

**alberta public interest  
research group**

*annual report 2013-2014*

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# About our Organization

**APIRG (The Alberta Public Interest Research Group)** is an incredible resource based at the University of Alberta for student- and community-based research, education and social activism. We provide the administrative, informational and technological resources to help student Working Groups to transform social concern into effective action. PIRGs are student organizations based on the premise that students are citizens, and as such, part of their education should include recognizing and engaging in societal problems. They exist to provide training, support, and opportunities for students to be active citizens in their communities. Through involvement with PIRGs, thousands of Canadian students have learned skills in consensus decision-making, group facilitation, events organizing, media relations, and community-based research. These skills help individuals to act effectively in the public interest.

## **Our Mandate**

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.

## **Basis of Unity**

We believe the way to create positive social change is to provide individuals with the information and tools they need to become active citizens and to participate effectively in their communities.

## **Statement of Values**

APIRG considers an equitable environment to be a part of positive social change. We acknowledge that social change is achievable and see social awareness as a valuable facet of the public interest. We see anti-oppression as a process that acknowledges the existence of systemic oppression (including, but not limited to, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, and ableism). Through practices and policies, we seek to actively identify, challenge and address oppression wherever it exists, in all its various forms, and to actively encourage opportunities for social awareness and change. Further, we recognize and respect that systems of oppression interact in different ways and affect each person differently.

# Organizational Structure

APIRG's organizational structure can be broken into two parts: the paid capacity – APIRG staff – and the volunteer capacity – largely made up of the board of directors. Board members are responsible for overseeing all APIRG operations. This includes developing policy, setting organizational goals and priorities, reviewing all funding and collaboration proposals, hiring and managing staff, and assisting with community outreach and events.

2013/2014 saw one resignation and the return of four board members from the 2012/2013 board; two board members stayed on for a second term, with another two board members serving their third term with APIRG – the maximum lifetime term length. This facilitated institutional memory sharing and allowed APIRG to begin to discuss structural issues of accountability and further fostering values of accessibility. APIRG staff members are responsible for supporting and implementing board visioning, day-to-day operations, programming and outreach. They bring the skills, knowledge, institutional memory and consistency that are crucial to the effective and efficient functioning of APIRG.

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

2013/2014 saw a nearly complete staff turnover. In August Brooke Leifso trained her replacement as Office Coordinator, Justin Bartlett. In April interviews and hiring were completed for the Outreach Coordinator position, with Nav Kaur succeeding Daley Laiding at the beginning of May. By the end of the year plans were already underway to hold a hiring process to replace Saima Butt as Working Group Coordinator over the Summer. APIRG wishes to thank Brooke, Daley, and Saima for their years of dedication and enthusiastic effort from which APIRG as an organization and the student body as a whole have benefitted. All are brilliant organizers and have helped APIRG remain relevant in a world that moves so fast. We wish them all the best in the future, and look forward to seeing the waves they will make on other shores.

# Board of Directors Report

The beginning of our 2013-2014 term saw the appointment of 3 members of the Board of Directors to join those who were successful in last year's election. One of our first tasks – besides deciding on a summer meeting schedule – was choosing a theme to guide this year's workshops, collaborations, and events. After brainstorming a few ideas, we decided to focus on "Race" – our attempt to centre a topic which is often pushed out to the margins or ignored. Last year's board had a huge success with bringing in Gabor Maté as a big-ticket speaker during International Week. We wanted to repeat that success while engaging with our theme. We had the far-fetched idea of bringing in Angela Davis, not knowing that that would eventually become a serious possibility and eventually reality, thanks in large part to the organizational and collaborative skills of our staff. The collaborations with other campus groups and many student volunteers also allowed us to bring in Laverne Cox, known for the role on the show *Orange is the New Black* and her dedication to trans activism, during Pride Week.

Our board continued throughout the summer to learn about working with each other – our overnight summer retreat at Camp Meywasen was definitely the highlight. The social time and introspective time that we spent allowed us to come together as a board and commit to making some difficult decisions together (as is the role of the board).

Some initiatives that we decided to push included developing our relationship with the Graduate Students' Association. While we were unable to finalize a financial relationship based on a student referendum, we're confident that graduate students see the value in our work this year. On the undergraduate side, we were able to connect to a record number of students this year – over 7000 through class presentations alone, not to mention our other outreach methods like SUBtv, Clubs Fair, posters, and our open house.

