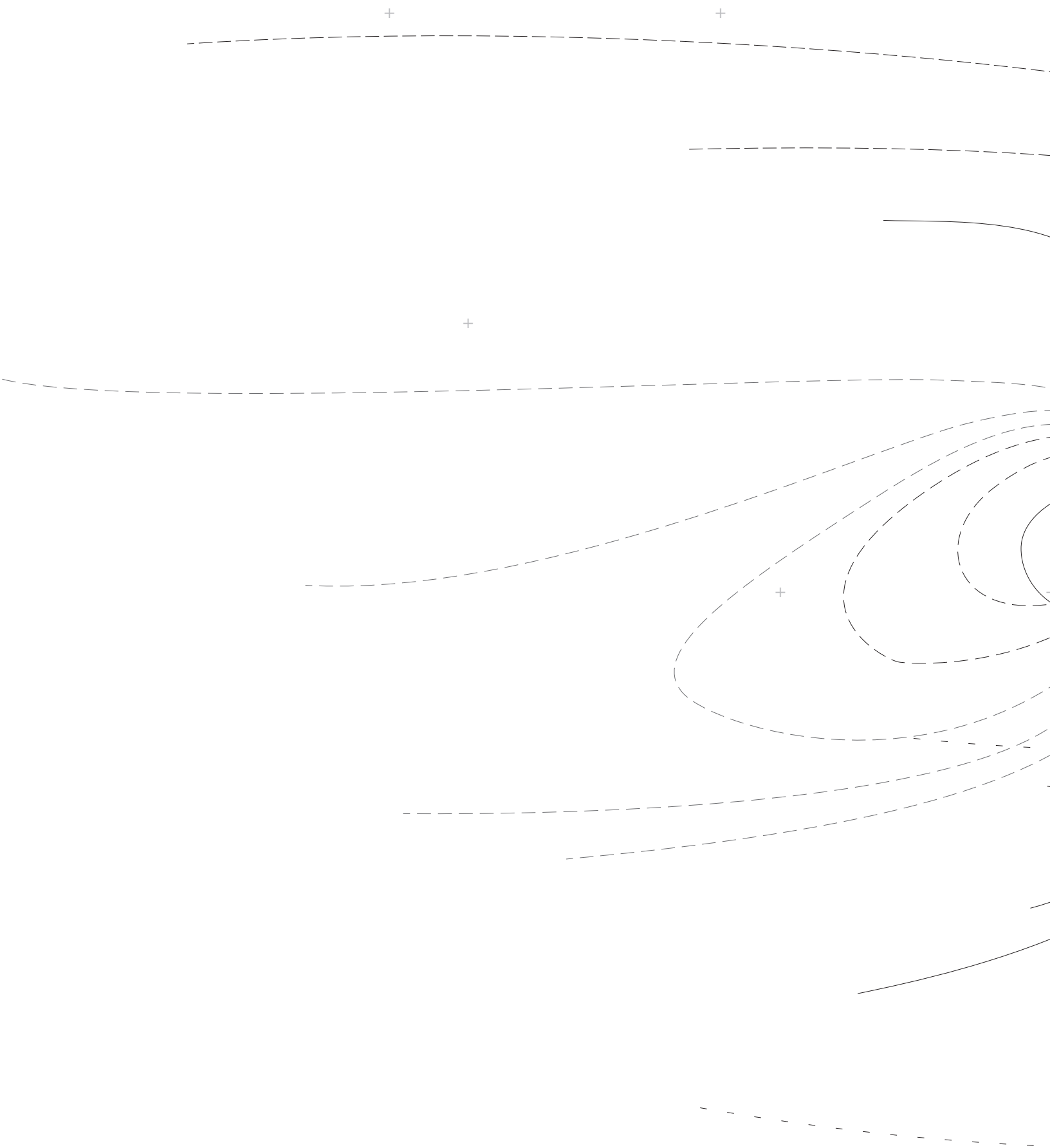


Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2005–2006





## Who we are

### WHAT IS APIRG?

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) is a student-run, student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest. APIRG exists to provide students with resources to be active citizens.

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 year.

## 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 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.

During the 2005/2006 academic year, APIRG employed four part-time staff members:

Aaron Chubb, Working Group Coordinator

Leah Orr, Outreach Coordinator

Ariel Bowering, Board Coordinator

Eugene Lee, Financial Coordinator



# APIRG Board

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 2005, nine students sought election for the nine seats on the Board of Directors, seven of which were elected after two were disqualified for violating APIRG election bylaws. There was also one new Board Member elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 2005.

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# APIRG

## BOARD ELECTIONS

more information about APIRG and the election: [www.apirg.org](http://www.apirg.org)

*APIRG is an Alliance "PIRG," or Public Interest Research Group. PIRGs are organizations based on the premise that students are citizens, and as such, part of their education should include recognizing and engaging the problems of society. APIRG exists to provide training, support, and opportunities for students at the U of A and the local community to be active citizens. APIRG is a student-run, student-funded, student-run, student-directed and community-minded. We are democratic, independent, non-partisan, and non-profit to ensure that students are able to work on issues of importance to them without fear of censure. Nine equal voting positions on the board are open this year to be filled by student-elected candidates. The nine individuals below are seeking your vote for the board on March 9 and 10.*



**Amanda-Leigh Hanson**  
I am a fourth-year Environmental Conservation Science student with a major in Economics & Policy. Though I may not be an obvious fact, you should know that I am an extremely passionate person with regard to "hot" or controversial issues, and constantly find myself debating, taking news clippings, asking questions, and pushing the accepted view I hold about our world. I am sincerely dedicated to making a helping making change happen, both in my small province and in the larger world we call home. The Public/Outreach position with APIRG would allow my excellent people skills to stretch their wings and find others to fly purposefully with their ideas and keep the public interest strong and on top.



**Carmen Sadoway**  
I am in my third year of working towards my undergraduate Arts degree in Anthropology and Women's Studies. I am a diplomatic, motivated and community minded individual. Her creativity, organization and commitment will be an asset in facilitating student based research, public interest groups and community events. I look forward to supporting campus activity that is helping to create a conscious campus environment.



**Jason Bizanz**  
APIRG is a group that should get us students thinking about the public interest. Despite our relatively high standard of living, our society has proved itself unable to deal with increasing problems such as the substantial and growing population of homeless and children living below the poverty line. The system is broken, and we, the young who are new students, are going to have to fix it. I, as board member, I hope to help to make APIRG a visionary organization that will work to find ideas and alternatives. I am a straight forward, open person and hope to use my experience as a volunteer in the community to help APIRG work ultimately for the public good while involving students in the process to create a generation of people committed to a better community.



