision-Making with APIRG & SWAG: presented by Rhiannon Edwards, Kirsten Mayoh and Ariel Bowering
- Media Training: presented by Sam powers from CJSR)
- Creative Fundraising on Campus presented by Ariel Bowering(with input from Mike Gaultois of CSC)
- Recycled Holiday Cards: presented by Lise Wilson of APIRG
- Volunteer Management: presented by Lise Wilson of APIRG
- Train the Trainer: presented by Caitlin St Dennis of JHR
- Organizational Transitions: presented by Ariel Bowering of APIRG
- Avoiding Activist Burn Out: presented by Lise Wilson of APIRG
- Know Your Rights: presented by Rhiannon Edwards of SWAG
- DIY Silkscreening: presented by Ariel Bowering of APIRG



Above: Janet Hardy signs copies of her book, March 2009

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:

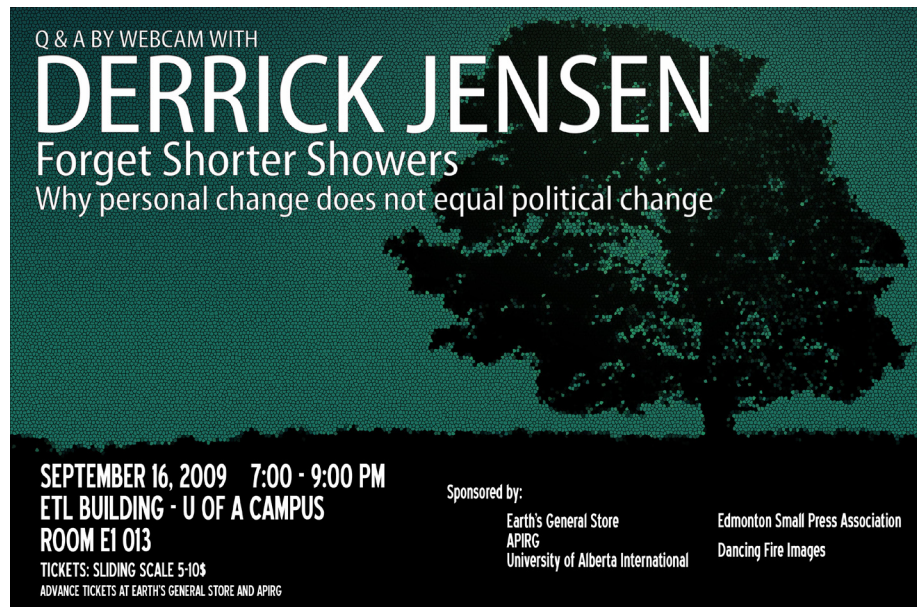
- April 2010 - "Undesirable Others" presentation and discussion on the ways that the mainstream/dominant culture represents marginalized people.



Above: Poster from "Everyone's Downstream".

Right: Poster from Derrick Jensen "Forget Shorter Showers" event.

- June 2010 - Super-T Training for Social Action Trainers. A 2.5-week training for social justice workers. Students received free access to workshops through APIRG.
- January 2010 - Everyone's Downstream III. A conference focusing on effects of the tar sands on communities throughout North America.
- November 2009 - Indigenous Sovereignty Week. A week of events focusing on indigenous rights and struggles.
- September 2009 - Derrick Jensen Q & A Event: Forget Shorter Showers. A webcam event where world-renowned author Derrick Jensen answered questions about politics and the land.
- 2009/ 2010 - Next Up Edmonton. A training program for up-and-coming young leaders.
- March 2009 - Millennial Ethical Sluthood. Lecture by Janet Hardy, co-author of *The Ethical Slut*.



Project, Event and Training Fund

Funding Objectives and Overview

In 2009/2010, The Project, Event and Training Fund was increased to \$18,000. 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.

Project, Event and Training Fund Recipients - 08/09

Comments from Recipients

"We at women's Law Forum certainly appreciated APIRG's support. It allowed us to host a successful speaker event which served as a catalyst for further action throughout the year and helped inspire the club with a direction and purpose. Please relay our gratitude to all involved!"