Outside of campus, we were also able to participate for the first time in the western PIRG conference in February by sending a large delegation of board members and staff. The conversations from that conference were continued at APIRG which increased our own capacity to practice anti-oppression in our organization. One area in which this was tangibly demonstrated was in our hiring practices. This year we said a sad goodbye to Brooke Leifso, Office Coordinator, and Daley Laing, Outreach Coordinator, but we were excited to have the opportunity to reform our hiring practices to be more in line with our vision of anti-oppression. Trying new things at APIRG always brings challenges, but during our term as a Board we were pleased to welcome Justin Bartlett and Nav Kaur to APIRG as staff members.

This year at APIRG brought many new changes, but during the transition from the 2013/14 Board to the 2014/15, our collective commitment to APIRG's mandate of generating social change and fostering students as active citizens hasn't changed. We wish the best in the coming school year to APIRG's wonderful staff, the 2014/15 Board, and our entire membership.

*Regards,*

*The 2013/2014 APIRG Board of Directors*

# Financial Summary

APIRG projected for its 12th operating year a reasonable deficit – quite small when compared to the \$10 066 surplus from the 2012/2013 year. An historically conservative approach to spending within budgets, the peculiarities of granting funds over multiple fiscal years, and the learning process of a new Office Coordinator left APIRG with a deficit of \$4 679 for the year ending 30 April 2014.

In 2013/2014, APIRG committed over \$21,000 in direct grants and in-kind support across two funding rounds to student campaigns, events, activities and projects as well as community groups addressing issues in the undergraduate and larger communities' public interest. We highlight many of these projects and groups in later pages of this report. The decrease in direct granting budget was predominantly redistributed to create an Internal Accessibility Fund, from which APIRG provided funding specifically intended to improve and add complexity to the ways in which accessibility – physical, financial, etc. – is addressed by students when organizing events. In addition to direct grants, APIRG supports undergraduates and the greater community by our resource library, workshops and our collaborative events with other University and Community Organizations. As with many non-profit organizations, APIRG's biggest annual expense is staffing costs, including both salaries and benefits. This enables us to provide a high level of service to students, an opportunity for board members to learn and grow as leaders of the organization, and to maintain a fair, competitive, and unionized work environment.

APIRG funding comes from a dedicated fee collected on our behalf by the University of Alberta Students' Union. Other revenue for APIRG remains marginal. This is a consequence of the decision to continue to keep our resources focused on sustainable action in the campus community, rather than fundraising. In 2013/2014, full-time undergraduates paid \$3.30 each term while part-time students paid \$1.65. Annual fee increases are based upon the Consumer Price Index. As agreed upon at the time of our founding, students can opt out of the fee for financial or ideological reasons. Despite an ever-increasing emphasis on campus-wide outreach, including utilizing the new SUB TV service, only 25 students chose to receive a full refund of their terms fee, down from 43 in 2012/2013.

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 2013/2014 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.

- Brooke Leifso, Office Coordinator (2010 – 2013)
- justin bartlett, Office Coordinator (2013 – Present)
- Stefany Sorto Zetino, Director, Financial Portfolio Holder 2013/2014



# APIRG Programming and Events

Every year APIRG hosts a variety of multi-format events providing space on the University of Alberta campus, as well as around Edmonton (treaty six territory), to have critical dialogue about the systems of oppression we are a part of. We also aim to find ways to develop deeper connections with each other to build stronger, more informed and compassionate communities of resistance. This year, our Board of Directors chose to focus on Race, Racism and Intersections of Oppression.

APIRG has been extremely fortunate to partner with the Gender Based Violence Prevention Project (GBVPP) over the last two years. Through education, awareness, and institutional change, the project strived to create a campus free of gender-based violence where everyone could feel safe and supported. With access to both funding and ongoing support of the organizing collective, our capacity increased exponentially and was invaluable in making this past year possible.