**Kevan Hunter**  
I am an environmental student in the anti-war movement as well as fighting for the rights of students to an accessible education. The most important question being students and workers at this time is how to exercise greater control over the economy and political affairs of the nation. I wish to ensure APIRG's role as an institution, which assists students in setting their own political agendas and working for the fulfillment of their own aims.



**Rob Butz**  
I am an energetic, well-travelled community organizer and U of A student aiming for the Graduate Program in Sociology. My first year on the APIRG Board has been totally inspiring, and I bring to this experience as well as several years of involvement in APIRG student and community working groups. I plan to draw volunteers into APIRG through a number of ways, including bridging APIRG and U of A facilities, to allow students to pursue social research and activist projects through APIRG for academic credit. As a board member, I also hope to direct APIRG toward socially progressive campaigns and research on emerging issues that are broadly supported by U of A students. When students voted APIRG and its student levy system of funding into existence, they also spoke with a clear voice about what the public interest is: research, education, and action on social justice and environmental issues. After three years of infrastructure building, I feel APIRG is ready to meet these challenges and power social, economic and environmental change in Alberta.



**Anna Stufco**  
I am an Economics boot since '83 and currently finishing my third year of an English degree. As a lover of the literary arts, I plan to continue my academic journey at London, England's prestigious University of East Angles. I'll pursue my love of creativity and passion for journalism. While always plugged into the changing opinions of the student populace, I have proved myself as a search advocate for raising social awareness among my peers and fellow students. As one of APIRG's board members, I will strive to be a dedicated, outgoing and enthusiastic addition to the APIRG team. Never one to be intimidated or afraid to vocalize my opinion, my most remarkable quality is my ability to articulate the day's most pressing social concerns and provide thoughtful insight into potential solutions. My main objective in pursuing a position on the APIRG board is to provide students with the tools necessary to locate alternative outlets by which to learn, gain awareness and advocate each individual's most significant concerns. Ultimately, I hope to extend the boundaries of optimistic thinking and facilitate a deeper appreciation within the student body to the problems which tragically need resolve.



**Ariel Bowering**  
I am a sociology student majoring in Women's Studies with a minor in Political Science where I hope to achieve the Certificate in Globalization and Governance. I have had previous volunteer experience with such groups as Students for a Free Tibet, and the U of A Women's Centre Collective, and am currently on the Women's Studies Undergraduate Association Executive and the APIRG Board. I have fully enjoyed this past year as a member of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group. I have had the opportunity to work with a diverse array of students and community members and was able to help facilitate a multitude of projects and initiatives. PIRGs are important institutions in terms of providing students access to resources to become active citizens. By their very nature they are accountable to the desires and demands of the students who fund them, which is why I believe that it is being all that it can be and help to make this happen. I would very much like the chance to continue contributing to and learning from this inspiring organization.



**Darren Lau**  
The Student Council appointed Board Member since August, I've had the pleasure of being with APIRG during a period of self-reflection and change. In 2004-2005, our first year of operation, we grew, experimented, produced, and started to bring - hard - about the future for APIRG. What should the PIRG look like in five years? How should we act, now, to promote that dream? APIRG is one of the largest PIRGs in Western Canada, and it occupies any way you look at it. The groundwork is in place, the PIRG budget - now it becomes the task of the Group's leadership to decide how resources are deployed to meet a larger vision. I am familiar with the PIRG's workings and challenges, both from the Board level and from the perspective of a volunteer. And from having been an OJ Science Councilor this year, I bring to the table a knowledge of our "20,000-foot" policy making - Council creates powers and duties by voting on motions and side-on-relevant to the grassroots. The PIRG is a worthy cause in which I believe. I ask for your input and support, so that we may be part of the change that happens.



**Stephanie Shantz**  
As the Student Council appointed Board Member since August, I've had the pleasure of being with APIRG during a period of self-reflection and change. In 2004-2005, our first year of operation, we grew, experimented, produced, and started to bring - hard - about the future for APIRG. What should the PIRG look like in five years? How should we act, now, to promote that dream? APIRG is one of the largest PIRGs in Western Canada, and it occupies any way you look at it. The groundwork is in place, the PIRG budget - now it becomes the task of the Group's leadership to decide how resources are deployed to meet a larger vision. I am familiar with the PIRG's workings and challenges, both from the Board level and from the perspective of a volunteer. And from having been an OJ Science Councilor this year, I bring to the table a knowledge of our "20,000-foot" policy making - Council creates powers and duties by voting on motions and side-on-relevant to the grassroots. The PIRG is a worthy cause in which I believe. I ask for your input and support, so that we may be part of the change that happens.



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## Board Report

Strategic planning sessions throughout the year led the board to place long term vision and goals as priority items for the organization. While some progress has been made in this respect, future boards still have work ahead of them in terms of solidifying a vision statement and long term goals that set the direction of APIRG.

The board spent the majority of the January 2006 retreat addressing conflict management. Participants came to recognize, accept, and, most importantly, acknowledge conflict. This has had a positive impact on organizational culture.

Lessons learned this year were important: conflict resolution, crisis management, and the need for strategic planning. These lessons ultimately served to strengthen the Board of Directors, as well as the organization as a whole. Many thanks go out to those who served on the Board for their commitment of time, energy, and dedication to the organization.

*Stephanie Shantz*

## 05–06 BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Term	Voting member	Non-voting
Amanda-Leigh Hanson	Full-year	•	
Carman Sadoway	Full-year	•	
Kevan Hunter	Full-year	•	
Stephanie Shantz	Full-year	•	
Anna Stuffco	Resigned mid-year	•	
Ariel Bowering	Resigned mid-year	•	
Christopher Alderson	Elected mid-year	•	
Rob Butz	Full-year		•
Pete Presant	Full-year		•
Jason Bisanz	Full-year		•
<b>SU Representatives</b>			
Jamaal Montasser	Resigned mid-year	•	
Michelle Kelly	Appointed mid-year	•	

# Financial Summary

The year ending April 30th, 2006 was APIRG's fourth full year of operations on campus. We gave out \$36,222 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 (\$82,093), due in large part to our commitment to paying fair and competitive wages in a unionized 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 \$5.54 from full-time students and \$2.76 from part-time students in 2005/2006. 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 only 17 students took advantage of the opt out program despite campus-wide advertising, suggesting either a high level of popular support for APIRG or widespread apathy.