– Deborah Book, Women's

Recipient	Project or event
Geoff Kershaw	Tarsands Pollution Database
Aboriginal Law Students Association	Aboriginal Speakers Series
Debate National Championships Organizing	National University Debating Championships
Leslie Robinson	Designing Public Health Messages for Youth by Youth
Daniel Martinez	Maja Campesino Fair Trade Coffee
Solidarity with Iran's Democratic Movement-	Event Series
UofA Student Coop Housing Group	Station Pointe Coop Housing Project
Students' International Health Association (SIHA)	SIHA Local Training
STAND Against Genocide	"Why Genocides Happen" Event "Rescue Me" Campout in Quad
Unveiling Africa Foundation	Re-thinking Africa's present and building Africa's future
Women's Law Forum	Dean Spade in Edmonton
Edmonton Anarchist Black Cross	Books Behind Bars
Make Poverty History	Fair Trade Town Initiative
Music is a Weapon	Music is a Weapon Series
Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament	Torch Rally for Democracy
Julia Frohlich	Training for International Volunteering with Uniterra
Linguistics Club	"The Linguistics: A very Foreign Language Film" screening and panel discussion
Medical Students for Mental Health Awareness	Mental Health Awareness Week
Rockin' Doc' Summer Camp	Rockin' Doc' Summer Camp
Ted Kerr	Queer Summit

Financial Summary

Year end summary

2009/2010 was APIRG's eighth full year of operations on campus. We approved just under \$29,000 in direct grants to student events, activities and projects. APIRG funds also supported student initiatives through our publications, resource library, events and educational workshops. Most of these projects fill the pages of this report and our office year round with active students.

As with many non-profit organizations, APIRG's biggest annual expense is staffing costs (\$98,000), which includes both salaries and benefits. 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 \$6.34 from full-time students and \$3.10 from part-time students in 2009/2010. Any students who do not wish to pay the fee for financial or ideological reasons have the opportunity to opt out and receive a full refund. Last year, APIRG had 57 students taking advantage of the opt out program despite campus-wide advertising.

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. Our miscellaneous services such as button maker rentals and photocopying for outside groups has increasingly added money to our revenue stream and last year made just over \$3000.

APIRG began the year projecting a deficit. However with a heightened awareness of fiscal responsibility and a focus on small scale events, we finished the fiscal year with an deficit of revenue over expenditures of \$2,197 which will be covered by our past cumulative unrestricted

balance.

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 2009/2010 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.



Working Group Coordinator Report

The 2009-2010 year at APIRG has been very exciting, with a new Working Group Coordinator, Denise Ogonoski, taking over the reins from longtime Coordinator Lise Wilson, who has built an amazing program over the years. Much of this year has been becoming acquainted with the learning curve of a new organization while developing relationships with Working Groups, managing new volunteers and supporting the Board of Directors. It has been a great experience!

We had extra money to give away in direct grants this year, by reabsorbing old internally restricted funds that were never spent over the past few years. This meant a spring funding round, and our board was a wonderful help in processing this round, as we could not have gotten it done without them. We lost three Working Groups in the Winter, but ended up bringing in six new ones over the year, so the amount of groups we are supporting has grown significantly.

Training and Programming

The focus during 2009-2010 has been on trainings and sharing the knowledge of membership, Working Groups and community supporters. We have held regular Lunchbox Series info session featuring many of our Working Groups and the projects they have been focusing on. Further, our monthly Toolkit Workshops have been a huge success, attracting diverse participation and developing a wide array of skills.

The 2009-2010 Toolkit Series looked a little like this:

September: Strategic Planning: Creative Planning for Social Change – Co-facilitation by Sheila Muxlow, Sierra Club
October: Volunteer Recruitment and Retention – Co-facilitation by Sheila Muxlow, Sierra Club
November: Learn to Crochet – Facilitation by Ashley Marcus
December: DIY Book Making – Facilitation by Kate and Shawn Birss
January: Media and Messaging Skills – Facilitation by Samantha Power
February: Privilege and Marginalization in Organizing
March: Creative Visuals: Banner Making and Silk Screening

And the 2009-2010 Lunchbox Series was as follows:

September: Lunchbox Session with the Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton (TRUE) – presented by TRUE



Above: Voices for Choices (subgroup of UAWCC) was successful in getting an LRT ad up at University station celebrating the reproductive choices women make.