## 2013-14 Events included:

Community Share-back: Anne Braden Program (September 24)

Earth Repair with Leila Darwish (with Public Interest Alberta & the Office of Sustainability) (October 24)

Quebec Charter Panel Discussion (with the Centre for Race and Culture) (November 6)

Michael Kaufman (with GBVPP) (November 7)

Trans Day of Remembrance (with GBVPP) (November 19)

## **2013-14 Events continued:**

Trans Day of Remembrance (with GBVPP) (November 19)

My Prairie Home: Film Screening (with GBVPP) (November 21)

Jackson Katz (with GBVPP)(November 16)

Undoing Border Imperialism Book Launch w/ Harsha Walia (with the Council of Canadians) (November 16)

Challenging White Supremacy: Workshop Series (January 30, February 27, March 27)

Free Angela and All Political Prisoners: Film Screening (with GBVPP) (February 6)

Mi'kmaq Warrior Speaking Tour (with the Council of Canadians) (February 11)

A Night of Art & Resistance at the Art Gallery of Alberta (with GBVPP) (February 22)

Tour of the Edmonton Institute for Women (EIFW) (with support from the Greater Edmonton Library Alliance)(February 25)

Intersectionality Series: Pride Week (March 5/6)

International Women's Day with Laverne Cox (with GBVPP) (March 8)

Angela Davis (with GBVPP) (March 15)

# Event and Project Funding Recipients

This year APIRG continued it's commitment to supporting a diversity of events and projects that fit within our mandate of research, education, advocacy and action in the public interest. In 2013-2014 we ran 2 funding rounds, offering financial and non-monetary support to a great group of events, projects and trainings creating positive social change

Recipient	Project or Event
Schizophrenia Society of Medicine Hat	Schizophrenia Poetry Book - publish a soft cover book by individuals with Schizophrenia
Pride Centre of Edmonton	Equal, Fierce, Fit and Fabulous - bi-monthly events for LGBTQ youth, building healthier physical relationship with their bodies
Undercurrent/ Staging Diversity 2.0 Theatre Project	Performance series exploring the intercultural dynamics of gender-based violence

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Recipient	Project or Event
Oilsands Student Delegation	OSD trip to the Oil Sands (Fort McMurray)
Anna Faulds	11th Annual Indigenous Farming Conference 2014
Native Studies Student Association (NSSA)	Aboriginal Student Graduation Round Dance
Global Cafe Project	Global Cafe Living Library - To prepare youth to become intentional citizens
Justine Hartlieb-Power & Mo Ossobleh - INTERFACE	Space for artist-run workshops to build artistic connections in Edmonton
CMHA (Edm Region) Student Group	Mental Health Symposium
African Studies Association	Community Cafe & Awards night

***process that acknowledges  
systemic oppression***

***Mandate***



# Working Groups

## **What are Working Groups?**

*Working Groups (WGs) are collectives of students 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 undergraduates.*

## **Active Working Groups in 2013-2014**

**Amnesty International University of Alberta Chapter**

**Blue University**

**Canadian Council for Refugees – Youth Network Edmonton (CCRYNE)**

**Centre for Community Organizing and Popular Education (CCOPE)**

**ConsentEd**

**Edmonton Film Collective (EFC)**

**Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG)**

**Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF)**

**I See Sprouts**

**Islamic Relief at the University of Alberta**

**Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN)**

**Student International Health Association (SIHA)**

**Year In Review**

**Amnesty International  
University of Alberta Chapter  
Working Group Since: Winter 2013  
Website: <http://aiuofa.wordpress.com/>**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We are dedicated to carrying out Amnesty's work of defending human rights. Our mission is to give the students of the University of Alberta the opportunity to take part in Amnesty International's actions and be a fellow human rights ambassador.

The group operates for the purpose of increasing campus and community awareness of international human rights violations and environmental degradation. It also operates in campaigning peacefully to free all prisoners of conscience, ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, abolish the death penalty, torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of all prisoners, and stop abuses by opposition groups including hostage taking, torture, and deliberate and arbitrary killings.

**Blue University  
Working Group Since: Winter 2014  
Website: <http://uofacouncilofcanadians.wordpress.com/>**

Blue University is a group that brings together students and community members to provide a resource for individuals and student groups seeking to use water more responsibly, and to advocate for environmental justice. We strive to encourage sustainable attitudes towards water practices and usage amongst faculty, staff, and students at the U of A by hosting and promoting "Blue" events and gatherings. We hope to building working relationships with both student and community groups by offering services and information that enables groups to host "bottled water-free" events and encouraging the use and protection of tap water on campus and beyond.