APIRG began the year projecting a deficit, which came to \$11,791 at the end of the year. The deficit was higher than initially expected due to a few causes: lower ticket sales than projected at the Saul Williams show during Disorganize, increased auditing costs, and an unexpected increase in staffing costs including a maternity leave.

To cover the deficit amount, APIRG drew on our cash reserve fund, which is currently at \$128,156. In the interests of financial responsibility, APIRG maintains a cash reserve to cover 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, the reserve fund generates income through investment in secure term deposits.

\*This amount includes \$4,374 of accounts payable from the years ending April 30th 2004 and 2005. Accounts payable is money granted in one year (i.e. 2003 or 2004) but not disbursed in that year. APIRG will carry funds over for a maximum of two years.

In the year ending April 30th 2005, \$81.38 was carried over for the library fund. This is an internal program and so this disbursement is not recorded in the Conference and Training Fund, Project and Event Funds, or Working Group Funds. Because of this, the total of the three categories is \$81.38 less than the total of direct grants disbursed. This is an anomaly in the categorization of programs. In future, library funds and direct grants will be accounted for separately in all cases.

Also included in the \$36,222 of direct grants is \$280.75 of disbursements that were not used and never withdrawn from APIRG's account. Because of this, the total of the three categories will equal more than the total of direct grants disbursed.



## Financial Summary

As required by our agreement with the Students' Union, APIRG has its books audited annually by the chartered accounting firm of Halpert Monsma Aquin. The 2005/2006 audit verified that our financial statements (presented in this report in their entirety) are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Last spring, the Students' Union Audit Committee raised questions regarding the validity of APIRG's financial statements and practices. After lengthy discussions to clarify these misunderstandings, the Chair of the Audit Committee published a retraction in the Gateway acknowledging that APIRG follows generally accepted accounting principles. Any accusations to the contrary were false and unfounded.

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!



**ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH  
GROUP**

**Financial Statements**

**April 30, 2006**

**HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN**  
*Chartered Accountants*

**HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN**  
*Chartered Accountants*

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15604 Stony Plain Road  
Edmonton AB T5P 3Z4

**Phone (780) 484-1110**  
Fax (780) 489-4519

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

**To the Members of Alberta Public Interest Research Group**

We have audited the statement of financial position of Alberta Public Interest Research Group as at April 30, 2006 and the statements of operations and net assets and of cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Alberta Public Interest Research Group's Board of Directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, 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 the Board of Directors, 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 sundry sources, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of Alberta Public Interest Research Group and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alberta Public Interest Research Group as at April 30, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

*Halpert Monsma Aquin*

Chartered Accountants

August 16, 2006

ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Statement of Operations and Net Assets

Year Ended April 30, 2006

	2006	2005
<b>Revenues</b>		
Student fees	\$ 149,029	\$ 142,988
Sundry	7,454	6,839
	<u>156,483</u>	<u>149,827</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising, promotion and outreach	4,141	5,512
Board development	2,673	2,921
Direct grants	36,222	36,652
Elections	2,602	1,799
Insurance	1,000	1,000
Library	731	1,008
Office	6,816	8,042
Professional fees	5,607	2,914
Rent	14,484	12,397
Salaries, honoraria and benefits	82,093	72,862
Telecommunications	2,319	3,420
Workshops and events	9,586	8,698
	<u>168,274</u>	<u>157,225</u>
<b>Deficiency of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>(11,791)</b>	<b>(7,398)</b>
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>145,969</b>	<b>153,367</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 134,178</b>	<b>\$ 145,969</b>

HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN

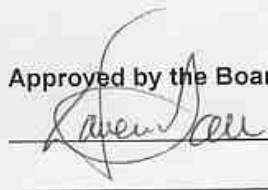
ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Statement of Financial Position

April 30, 2006

	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 128,156	\$ 145,492
Accounts receivable	6,460	992
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,063	1,985
	<u>\$ 136,679</u>	<u>\$ 148,469</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 2,501	\$ 2,500
<b>Net assets</b> (Note 3)	<u>134,178</u>	<u>145,969</u>
	<u>\$ 136,679</u>	<u>\$ 148,469</u>

Approved by the Board

 \_\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN



**ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended April 30, 2006**

	2006	2005
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ (11,791)</u>	<u>\$ (7,398)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	(5,467)	(992)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>(78)</u>	<u>(9)</u>
	<u>(5,545)</u>	<u>(1,001)</u>
<i>Cash used for operating activities</i>	<u>(17,336)</u>	<u>(8,399)</u>
<b>Decrease in cash</b>	<b>(17,336)</b>	<b>(8,399)</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of year</b>	<u>145,492</u>	<u>153,891</u>
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ 128,156</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 145,492</b></u>

HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN

**ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended April 30, 2006**

**1. Description of operations**

Alberta Public Interest Research Group ("APIRG") is a non-partisan student organization at the University of Alberta whose objectives are to promote and conduct research on issues of public interest, especially in the areas of social and environmental concern, by working with students and staff at the University of Alberta and with members of the community.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

Revenue and expense recognition

Revenues are recognized as revenue when received. When approved by the board, the amounts of specific commitments are classified as internally restricted funds.

Capital assets

In accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations of this size, capital assets are charged to expense when acquired.

Donated services

The work of APIRG is dependent on the voluntary services of many members. The value of donated services is not recognized in these statements.

**3. Net assets**

As at April 30, 2006, the Board of Directors had approved funding and grants of \$7,355 (2005 - \$9,179) which were not yet disbursed, as follows:

	Internally restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2006	2005
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 9,179	\$ 136,790	\$ 145,969	\$ 153,367
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	(11,791)	(11,791)	(7,398)
Transfer for:				
Funds committed during the year	6,305	(6,305)	-	-
Amounts paid out during the year	(4,373)	4,373	-	-
Committed funds reversed	(3,756)	3,756	-	-
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 7,355</u>	<u>\$ 126,823</u>	<u>\$ 134,178</u>	<u>\$ 145,969</u>

HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN

## ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Page 2

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended April 30, 2006

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**4. Financial instruments**

Financial instruments are financial assets or liabilities where, in general, APIRG has the right to receive cash or other financial assets from another party or APIRG has the obligation to pay another party cash or other financial assets. Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued charges. The carrying amounts of these financial instruments approximate fair value.