“Our group used the photocopier, button making machine, the space in APIRG to hold meetings, our box to distribute posters among group members, and the projector. We received funding from APIRG to support all of our major events and projects. The staff at APIRG helped us organize our finances, gave direction and strategy in regards to our events, promoted and did outreach for some of our events, booked rooms for meetings, gave advice about our upcoming website, and all the staff provided general encouragement and support.”

- Greenpeace on Campus

October: What’s Happening in Lubicon Territory? – presented by Friends of the Lubicon Alberta

February: Dialogue and Action: The U of A Community, Fort McMurray and the Tar Sands – presented by Greenpeace on Campus, Friends of the Lubicon Alberta, Stand With Fort Chipewyan and U of A Council of Canadians

March: Women in Politics 101 – presented by Equal Voice

March: ECOS’ Living Green – presented by ECOS

Training for Change <http://www.trainingforchange.org/> came to Edmonton in June 2009, hosted by APIRG, to give members and folks from the larger community a fantastic opportunity to hone their facilitation and group-building skills from world-renowned trainers using a direct education approach. The “Super T: Training for Social Action Trainers” brought together union workers, students, and front line social workers together for an intense and incredibly useful 17 days of learning, as well as solidified a working relationship between Training for Change and APIRG. Thank you to Ariel Bowering, previous Office Coordinator, for making

this happen.

APIRG 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.

Active Working Group Year End Report Summaries - A Selection of 2009–2010

Active Working Groups in 2009-2010

Centre for Organizing and Popular Education (COPE)

*New

Campus Sustainability Coalition

Edmonton Mood Disorder Society *New

Friends of the Lubicon Alberta (FOLA)

Greenpeace on Campus

Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) ('09)

Legal Activist Collective ('09)

The Olive

Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN) *New

Solidarity With Iran's Democratic Movement – Edmonton

(SIDM-E) *New

Spark Ed ('09)

Student Worker Action Group (SWAG)

Stand With Fort Chipewyan *New

University of Alberta Council of Canadians

University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective (UAWCC)

University Farm of Organic Growers (UFOG) *New

Campus Sustainability Coalition (CSC)

Working Group Since: Fall 2006

Website: <http://www.sustainabilitycoalition.ca/>

Our mission is to transform the University of Alberta into a participating member of a sustainable society. Through a partnership among students, faculty, staff, and community members, we are promoting excellence and leadership in education, innovation, and stewardship to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability to ensure the health and well-being of present and future generations, both locally and globally. Only by achieving sustainable operations and teachings will the University of Alberta become a world leader and model of a global citizen.

Some activities undertaken:

Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW) 2009 (October 19-23, 2009)

SAW 2009 increased awareness about sustainability and achieved campus member participation in a week of sustainability events, community engagement in sustainability awareness. Events we were directly involved with included a Sustainability Movie Night on SUB Stage leading up to the week of events, the second annual Research and Art for Sustainability Expo, the first annual Party with a Purpose concert, the second annual Voices Of Nature concert with the Artist Response Team from British Columbia, tabling, and raffle prizes donated by the local businesses Transcend Coffee and Alley Kat Brewing.

Green Economy Community Dialogue (CSL project) (Nov. 12, 2009)

We partnered with the Sierra Club Prairies Chapter for our CSL project in Fall 2009 to host a world café-style community dialogue centered around envisioning a green economy in Alberta. The event achieved public participation in an active discussion, increased awareness, focus areas for the community to take away and forward in terms of shaping Alberta's future, and student involvement in a sustainability initiative. The CSL students did much of the framing for the event theme, helped with much of the legwork for event, did most of the event facilitation, and got to work with experienced event planners and facilitators. The other two people involved besides the CSC were Lindsay Telfer, the executive director of the Sierra Club and Dr. David Kahane, a U of A Political Science professor who was the instructor for the CSL course (Political Science 299).