We raise awareness on water issues and our goal is to have the University of Alberta be single-use bottled water free. We were successful in having the City of Edmonton declare March 21 as World Water Day in Edmonton. This furthers the scope of our goal to include the City of Edmonton in our bottled water free initiative.

### Some Activities Undertaken:

- Co-sponsored and tabled Maude Barlow's book tour stop in Edmonton
- Co-sponsored and tabled Dr. Jim Beck's speaking on water quality
- Participated in World Food Day
- Promoted the Mi'kmaq Warrior Speaking Tour
- Successfully organized and collaborated around World Water Day
- Successfully organized and collaborated around Water Week

### **ConsentEd**

**Working Group Since: Winter 2012**

**Website: <http://www.consented.ca/>**

ConsentEd believes that everyone deserves to live in a world without sexual violence. Our mission is to actively work towards changing the way our society perceives the issue of consent and sexual violence. Specifically, we hope to provide resources to educate, engage and inspire young adults- that are otherwise bombarded by our society's constant stream of unhelpful and incorrect information about sexual violence.

ConsentEd will also be advocating and promoting awareness about sexual violence by ally-ing with other organizations and reaching out to our audience using a variety of social media tools.

### ***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- Co-hosted 'The Invisible War' Film Screenings, Dec 2012 and Jan 2013
- Developing workshop for the Global Youth Assembly, April 2013
- External Peer Website review for content accessibility - completed one full website review and debrief with reviewer, May 2013
- Participated in interviews and discussions with the media such as "the 'F' word, and CTV W5, June 2013
- Edmonton SlutWalk, July 2013
- Global Youth Assembly for the John Humphrey Centre, facilitated workshop entitled "Creating a World Without Sexual Violence," August 2013
- Take Back The Night, September 2013
- Jasper Place High School, presentation called "Rethinking Sexual Prevention," November 2013
- Bothing at Power of Being a Girl Conference, February 2014
- Consent-theme Valentine's cards, February 2014
- Bothing at Sexual Exploitation Awareness Conference, April 2014

**Canadian Council for Refugees – Youth Network Edmonton (CCRYNE)**

**Working Group Since: Fall 2011**

**Website: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/home>**

As part of the Canadian Council for Refugees, the Youth Network gives youth and youth allies a voice to address challenges faced by newcomer youth and a space to share ideas on how to meet these challenges. The Youth Network works within a gender justice and anti-oppression framework.

Our objectives:

- To offer a network for youth involved in the settlement, sponsorship and protection of refugees and immigrants.
- To influence CCR policy by providing a collective voice through which youth can bring their ideas, objectives, and concerns to the Canadian Council for Refugees.
- To promote and support youth engagement in advocating for refugee and immigrant rights.

***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- *Facilitator training for working with Immigrant and Refugee Youth*
- *Youth Empowerment Program for Immigrant and Refugee Youth*

**Centre for Community Organizing and Popular Culture (CCOPE)**

**Working Group Since: Winter 2010**

**Website: <http://www.eccope.org/>**



The Centre for Community Organizing and Popular Education is an emerging coalition of academics, educators, activists and organizers interested in promoting positive social, political and economic change and building community in the face of global neo liberalism.

O

ur goal is to establish an authentic space for solidarity, where people with diverse interests, experiences and abilities might exchange ideas, experience, information and resources, and above all rediscover the sustaining ability of true community.



### ***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- APIRG, Educating for Social Change Part One & Two, Winter 2013
- Intergenerational Learning Project

**Edmonton Organic Growers Guild  
Working Group Since: Winter 2010  
Website: <http://eogg.org/>**

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

We

- cultivate food,
- grow niche and culturally specific crops,
- participate in an active lifestyle,
- strengthen each other and our garden,
- augment existing food sources,
- reinvest in the community garden,
- love the university farm.