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**5. 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 at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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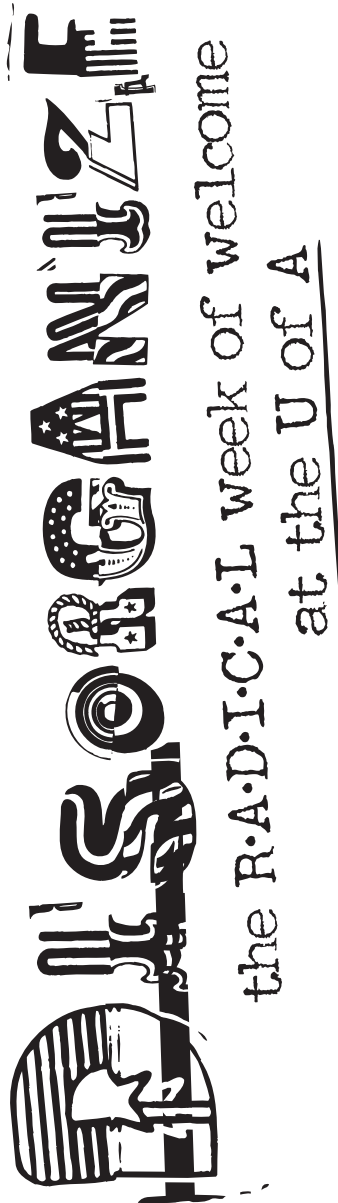
**6. Comparative figures**

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

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HALPERT MONSMA AQUIN





## Highlights

### DISORGANIZE! 2005

DISORGANIZE! 2005 was a 3-day alternative orientation to the University of Alberta and Edmonton during which students got a unique and exciting opportunity to explore a range of social justice issues and organizations and meet other students with similar interests.

Students were introduced to community and activist organizations from Edmonton, exposed to a variety of pertinent issues via workshops and discussions, and given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their surroundings in a way that may otherwise not be possible during their time at the U of A.

### EVENTS AND PROJECTS

APIRG was very active last year. What follows is a partial list of internal projects and events.

- Talks by war resisters Joshua Key, Cliff Cornell, and Ryan Johnson
- Presentations by Blanca Olivia Velasquez, Muriel Stanley Venne, and Monica Valliquet, followed by a screening of the award-winning documentary "Missing Young Women."
- Screening of "Haiti: The Untold Story" followed by a presentation by Patrick Elie
- Carmen Sadoway's "What is the Public Interest?" digital storytelling project (as part of the Community Service Learning program).

# Conference and Training Fund

**Funding objectives:**

*This funding category provides one-time funding and support to help students attend conferences or training sessions. Funding may be provided to assist with such things as registration or transportation.*

“The Sustainable Campuses Conference (SCC) was a national event hosted by the Sierra Youth Coalition, taking place this year at the University of British Columbia in conjunction with the UBC Student Environment Centre.

One of North America’s largest grassroots campus sustainability forums, this conference was an opportunity to meet other campus representatives from across the country and exchange ideas. In particular, the regional meetings allowed an opportunity to network with other university and college delegates from across the Prairies.

There were a number of sessions and workshops that were conference highlights. One session involved representatives of campus administration from universities that have instituted sustainability positions, and the steps that these campuses have taken towards fostering positive change. A workshop that was particularly memorable involved a tour of the UBC Farm and a hands-on cob-building workshop.

The keynote speaker, Adrienne Marie Brown, delivered a witty, insightful and thought-provoking speech on the importance of social justice, her experiences as a young urban woman of colour, and how these need to play into environmentalism and the sustainability movement today.”

– **Yuk-Sing Cheng**, *Sustainable Campuses Conference*

## RECIPIENT BREAKDOWN

“Thanks to generous funding from APIRG, I was able to attend the National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR) at the American University campus in Washington D.C. on February 3-5, 2006.

This conference brought together some 2,000 activists from across the U.S., plus a few from Canada, to “meet each other, have in-depth discussions, analyze our strategies, tactics, beliefs, learn a few new skills, and give everyone a lot to think about after an inspiring weekend.” It was a wonderfully intense few days, filled with brainstorming, debating, and discussion, along with music and other festivities.”

– **Rhiannon Edwards**, National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR)

Recipient	Event	Amount
Chris Langlois	Students for a Free Tibet Canada mini conference	\$142
Ariel Bowering	Students for a Free Tibet Canada mini conference	\$142
Leah Orr	Land, Decolonization, and Self-determination	\$487
Katherine Freisen	Land, Decolonization, and Self-determination	\$487
Sean Boomer	Renewing the Anarchist Tradition	\$875
Candice Heron	2005 Fuel Cell Symposium	\$434
Osama Montasser	2006 Engineers Without Borders National Conference	\$200
Aaron Donahue	2006 Engineers Without Borders National Conference	\$200
Yuk Sing Cheng	Sustainable Campuses Conference, 2005	\$190
Tracey Ferreira	Sustainable Campuses Conference, 2005	\$190
Kevan Hunter	16th World Festival of Youth and Students	\$921
Leila Sidi	5th Annual Conference of Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (RACE)	\$100
Eugene Lee	2006 Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship	\$500
Rhiannon Edwards	National Conference on Organized Resistance	\$500
Rob Rutherford	Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting	\$30
Chris Langlois	Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting	\$30
Larissa Stendie	World Social Forum	\$500
Denise Ogonoski	World Social Forum	\$500
Paul Kearns	World Social Forum	\$500
Michael Toal	World Social Forum	\$500
Brad McConnell	World Social Forum	\$500
Sirina Hamilton	Western Division Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting	\$30
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7,958</b>



**Funding objectives:**

*These funding categories provide one-time funding and support to help groups and individual students to organize events or undertake a project, such as publishing a research report.*

**COMMENTS FROM RECIPIENTS**

“On March 13th, 2006 one hundred people gathered at the Faculty Club for a dinner and silent auction to show support for the WUSC Student Refugee Program. Tickets were \$75 at regular price, and \$30 for students and people with low-income (to cover costs).

Through the donation of tickets our sponsored students were able to attend the event free of charge. The fundraiser received media coverage in the Gateway, the Edmonton Journal and on CBC Radio One. Our dinner had two main goals: raising money for the National Student Refugee Program, and raising support and awareness for WUSC in Alberta. We feel that we surpassed our own expectations in regards to both of these goals. While we are still receiving donations, our currently projected fundraising total for the event is \$5,500. In regards to raising awareness, we are particularly pleased with the results of the event. Representatives for the U of A Senate, the Residence Housing Association, the International Center, the Office of the President, the federal government, and the Students’ Union executive were all in attendance. Furthermore, administrative and student representatives from four colleges that are currently considering sponsoring (Grant MacEwan, Faculte Saint-Jean, King’s College and Red Deer College) were all in attendance.