Green Energy Career Forum and Resource Fair (with CAPS and the U of A Energy Club) (Mar. 2, 2010)

This event was a joint effort between the CSC, CAPS: Your U of A Career Center and the U of A Energy Club. The event linked the U of A community with Edmonton community by increasing student awareness about potential jobs and green opportunities once they leave the U of A.

Most of our activities are focused on increasing awareness and engagement in sustainability on a campus-wide basis. Our deliberative events are particularly good at engaging participants in a comfortable environment, where they can share ideas and opinions and learn from others involved. Moving forward, we are particularly interested in affecting the U of A sustainability policy. The timing for this is ideal because the Office of Sustainability is currently involved in the development of a new U of A sustainability platform with which to move forward.

University of Alberta Council of Canadians

Working Group Since: Winter 2008

Website: www.uofacoc.ca

The mandate of the group is to promote Canadian Sovereignty in reaction to pressures to integrate with the United States and a move towards globalization; to reclaim a local and global commons and to create a civil society movement including participatory democracy. We believe that a local and global com-

mons refers to a community either local or global in nature in which resources and other measures essential to a dignified human life are held, in common, as unassailable rights. Our goals are: to promote awareness of issues of general, historical and current natures relating to, or in pursuance of our mandate, and to represent the Council of Canadians to the student body, and through creative means, engage students and the general public with their communities, governments, and current affairs.

Some activities undertaken:

January 23: Anti-prorogation rally. Because the rally brought out so many first-time activists, we were able to reach outside the "box". Members attended and handed out CoC publications and information about the U of A Chapter.

January 30-31: Oil Sands Student Delegation Tour. By all accounts this first tour was a success! We were able to network with other groups and their leaders as well as let others know about the U of A CoC. The trip also allowed the members themselves to visit the tar sands, which is an issue that the Council deals with on a national level.

February 2: 5-Ring Circus Screening. This screening drew a small crowd but allowed us to network a bit more and get our name out as a group. It was important to draw attention to the issues with the Vancouver Olympics that many people don't want to talk about.

February 10: Coca Cola Case Screening. Unlike the 5-Ring Circus Screening, this film drew a crowd of about 125 people! We showed it in conjunction with the Edmonton CoC chapter and Cinema Politica.

March 10: Tar Sands, the Selling of Alberta Screening. This screening drew a fairly large crowd and gave the opportunity to present Dr. Gordon Laxer as well.

March 22-25: World Water Week. This was our big event this year and we definitely topped what we did last year. We began Monday with a screening of Blue Gold (about 60 people), Tuesday was a screening of Downstream and Our Land My People (about 35 people), Wednesday was a water markets workshop (about 20 people) and we finished Thursday with a panel discussion on world water issues (about 15

people). As the week went on, fewer people came out to events but we did see some participants at every event. This week was done in conjunction with Greenpeace on Campus and help from the Edmonton CoC chapter as well as PIA. Overall, it was an extremely successful week of events with great participation and networking and discussions around water issues in Alberta and abroad.

Because our group is small, we are able to plan and organize quite easily. We made our meetings a little more formal, making sure we had an agenda which helped a lot. In an attempt to gain more membership, instead of holding open general interest meetings like last year, we focused on events to make a name for ourselves on campus. We have had a number of people interested in becoming members so I believe this strategy was somewhat successful.

Centre for Organizing and Popular Education (COPE)

Working Group Since: Winter 2010

Website: www.ecope.ca

We are a multi-stakeholder co-operative in its developmental phase, working at the intersections of campus and community. Our membership is composed of community organizers, popular educators, academics, students, labour and political organizers, and nonprofit organizations who are dedicated to using popular education as a tool for social justice. COPE provides popular education, facilitator training, assistance with community organizing and educational services for political campaigning. Our organization uses existing networks in the social justice community, online social networking, connections to the academic community concerned about social justice and concerned citizens.

Some activities undertaken:

2010 presentation to International Week entitled "The Underclass of 2010", and our group involvement in Humanities 101, a U of A/Boyle Street Learning Centre community learning project.