### ***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- Shared consultant report - "Cooperation of EOGG and ALES through CSL" to determine ways to work better with University and integrate programming. March 2013
- Greenhouse building bees, September to November 2013
- Donated vegetables from our community garden to Campus Food Bank
- With the Faculty of Agriculture, dug and donated 200 lbs of potatoes to the Edmonton Food Bank
- Overall, donated 4000 lbs of food

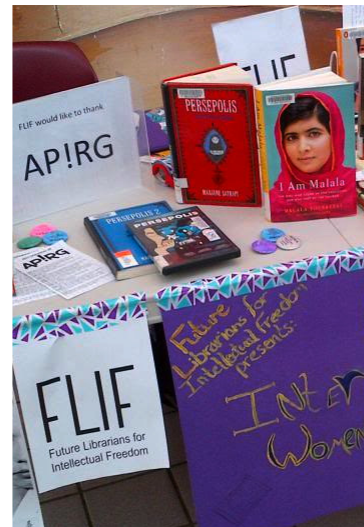


**Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom**  
**Working Group Since: Winter 2011**  
**Website: <http://flifblog.blogspot.ca/>**

We are a group of Library and Information Studies students who are interested in promoting intellectual freedom and social responsibility. We believe that issues concerning censorship, freedom of expression, and social justice go hand-in-hand, and hope that through information updates and direct action, we will be able to emphasize the importance of intellectual freedom and social responsibility in the personal and professional lives of our readers and our communities.

***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- Radio Interview with CJSR, August 17
- Homeless Connect, October 2013 and April 2014
- Radical Bookshelf, September 2013 – April 2014
- Freedom to Read Week, February 2014



**I See Sprouts**  
**Working Group since: Fall 2013**  
**Website: [www.iseesprouts.com](http://www.iseesprouts.com)**

I See Sprouts is a non-profit program that is aimed at teaching inner city, and new Canadian children their role in community based food security and sustainability. The program centers on a child driven approach at teaching the students how to make wholesome, local, seasonal, and affordable food.

The program raises awareness within the University of Alberta community of the importance of our food security. It also provides volunteer opportunities for University of Alberta students.

**Palestine Solidarity Network**  
**Working Group Since: Fall 2009**  
**Website: <http://psnedmonton.ca/>**

The Palestine Solidarity Network is a non-profit, grassroots collective aimed at advocating and upholding the human rights of Palestinians in the face of ongoing oppression, occupation, racism and discrimination, both in occupied Palestine and in the Diaspora. We maintain groups at both the community level, the Palestine Solidarity Network – Edmonton, and on the University of Alberta campus, the Palestine Solidarity Network – U of A.

***Some Activities Undertaken:***

- 3rd Annual Mahmoud Darwish: Commemoration in Poetry Night, August 2013
- Middle East Upheavals and What it Means for Palestine, November 2013
- Palestine Reading Circle, December 2013
- Undoing Border Imperialism Book Launch with Harsha Walia, January 2013
- The Unhealthy Effects of Occupation session during International Week, January 2014
- This Land is Our Land: Film, Conversation, and Performances, February 2014
- Israeli Apartheid Week, March 2014



**Student International Health Association (SIHA)**  
**Working Group Since: Winter 2014**  
**Website: [www.siha.ca](http://www.siha.ca)**

The Students' International Health Association (SIHA) Local is a student-led organization dedicated to sustainable health promotion and community development. We are locally

based; our main office is located on the University of Alberta campus and we have a strong focus on serving the Edmonton community while promoting health awareness and education. We also reach out to underserved communities in rural Alberta to promote healthy lifestyles. We attempt to reduce stigma on marginalized individuals such as those living with HIV by presenting in classrooms and holding events on campus. We also address the topics of tobacco cessation and healthy living in presentations to school age children in conjunction with HIV Edmonton.

Some Activities Undertaken:

HIV/STI Testing Fair, March 2014

**Muslim Relief at the University of Alberta**  
**Working Group since: Winter 2013**  
**Website: <http://islamicreliefuofa.wordpress.com/>**

We are dedicated, as a student group, to carrying out Islamic Relief Canada's work of responding to people who are suffering. We aim to open-mindedly help individuals (regardless of religion, ethnicity or gender) fulfill their potential in life; without expecting anything in return.