We feel that this is particularly exciting, because it allowed us to make important connections and encourage future action that could lead to Alberta tripling the current number of students we are able to sponsor annually.”

– **Jodie Gauthier**, Co-Chair, WUSC, University of Alberta

## RECIPIENT BREAKDOWN

Recipient	Project/Event	Amount
Eagle Canada	Trans Awareness Week	\$200
Edmonton Small Press Association	Fair Trade Fair	\$800
Liberating Students Digitally	InstallFest	\$476
ACGC	Make Poverty History	\$2,000
U of A International	International Week	\$750
Students for International Development	Action for Niger	\$285
Aboriginal Law Students Association	Aboriginal Law Speakers Series	\$885
WUSC	Fundraising Dinner	\$500
Kamit African Caribbean Society	Ribbon Rouge	\$300
UAILS		\$359
Medical Students for Mental Health Awareness	Mental Health Awareness Week	\$245
Canada Haiti Action	Patrick Elie Speaking Event	\$574
Environmental and Conservation Students Association	The Future of Woodland Caribou in Alberta	\$848
Parkland Institute	The Alberta We Want – In Canada and the World Ninth Annual Parkland Fall Conference	\$440
U of A Palaeontological Society		\$135
Fork n' Field	Herb Barbollet Speaking Event	\$160
	In Search of Palestine (film)	\$200
Students' International Health Association (SIHA)	Sexually Transmitted Infections Youth Education Program	\$750
Fork n' Field	Edmonton Community Mapping & Sustainable Foods System Study	\$2,634
Hope International Project (HIP)	Death by Chocolate (film)	\$1,000
Edmonton Bicycle Sharing Co-op		\$1,200
Jaro Malanowski	Alberta Water Sustainability Project (film)	\$2,610
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$17,351</b>

“**The Future of Woodland Caribou in Alberta: A Roundtable Discussion**’ took place on March 22nd, 2006, in ETLC 1-001 on the University of Alberta Campus. It involved a panel discussion between five people involved in Caribou issues in Alberta.

Over 100 people were in attendance, Mike Tulley of MKT Systems recorded the discussion, and portions will air on CJSR once editing has been completed. A copy of the recording will also be available from the Environmental and Conservation Sciences Students Association and APIRG.

The event was funded in part by fundraising done by the ECSA, in part from the Dean’s office in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, and in part by a grant from APIRG.”

– **Carrie Nugent**

# Working Groups

## WHAT ARE WORKING GROUPS?

Working Groups are collectives of students and community members who come together to work on a specific project or public interest issue. APIRG provides assistance, funding and resources to a wide variety of working groups that are focusing on local and global issues such as the environment, health, politics, education, law, media, alternative economics, human rights, gender issues and more.

One of APIRG's main goals is to provide undergraduate students with the tools to enhance and diversify their education and to realize their full potential as active citizens.

## WORKING GROUP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Lise Wilson, APIRG's permanent Working Group Coordinator, went on maternity leave in June of 2005. Aaron Chubb was hired on a temporary basis to fill this role.

### Projects and Achievements

- Spent the summer months orienting to the office and updating working group files while familiarizing himself with the organization. He also was trained in office, board and other procedures and policies. After a web orientation, Aaron took over website maintenance.
- Joined CJSR's "Rise Up Radio" news program and has aired a profile or covered an event from almost every working group.
- Asked working groups for updates to include on the website, annual report, volunteer listings, and APIRG's own files.
- Maintained a public record of current working groups, descriptions and contact info on the APIRG website, posters and office material.
- Worked in conjunction with Leah, APIRG's Outreach Coordinator, on outreach activities such as events, posters and posterings, display cases, and banners.
- Organized and worked with board members on APIRG working group funding rounds by reviewing applications and following up with working groups.
- Sat on the hiring committee for the CRO position.
- Created a working group weekly email digest, but discontinued as it was time consuming and was had uncertain value.
- Attended the Western PIRG Conference in Prince George with board members Stephanie Shantz and Darren Lau. There, Aaron hosted a forum theatre workshop. Out of the conference came the impetus for a national PIRG site: [www.pirg.ca](http://www.pirg.ca).
- Created an "Eco Corner" in the office that highlights some of sustainable and environmentally conscious projects undertaken by APIRG including worm-composting, a free store and topical books.
- Received Indesign training in order to better provide related services to working groups.
- Assisted Biofreedom with their campaigns and events, including Percy Schmeiser's visit, a debate in a genetics class, a visit to a junior high school and leafleting.
- Assisted with the formation of Campus Community for Public Healthcare, an APIRG Working Group, which led a successful awareness raising campaign and contributed to the provincial government's decision to hold off on "Third Way" healthcare reforms.

# Working Group Coordinator Report

## Goals for 06/07

- Increase awareness of working groups within the U of A community by way of press releases, posters, classroom talks, and increased working group visibility on the APIRG webpage.
- Create more links between working groups, the APIRG board, and the organization itself.
- Assist working groups in networking with groups with similar interests by keeping track of such opportunities and letting working groups know and assisting interested working groups to network nationally through the pigr.ca website.
- Add more people to the APIRG listserv and help it become a prominent sources of student activism and citizenship news.
- Better arrange and label the “Eco Corner” in order to profile APIRG’s environmental initiatives and related groups.
- In light of technical difficulties, keep more detailed records of computer problems for trouble-shooting.

## FUNDING BREAKDOWN

Group Name	Amount
Biofreedom	\$1010
Campus Community Garden	\$567
Campus Community for Public Healthcare	\$75
Journalists for Human Rights	\$120
Humanities 101	\$290
Mexico Working Group	\$1520
Olive Working Group	\$1200
Radio Accessibility Working Group	\$775
Women’s Centre Collective	\$5555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,112</b>

## INACTIVE/DISSOLVED GROUPS

- Asian Law Association (ALA)
- Alberta Network of Popular Educators (ANPE)
- pith
- Social and Democratic Governance in Brazil
- Sounds of Dissent
- Resources for Academic Excellence
- Radio Accessibility Working Group

# Active Working Groups

## Alternatives to the Canadian Banking & Economic System (ACBES)

Alternatives to the Canadian Banking System is examining the reasons that corruption and greed is intrinsically tied with an unbalanced, inequitable, and unaccountable banking system. We are researching where inefficiencies and weakness of our system from Canadian examples to the global in legal, social, historical and political contexts.