We had originally planned to host a World Cafe for labour and social movement organizations in May, but after discussion the World Cafe was changed to a residential retreat to be held August 27-29 of this year.

COPE has had regular monthly meetings, retreat committee meetings, information sessions (ie: a member report from Palestine, and a presentation from a Cooperative formation expert), see www.ecope.ca for details. We also maintain an ongoing discussion forum at www.ecope.ca.

The purpose of ECOPE is provide a useful, easy to use, but extremely flexible and customizable web centre for community organizers and popular educators that can quickly and easily handle the standard functions required of most group and campaign websites. ECOPE uses the power of phpb3 open source software to provide a very user friendly way to serve the internal and external information needs of social and political advocacy groups, as well as community associations. It combines a moderated "serious" forum feature for online chats and discussions, a newsletter, a group web page, and a mailing list, and as many subgroups with as various levels of privacy and exclusivity as groups may require, into one system (an integrated events calendar is also forthcoming).

We see a greater level of organizing and educational cooperation between labour, human rights, environmental, and social justice movements coming from our activities, and the empowering of oppressed communities through the community organization education and support we seek to provide.

Edmonton Mood Disorder Society

Working Group Since: Fall 2009

It is no secret that there is a lack of community based resources for people dealing with a spectrum of mental health issues; furthermore, those that do exist are often not adequately supported and are underfunded.

We are a mental health peer support group for people with affective disorders such as bipolar disorder and depression. Our meetings offer a confidential and free space to meet other people, exchange ideas and find comfort in crisis. These meetings are the cornerstone of what we do and have been running every Wednesday, from 6-8 pm, for the past 6 years.

Some activities undertaken:

Thus far this year we have had several activities that

have contributed to our mandate of helping members develop their toolbox of both internal and external resources. These include presentations by the Peer Nutrition Educators (April 14), and the Police and Crisis Team (May 19) as well as stress relief activities such as painting (Sept. 30), Pumpkin Carving (Oct. 28), Sampling Guided Relaxation Tapes (Nov. 18), Christmas Party (Dec. 16), What is Bipolar Q & A (Jan. 27), Journaling (Feb. 10; March 3 & 24).

In addition, we have our annual presentation for 3 classes of Nursing Students at NorQuest on May 19, and a presentation for Transport Canada during Mental Health Awareness Week. Both of these presentations work towards our goal of increasing awareness about not only our service, but also about mental health issues in general.

Over the past year, we have seen 4 new members come out and participate, and begin to develop an increased awareness about their diagnosis and how to navigate their "new" selves. In addition, there have been changes in all members. Those who come are visibly more self-reflexive, calm, and open. Some of our members have stepped forward and asked if they can facilitate or be involved in public presentations, which reveals levels of leadership these members had not previously expressed.

Group Member Feedback:

"The things I like about group is that it helps me deal with my life, I get to talk about my week, I get to meet like minded people and that it is fun overall!"

"It's so freeing to state exactly how I'm feeling without ever being judged."

"I think this is a good place to get and give hope to others. Support is a really good thing and it's a place to learn new tools for coping."

Greenpeace on Campus

Working Group Since: January 2009

Our mandate identifies two areas, which shape what events and activities that we organize. These two pillars of focus are: public engagement (rallies and community demonstrations) and education (panel discussions, documentary screenings, and information booths). Our events this year fulfilled both of these areas. The flash mob, rallies, and drum circle provided a space for students to become more

actively involved. The movie screenings, panel discussions, workshop, and meetings helped increase awareness about the tar sands, climate change, and climate justice. These events provided a safe and low-risk opportunity for students to learn about the injustices happening in our province and we were able to promote other ways that they could get more involved. The Oil Sands Student Delegation created an opportunity for us to educate and empower student leaders on campus, so they could take what they learned about the tar sands and apply it to their organizing work. The format of this trip allowed us to access the networks of these student leaders, by providing them with opportunities and materials to take back to their respective groups.