Our mission is to give the University of Alberta students the opportunity to look past any stereotypes about Islam and to become conscious of suffering that happens throughout the world that does not receive media attention. We tackle Islamophobia of any sort on campus through visuals and social media, helping people fight any polite or subtle racism they may hold. By focusing in on university students, we aim to overturn prejudice towards "Muslim" folks and encourage every Canadian to look at Muslims as fellow human beings.

We want to improve the state of the global world and we want to improve the social fabric of our micro-society here at the University.

Some Activities Undertaken:

- Button and poster campaign on Islamaphobia and redefining what it means to be Muslim
- BBQ fundraiser for Islamic Relief
- PoeticAid – Poetry and Slam concert fundraiser

38 Peer Health Educator presentations were given at local schools



# Financial Statements

**Alberta Public Interest Research Group**

**Financial Statements**

**April 30, 2014**

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

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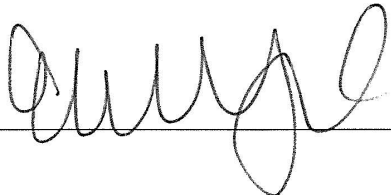
## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Statement of Financial Position

As at April 30, 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	185,133	188,404
Prepaid expenses	1,326	941
	<b>186,459</b>	<b>189,345</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	11,336	9,543
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	163,890	163,018
Internally restricted net assets	11,233	16,784
	<b>175,123</b>	<b>179,802</b>
	<b>186,459</b>	<b>189,345</b>

Approved by the Board of Directors:


 Director


 Director

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

2.

# Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Statement of Change in Net Assets

For the year ended April 30, 2014

	Internally Restricted \$	Unrestricted \$	2014 \$	2013 \$
Balance, beginning of year	16,784	163,018	179,802	169,736
Excess of revenue over expenditures	-	(4,679)	(4,679)	10,066
Funds committed during the year	10,432	(10,432)	-	-
Funds paid out during the year	(15,906)	15,906	-	-
Inter fund transfer	(77)	77	-	-
Balance, end of year	11,233	163,890	175,123	179,802

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

3.

# Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Statement of Operations

For the year ended April 30, 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Student fees	180,955	180,835
Community and events revenue	200	123
Interest revenue	1,012	1,447
Office and retail revenue	491	758
Other revenue	2	210
	<b>182,660</b>	<b>183,373</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Board expenses	3,609	3,102
Contract work	2,189	2,973
Direct grants	24,362	21,254
Elections	1,221	1,295
Insurance	1,725	2,060
Library	736	1,117
Office	3,954	5,048
Professional fees	6,000	5,985
Programming	8,060	7,504
Promotion and outreach	5,075	5,043
Rent	13,894	13,155
Telecommunications	3,343	3,142
Wages and employee benefits	113,171	101,629
	<b>187,339</b>	<b>173,307</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>(4,679)</b>	<b>10,066</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

4.

# Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended April 30, 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from funding agencies and other income	182,660	183,373
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(185,931)	(174,289)
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash During the Year</b>	<b>(3,271)</b>	<b>9,084</b>
<b>CASH - Beginning of year</b>	<b>188,404</b>	<b>179,320</b>
<b>CASH - End of year</b>	<b>185,133</b>	<b>188,404</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

5.

## Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2014

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#### **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.

#### **1. Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Fund Accounting**

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

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

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

##### **(b) Capital Assets**

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

##### **(c) Revenue Recognition**

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

##### **(d) Financial Instruments**

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



# Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2014

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

#### (e) Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### (f) Donated Services

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

### 2. Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the presentations adopted during the current year. The prior year figures were reviewed by another accounting firm.

### 3. Library

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

Library materials have been expensed in the year purchased over the years which is consistent with our policy. The purchases during the year were \$737 (2013 - \$1,117).

### 4. 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.

Artists Creative Notes:

I created this drawing using APIRG's 2013-2014 theme of "Race" as a reference point. I wanted to create an image that honoured the suffering and exhaustion of being racially oppressed while at the same time illustrating the strength and dedication of dismantling such systems of oppression. I wanted to show both of these realities existing within the same body, an important balance of grief and resurgence, vulnerability and resilience. Growth of the movement comes from all of these elements working together. The red circle calls to attention the blood that continues to fill unjust streets, and our everlasting proximity to victims of racist violence.

Alex Felicitas 2014