### Achievements and Events

- We are continuing our research into 2006 and we will be soon developing a treatment for the documentary end product of our work.
- A short clip of our work is now online via our website (<http://altbank.apirg.org>).

## Biofreedom

Biofreedom is committed to consumer advocacy and education concerning Genetically Engineered (GE) foods. They have been conducting a campaign for several years to put pressure on the federal government to require mandatory label GE food products.

### Achievements and Events

- Monthly newsletter continues to be sent out to the listserve containing 600 members.
- July 10th picnic at Sparrow's Nest Organic Farm
- Set up information tables at the Fringe, Make Poverty History rally, Disorganize, Organic Roots, Global Visions Film Festival, Parkland Conference, and the SPUD gala.
- Presented/debated in Professor John Locke's 4th year genetics class on ethics.
- Organized and hosted talk by Percy Schmeiser at International Week and Westminister Juniur High School.
- During the federal election, members attended forums and asked candidate about their positions on GMOs.
- Chelsey Shillington co-ordinated the ECOS food week at the SUB. She prepared quizzes and prizes.
- On April 8th, Biofreedom joined International GMO Opposition Day. We had hundreds of people sign postcards demanding mandatory labeling of GMO food and send them to Stephen Harper's and various MP's offices.

## Blood Ink

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. We imagine Blood Ink to be shaped by its submissions.

Blood Ink began with the idea to find new student's writing that makes you feel someone else's experience more intensely than you feel your own. The name is intended to echo what Federico Garcia Lorea said of Pablo Neruda- that he wrote poems "closer to blood than ink."

### Achievements and Events

- Became an APIRG Working Group in January 2006.
- Created a website that received 200 hits per week.
- Hosted a release party in January.
- Hosted a Night of Poetry and Music at the Backroom Vodka Bar in March. This evening included twelve poets, two acoustic musical acts and one hip/hop spoken work act. The performances ranged from the very political to the very personal. Almost 50 people attended.

## Campus Community Garden

In its third year of existence, the University of Alberta Campus Community Garden had a great year of growth, learning, and production. The garden plot, located on 89th avenue between 110th and 11th street, is shared with the East Campus Village Residential Community Garden. Around thirty volunteers helped throughout the growing season to plant, maintain and enjoy the garden. Most people involved are students, many of whom are international students; however there are some people from the greater community involved as well. The garden is maintained according to organic practices outlined in our mandate and is managed by a hired director who is appointed by the ECOS office. Produce is given to anyone participating in the garden and the surplus is donated to the Campus Food Bank.

### Events and Achievements

- Hired Garden Coordinator, Franny Rawlyck, for the season
- Planted the garden on May 28th
- Planted fruit trees on June 22nd.
- Amy Bisson from Garneau school brought her grad one class from Garneau school over to play and learn about the garden.
- Compost workshop and creation of compost signs at the garden for education.



- Planted native plants along the south fence June 30th.
- Entered the Edmonton Horticultural Society's Garden Competition. We did not place in the top three but received plenty of compliments and exposure.
- Organized Nolan's Prairie walk that was well attended.
- Hosted a garden BBQ
- City Councillors Jane Batty, Michael Phair and Ron Hayter visited the garden July 23rd.
- Harvested over several weeks

## Campus Community For Public Healthcare

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 the majority of Canadians, including Albertans, want a public health care system and yet our governments are taking steps towards privatization.

### Events and Achievements

- Joined a broad coalition from across the province and were successful in stopping the Klein government from bringing through private health care reforms known as "Third Way" healthcare
- Held four public health care forums in March and April that featured presenters from academia, politics and the health care profession. The forums questioned the "Third Way" privatization scheme.
- Participated in the "May Day for Medicare March" as a celebration of the rights we had won and a reminder to politicians and big business that the working class will continue to fight for our rights.

## Humanities 101

Humanities 101 is an organization that offers non-credit post-secondary courses to underprivileged populations in Edmonton. Graduate students and professors from a variety of disciplines including English, Native Studies, Film & Media Studies, Art History, Industrial Design and photography donate their time to teach one to two hours a week. Our objective is not necessarily

to provide students with knowledge, but with an opportunity to experiment, be creative, and share experiences that may otherwise have gone unheard.

### Achievements and Courses Offered

- In the Fall of 2005, we offered our first ever Native Studies course in partnership with the Alternative Learning Program at the John Howard Society. With support from the principal, Anna Reitman, four professors from the University of Alberta - Robin Durnford, Aloys Fleischmann, Brian Gibson, and Nancy Van Styvendale – taught classes centering on Native issues. The six classes covered topics such as community traditions, stereotypes, discrimination, and historical topics through the examination of various genres, including oral storytelling, graphic novels/comix, film, collage, and poetry. Each student was also encouraged to experiment with these different mediums, expressing their own ideas and experiences in pictures, memoirs, comic strips, and verse. Their work was collected in a 'zine' titled "Mindbends, Brainstorms, and Dreamscapes: A Story-shifting, Tale-twisting 'Zine" (available at: <http://www.humanities101.org/files/zine.pdf>).
- In November we held an Industrial Design workshop in the drop-in centre of the Boyle Street Community Co-op. Instructor Kerry Harmer introduced students to the principles of industrial design, and led them through the construction of their very own cardboard chair. Feedback from the class was positive, particularly for the hands-on nature of the activity.
- Steve Nagy returned for a third time to teach three consecutive Photography sessions. Similar to his previous workshops, Steve focused on the basics of photography such as lighting, composition, and angles. Students were again given disposable cameras and those who brought the cameras back had their pictures developed free of charge. Due to the 'relatable' nature of photography, and the fact that students were able to create their own work and see the results at the conclusion of the sessions, this was our most successful subject, averaging approximately ten participants per session.
- Leo Wong, a PhD student at the University of Calgary volunteered to present a session on smart shopping and nutrition. The Co-op had put in a request for this topic, so the community members found the information and corresponding discussion about eating habits useful.
- The end of March saw Melisa Brittain (graduate student in the University of Alberta English department) and Jocelyn Brown (writer) lead a session on critical approaches to understanding and challenging advertising and the media. As a wrap-up to the discussion, students were then able to create their own collage-type ad.