Some activities undertaken:

Tabling at Week of Welcome (Aug 31-Sept 2)
Global Climate Wake Up Call- Climate Change
Flash Mob (September 21)
International Day of Climate Action: Dying for Climate Leadership (October 24)
Age of Stupid Campus Screening (October 28)
GPOC trip to the tar sands (Nov 7-8)
Kyoto Plus & SWFC Drum Circle (Nov 18)
350.org Candle Light Vigil (Dec 12)
Winter Clubs Fair (Jan 12-15)
GPOC Strategy Session (Jan 10)
Oil Sands Delegation Trip Primers (Jan 19 & 27)
2010 Oil Sands Student Delegation Trip (Jan 30-31)
Delegation Debrief (Feb 10)
APIRG Lunch box session on the Oil Sands Trip (Jan 24)
GPOC Beer and Doc at the Underdog- Flow (Feb 27)
Doc and Discussion: Tar Sands: the selling of Alberta followed by discussion with Gordon Laxer (March 10)
Water Week: 2 doc screenings, tabling in SUB, a water workshop, and panel discussion (March 22-26)
Deep Green Resistance (March 27-28)
Wrap Up Picnic (Sunday April 18)
Bi-monthly meetings from September to April

Greenpeace on Campus has organized events and meetings, which have increased awareness, provided a space for students to become engaged and politically active, and created an environmental justice community on campus where our members feel a sense of belonging and support.

The Olive

Working Group Since: Spring 2003

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

As our goal/objective is to create a welcoming venue for university poets and guest writers from across Canada, I would say we were very successful this year. The Olive's reputation continues to grow as a recognized venue and our Open Mics are always full of student poets from the U of A happy to try out their new work in front of a supportive audience.

Some activities undertaken:

We hosted a number of poetry readings on the second Tuesday of every month from September through April. Readers included the following:
Ken Belford (September)
Angela Carr (October)
Marguerite Pigeon (November)
Erin Moure (December)
Hiromi Goto (January)
Jordan Scott (February)
Jeff Carpenter & Glenn Robson (March)
U of A 394 Creative Writing Class (April).

A result we have seen from our activities is definitely an increased awareness about the necessity of poetry as a platform for current issues. Whether it was Ken Belford using poetry to discuss environmental issues or Marguerite Pigeon using her poetry to explore the difficulties of being a mother and a writer, The Olive continues to create a platform for poetry as witness to social change. Our audiences increased this year, I believe, due to public interest in the issues our guest poets brought up in their work. This shows that poetry truly does engage people as a medium for showcasing current issues.

Stand With Fort Chipewyan

Working Group Since: Fall 2009

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

Stand with Fort Chipewyan is a non-partisan, cam-

pus advocacy organization located at 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:

Downstream (Documentary Screening) - October 9, 2009

Andrew Nikiforuk (Speaker) - November 4, 2009

George Poitras (Speaker) - November 27, 2009

H2Oil (Documentary Screening) - March 5, 2010

Dr. Schindler/Dr. McEachern Debate (Speaker) - March 15, 2010

T-Shirt/Letter Mail Out (Promotion) - May 15, 2010

Last spring, Stand With Fort Chipewyan hosted a panel discussion between Dr. Preston McEachern (Alberta Environment's lead Environmental Effects Biologist) and Dr. David Schindler. Our goal was trying to reconcile the discrepancy between government and independent scientific assessments of the environmental impacts of oilsands development (which may be contributing to the the serious health issues in Fort Chipewyan, located downstream from the oilsands). Not only did many students turnout, but to our surprise notable figures in the wider community as well, from government employees and members to prominent activists and scientists. Further, a local film maker who is producing a CBC documentary on the issue filmed our discussion for the film.

The discussion was informative and lively, with significant audience participation. However, during the course of the talk McEachern claimed that a recent study by Dr. Kevin Timoney and Dr. Peter Lee falsified its data to show that the oilsands was polluting the Athabasca River. Lee was in the audience and afterwards asked McEachern how he came to that conclusion. McEachern's explanation was unsatisfactory and he refused to back down from his statements. A few weeks later, Lee sued McEachern and the Alberta Government for liable. Lee would win, forcing McEachern and the province to retract, apologize, and pay for all legal fees Lee incurred. The story was featured on the front page on the Edmonton Journal and Globe & Mail, raising awareness to an important advocacy issue that SWFC has been trying to raise in the media.