- In April, Amber Dean, a graduate student in the English Department and prison justice activist, taught a session centering on policing in the inner-city. She showed two film clips of police interactions with residents in a Vancouver neighborhood, and followed up by encouraging students to comment and question the images portrayed. This session was also quite successful, as the topic engaged community members and allowed them to share similar experiences.
- Al Fleischmann, one of the instructors who taught at the John Howard foray, taught a session based on the short story “Clowns” from Anne Cameron’s *Daughters of Copper Women*. He focused on the role of humor in Native societies.
- To close out our term, Joanne Muzak, a graduate student in the University of Alberta English department, chose to teach a yoga session, involving basic breathing techniques and a sampling of poses. We were fortunate as the Co-op were recently given a grant to build a fitness centre on their lower level, so Co-op staff were interested in how such a session would be received. Although attendance was low in the drop-in that day (due in part to the glorious weather outside), we still had two community members participate in the session.

## Journalists For Human Rights (JHR)

Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) is a charitable organization committed to using the power of the media to effect positive social change. Members design and produce media-driven awareness campaigns to engage and educate students in issues of human rights and justice. By increasing the quality and quantity of human rights reporting, JHR pressures abusers to stop and empowers victims to fight back. Our task, simply put, is to build knowledge about human rights in our communities. We work collaboratively to coordinate domestic and international projects that build capacity for human rights reporting.

The main goal of all of our projects is to increase awareness about human rights abuses. By educating others, we hope to make a small difference in a world that has gone astray from the path of justice.

### Achievements and Events

- Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) began its first year at the University of Alberta in September 2005. From September

until April, JHR established itself on campus as a student group that advocates social justice.

- In November 2005 JHR became an APIRG Working Group
- In the 2005-2006 year, JHR was successful at reaching out to a large number of students on campus. The Clubs Fair in September, the Fair Trade Fair, and Af-Fair of Human Rights Organizations in February collectively attracted over 100 students on campus. Currently, there are approximately 85 people on the JHR mailing list ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jhralberta\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jhralberta_members/)).
- JHR’s first event of the year was a lecture by military journalist, Scott Taylor, who spoke for two hours to a full Tory lecture theatre on October 19. Faculty liaison, Uzma Rajan, and project coordinator, Kaila Simoneau, were instrumental in coordinating JHR’s first event alongside the U of A’s political science department.
- JHR’s main media project for the 2005-2006 year was a radio show. A dedicated crew led by Noelle Jaipaul started up JHR’s radio show—SpeakRadio. Their first show was broadcast on December 2 at 12:30pm on CJSR’s Newsroom. In the winter semester, the radio crew aired their other news segments, including a feature report on the abuses seniors face in Alberta care homes.
- JHR participated in two fairs during International Week—the Fair Trade fair and Af-Fair of Human Rights Organizations. For the Fair Trade fair, JHR presented information on fair trade, what it is, and why we need to support it. JHR’s main event during International Week was a guest lecture by Joe Pillay. Mr. Pillay was in South Africa during the apartheid crisis and was part of the resistance movement. The media helped him in getting his story out.
- JHR’s major national fundraiser, Speak Silence, was held from February 8 to 9. Starting at noon, members took a vow of silence for 24 hours in solidarity with those victims who are silenced by human rights abuses. JHR attracted people from other social justice groups such as Students Against Global Apathy (SAGA). The fundraiser was a great way for the group to raise funds. It was also a great learning experience for all the members.
- During the month of March, JHR prepared to host a journalism workshop for Rural Roots, Change for Children in Goldeye, Alberta. A group of five JHR members (Kaila Simoneau, Vanessa Pillay, Ian Keteku, Noelle Jaipaul, and Uzma Rajan) taught the children about the process of writing an article. The workshop took place on April 1, 2006 and was a great success.

## 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.

Mexico is fast becoming one of Alberta's most important trading partners, and through immigration and travel our cultures are penetrating each other as never before. It is in the public's interest to build the requisite social infrastructure between our two peoples so that we reap the benefits of our contacts as much as possible.

### Events and Achievements

- Worked on a documentary film in Mexico City and Edmonton comparing the police forces of each city. Filming became difficult because the Mexico City Police were apprehensive about being filmed and refused to be interviewed.
- Helped with a year long speaker series called "Our North America: From Turtle Island to the Partnership for Security and Prosperity". The speakers series was a great success and with APIRG's support we were able to bring in Dr. Jorge Bustamante, to lecture on the topic of labor as an enduring North American issue.

Most of the members of the Mexico Working Group have now graduated and so the Working Group is now inactive. Please contact [aaron@apirg.org](mailto:aaron@apirg.org) to start up the group again!

## Radio Accessibility Working Group (RAWG)

RAWG is a group of volunteers working towards making radio accessible to persons with hearing loss. TextRadio, an online service offering community radio online with captions and transcripts, is produced by RAWG.

### Activities and Achievements

- Produced accessible radio material on subjects directly relevant to hearing loss
- Further developed and refined our website

- Held a public consultation in the form of an open house and gained feedback directly from the community
- Established a 'brand' for the service we offer – TextRadio
- Produced an accessible radio piece listed as a policy change resource by the Disability and Information Technology Research Alliance
- Further developed volunteer base
- Met potential partners based in Botswana

### Internet Response

"Hello!

I'm writing from Guadalajara, Mexico and I want to congratulate you for your program that helps deaf people. I'm an English student and I think this kind of sites could help as well a lot of people to improve their listening abilities.

I've been looking over the internet for more videos, audios or online radios that contains Close Captions but I've just found yours. Could you tell me if about others?

Thank you so much and congratulations again for you site.

Jose Sandoval.

Most of the members of the RAWG have now graduated and so the Working Group is now inactive. Please contact [aaron@apirg.org](mailto:aaron@apirg.org) to start up the group again!

## The Olive

The Olive is a non-profit editorial collective that was established by students and former students at the University of Alberta in 2000 in order to provide a regular and consistent forum for poetry in Edmonton. 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, who reads for roughly 30-40 minutes; an open stage, where anyone in attendance is welcome to read their own or someone else's poetry, concludes every reading.

Furthermore, for each reading we also publish a small zine that contains 6-8 pages of the featured reader's poetry. We distribute this zine, free of charge, at the reading and to other people who have expressed interest in receiving it.

## Achievements and Events

- 2005-2006 has proven to be yet another vibrant and successful year for The Olive Reading Series. We have hosted our customary eight readings by poets from Edmonton and farther afield, each unique and all readings well attended.
- The Olive Reading Series occurs on the second Tuesday of each month, September through April, at Martini's Bar and Grill downtown (9910-109 Avenue). In addition to its well-known reading series, The Olive also publishes a short chapbook to accompany each reading. Through the continued generous financial support of APIRG, we are able to offer these chapbooks free of charge to all audience members, who are generally undergraduate students from the University of Alberta. This aids in keeping our poets' work accessible to all. In addition to this, each featured poet receives ten copies of their chapbook, as well as an honorarium to show our appreciation for their reading. Perhaps because of this show of support for our poets, this year has seen The Olive's reputation expand across Canada as a fantastic Albertan venue at which to read.
- September saw the start of our sixth season with a reading by the renowned Edmonton poet Alice Major. In October, The Olive featured the work of fine local poet Shawna Lemay. Our other readings included a wide range of poets from around the province, including The Olive's own K.L.McKay, Calgary poet and novelist Suzette Mayr, Edmontonian Andy Weaver, and University of Alberta professor and poet Olga Costopoulos. In March, we continued the tradition that we initially began two years ago – that of hosting a reading by one of the University of Alberta's senior poetry classes: English 394. We enjoyed a fantastic night of readings by several talented new poets. Publication in our chapbook and a public reading provided the group with great experience in a very supportive and attentive atmosphere! Our 2005-2006 season ended on Tuesday April 11 with a fabulous reading by prize-winning poet Kimmy Beach. This was a wonderful way to end yet another great season.

## SWAG-Student Worker Action Group

SWAG has been around for a number of years, we organize around issues that affect us as working class students, 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 struggling to improve the conditions of student labour.

## Activities and Events

- Table with leaflets, zines, and pamphlets for campus distribution
- Supported Telus strikers by joining them on the picket lines. Our presence on the Telus picket line was greatly appreciated by the workers, and we were able to promote positive discussion on labour-related issues as well as topics directly related to the Telus strike; this allowed both the Telus workers and SWAG members to learn about different strategies in dealing with labour disputes and the power of community support. We have also developed a cooperative relationship with the APIRG Working Group, Campus Community for Public Health Care. We have continued to act on issues in the labour movement and promoted dialogue surrounding these issues, and have educated a new group of labour organizers.
- Participated in a reading group with studies based on class consciousness and issues related to labour and the workplace; open to students and community members.
- March 3rd, 2006; Panel discussion open to the public; organized in cooperation with the Edmonton General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.
- March 4th – 5th, 2006; introduced participants to organizing tactics and alternatives to business union models of organizing, and encourage student workers to become involved in matters related to the conditions of their labour; education of Alberta about laws; organized in cooperation with the Edmonton General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.
- Participation in May Day March and other May Week activities; advertising for May Week events and Public Health Care campaign through table in SUB; leafleting for Public Health Care campaign in cooperation with Campus Community for Public Health Care.

## Women's Center Collective

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 learn, teach, organize and create around issues and ideas. The Centre and its activities give women and feminists spaces to meet, connect, dialogue and build relationships. We also

## Active Working Groups

offer funding and administrative resources to support groups in carrying out their projects. Second, the Centre works to support everyone's learning about women and feminism. Our library of books, magazines and articles on feminism and women's issues are here for use by all students, faculty and community members. The Centre also houses the Dino Distro, a spot for feminist zine-makers to share ideas and distribute their work.

### Achievements and Events

- The Women's Centre-based working group Dino Distro started holding regular meetings to discuss ordering zines, structuring the distro, and they have started to schedule monthly potlucks as spaces for creative collective zine production. In early 2006, the Distro produced and distributed a zine called 'The Women's Centre Assemblage', a compilation of work by Women's Centre members.
- The Girl Mom project group was also active in producing a radio version of the play over the winter break, with the coordination of playwright and producer-director Lindsey Rock. The play is currently in the editing stages and will be broadcast on CJSR during Youth Menace.
- The FUSS Feminist Collective started up again due to the initiative of one of its old members.
- During the Fall 2005 semester, the WC hosted four Community Service Learning students from a Qualitative Methods in Social Research class as volunteers. One of the students worked (and continues to, outside of class time) on a zine and a workshop around women and disability and formed, along with other WC members, the Women & Disability Working Group.
- The other three CSL students worked to design and implement a pilot needs assessment to discover the needs of the campus community around women, gender and feminism and how the Women's Centre can best serve them. After conducting preliminary interviews with WC volunteers, our proposal was approved by the Arts, Science & Law Ethics Review Board, and a short series of focus groups and interviews in February-March 2006. These three students are continuing with the project, some as part of, some separate from, their course work. We hope that this pilot project will make possible a full-scale needs assessment in Fall 2006.
- In late December the WC took on a student advocacy case and a small team of WC volunteers are currently working to support this student in accessing on- and off-campus resources to address issues of discrimination on campus. We are working in partnership with a few on-campus organizations, and the case is currently confidential.
- APIRG provided support for a coordinator at the WC to help obtain longer term funding.
- Having a coordinator has greatly improved the WC's ability to plan for the future. The coordinator dedicated time to preparing material for grant applications; and made sure that volunteers and project/working groups had the required resources to do all the fantastic work they do.
- The project and working groups have expanded the profile of the WC by recruiting volunteers to be involved in WC shifts, Girl Mom, the Dino Distro and FUSS. The Women & Disability Working Group's presentation also began to spread our name by getting in on class time. The traffic of people coming to the Centre, while still minimal (most likely due to our lack of publicity on campus in general) has increased from last semester
- In the Spring Semester many members of the WC collaborated with the Women's Studies Department in hosting the 1st Annual Feminisms in the Third Wave conference. It was a great success and delegates came from universities, women's center's and community organizations across Canada
- The WC newsletter was resurrected and now sends out announcements of events and opportunities every few weeks.
- On March 8th the WC held a well attended planning meeting with women's groups around campus for International Women's Day.
- The WC held a retreat in early February to start a process of strategic planning. This weekend retreat will be followed up by further planning with a facilitator from Alberta Community Development. Issues of concern include: long-term planning, how to make the organizing collective work, collective-staff relationship, publicity & presenting ourselves to the student body, current projects & possible projects, and recruiting volunteers and collective members.

# Contributions to the Annual Report

**APIRG THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT.**

Leah Orr (content and design), Aaron Chubb (working group reports), Rose Yewchuk and Hannah Goa (financial reports), and Michael Liu (design and graphics)

Thanks also to working group members and funding recipients who summarized their activities for this report.

## Volunteer at APIRG!

APIRG and its working groups are always looking for volunteers and participants. Whether you have hours to kill or just a few minutes a week, APIRG has shoes for you to fill:

- 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. Call us at 1.780.492.0614, or email us at [apirg@ualberta.ca](mailto:apirg@ualberta.ca). More information can be found at [www.apirg.org](http://www.apirg.org).