This event was followed with a letter campaign where we helped 150 Albertans (mostly students) send a letter to their MLA demanding the Alberta Government overhaul and replace its environmental monitoring system RAMP and study the effects oil-sands industrial activity is having on the health of residents in Fort Chipewyan. Although our response from the government was unsatisfactory, we are consistently raising the issue to the province and in the media and hope to engage in further, more substantive dialogue.

[University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective \(UAWCC\)](#)

Working Group Since: June 2003

Website: <http://uawcc.wordpress.com/> ; <http://voicesforchoices.info>

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 has a few functions.

First, it 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. Second, the Centre works to support everyone's learning about women and feminism. 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.

Some activities undertaken:

Esther Kane talk – October

Sex toy party – October

Art making for the La Salle Women's Shelter – November

Pizza lunch – February

Pad making workshop – March

Biweekly meetings

Logo, poster, and banners were created

Voices For Choices (Subgroup of UAWCC)

Biweekly Meetings

Creating a website and logo

We had Educate Ourselves Nights nearly every

month of the school year, and they aided the group's goals and objectives by educating ourselves and the pro-choice community about the issues surrounding reproductive rights and health, which creates a more well-equipped community better able to deal with the mistruths of the anti-choice groups.

Joy Schmold, Sexual Assault Centre – Values Clarification and triggers exercises - September
Tour of Women's Health Options – October
Lianne McTavish – Discussion on pro-choice activism, the history of abortion and abortion rights in Canada – November
Kalea Turner-Beckman – Consensus building workshop – January
Travelling Tickle Trunk - Sex Toy Safety - January
OPTIONS Sexual Health – Presentation on safer sex, contraception and STIs – February

March 7-13th - Abortion Provider's Day Awareness Campaign

We put up coat hangers and pictures of coat hangers on posters around campus mysteriously, and then days later put up facts on why abortion must remain safe, legal and accessible. We also tabled daily during this time. This campaign raised awareness on the harm reduction aspects of abortion – so often it is forgotten that abortion rights originated from this place. Voices for Choices felt that even for those who feel that abortion is not something they believe in personally, this type of education can lead people to seeing that abortion must stay legal and accessible.

March 10th – Abortion Provider's Day Celebration

We invited members of the pro-choice community to celebration abortion providers and the work they do. The night included music, mingling and numerous readings – one from an abortion provider-to-be, two from workers at Women's Health Options, and a few from the pro-choice university community. This night brought together the pro-choice community to celebrate and reflect, as well as meet each other and create a stronger community. This was a highly successful event that has attracted many new members to our group, as well as increase awareness about Voices for Choices and the work

we do. Most importantly however, it created a time where abortion providers, who often have to fear their lives for the work they do, were celebrated and thanked.

LRT Advertisements

This project was months in the making and has gained a large amount of attention. Voices for Choices gave the pro-choice community strength, a voice and a chance to help women gain the unbiased help they need through Canadians for Choice's hotline. The ad's messaging and images were meant to be empowering to all women, encouraging them to make choices that are right for them, even if they aren't facing an unplanned pregnancy currently. There is not a lot of pro-woman advertising out there, and we wanted to do that. The ad also raised awareness on pro-choice issues, as well as how common it is for a woman to have an abortion. This will hopefully lead to a greater communication of abortion rights, and women's personal experiences of abortion.

Adamant Eve, a feminist radio show on CJSR, did a segment on our ads, talking about their importance and why the newer anti-choice ads are demeaning to women. We have also been contacted recently by CBC Radio – a producer saw our ads and may want to do a story on them, as well as on Voices for Choices in general. The ads have attracted new members, a wider community of supporters, and also gave us a project that we can be proud of – which is always needed in groups working toward progressive (but unfortunately frustratingly slow) change.

What has worked for the Collective?

- Collaboration and effective decision making within the collective
- Lots of ideas for events and projects
- Egalitarian communication and conflict resolution (consensus decision making)

University Farm of Organic Growers (UFOG)

Working Group Since: Winter 2010

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/ufarmorganicgrowers/project-definition>

The University Farm Organic Growers (UFOG) is a not

for profit, collectively run community garden located on the University of Alberta Farm adjacent to Foote Field. We have an open membership and allow flexible volunteerism. We grow organically and encourage learning and eating.

We strive to:

1. Offer members the opportunity to learn about food cultivation and market gardening,
2. Give members an opportunity to cultivate culturally specific crops,
3. Encourage members and the greater community to participate in an active lifestyle,
4. Allow community members to reach out to each other, strengthening social cohesion,
5. Be economically advantageous for volunteers in augmenting existing food sources,
6. Generate revenue that can be reinvested in the community garden and in social development projects,
7. Provide members with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the day-to-day business of the University Farm.

Some activities undertaken:

We run on the gardening season, so have just begun our 2010 season. We've had a very successful kickoff with about 25 people present for the initial orientation and tutorial on hothouse planting in April, including about a dozen new volunteers.

The kickoff has gone well. Our busiest season will occur over the next six weeks.

A result coming out of our activities is improved student and public awareness of local urban agriculture, and dissemination of practice-based methods of spreading local organic food production. Secondary results are a decreased reliance on unsustainably produced and transported foods, and, finally, a contribution to the crumbling of the agribusiness empire.

The overall health of our group is strong. If we're starting a growing season with 40 volunteers, we're in a great position to improve our communication and marketing.

Appendix

Complete Financial Statements

Footnotes

Alberta Public Interest Research Group
Financial Statements
April 30, 2010

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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, 2010, 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, 2010 and the results of operations of the company for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

August 12, 2010

Edmonton, Alberta

Can't Show doylesig.bmp

Chartered Accountants

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Financial Position

As at April 30, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Financial Assets		
Cash	164,373	118,163
Investments (Note 5)	10,913	53,573
Accounts receivable	-	540
Prepaid expenses	2,272	5,895
	177,558	178,171
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	9,927	8,343
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	146,064	157,281
Internally restricted net assets	21,567	12,547
	167,631	169,828
	177,558	178,171

Approved by the Board of Directors:

_____ Director

_____ Director

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Change in Net Assets

For the year ended April 30, 2010

	Internally Restricted	Unrestricted	2010	2009
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	12,547	157,281	169,828	152,084
Excess (shortage) of revenue over expenditures	-	(2,197)	(2,197)	17,744
Funds committed during the year	31,171	(31,171)	-	-
Funds paid out during the year	(16,081)	16,081	-	-
Inter fund transfer	(6,070)	6,070	-	-
Balance, end of year	21,567	146,064	167,631	169,828

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Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Operations

For the year ended April 30, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Student fees	165,965	160,484
Community and events revenue	6,236	6,156
Interest revenue	397	1,459
Office and retail revenue	735	973
Grants	-	2,328
Other revenue	3,299	1,761
	176,632	173,161
Expenditures		
Board expenses	3,547	2,018
Contract work and honoraria	2,583	5,307
Direct grants	16,334	9,395
Elections	2,411	1,622
Insurance	1,026	2,441
Library	1,062	273
Office	16,363	10,447
Professional fees	6,223	7,273
Programming	11,622	6,322
Promotion and outreach	5,565	3,222
Rent	11,799	11,331
Telecommunications	1,989	2,811
Wages and employee benefits	98,305	92,955
	178,829	155,417
Excess (Shortage) of Revenue over Expenditures	(2,197)	17,744

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended April 30, 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Operating Activities		
Cash received from funding agencies and other income	177,172	176,137
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(173,622)	(159,005)
	3,550	17,132
Investing Activities		
Increase in investments	42,660	(1,297)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash During the Year	46,210	15,835
CASH - Beginning of year	118,163	102,328
CASH - End of year	164,373	118,163

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Alberta Public Interest Research Group

Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2010

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. No amortization is recorded because the capital assets are expensed in the period 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

Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2010

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 measurement.

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%.

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 their policy.

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

Notes

Volunteer at APIRG!

We at APIRG would like to thank all our volunteers for their dedication and hard work during the 2009-2010 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 780.492.0614 or email apirg@ualberta.ca.

