



# *Funding Support and Anti-Oppression*

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group

## **Things to Consider in Your Application**

### *Consideration One: Anti-Oppression*

APIRG'S mandate is explicitly anti-oppressive, therefore we prioritize funding Projects/Events/Groups who also engage with social change through an anti-oppression lens.

At the same time, the language of anti-oppression can be challenging, and many people are doing anti-oppressive work but just not calling it that. So our goal is to outline anti-oppression here to help you best articulate the amazing work that you do.

#### **Oppression can be defined as:**

- Unequal access to power, resources, opportunities and acceptance based on social categories that an individual or group fits into
- Structural inequality that allows certain groups of people to assume a dominant position over other groups
- Historically formed (emerging from the past) but continually perpetuated

What is key in understanding oppression is that it is not about individual inequality but about a set of interacting systems that are institutionally and socially embedded. It is these systems and structures and systems of oppression that keep people from sharing power, resources and opportunities.

- **SOCIETAL LEVEL:** Oppressive systems are just that: SYSTEMS. They function at multiple levels (societal, institutional and individual) and in complex ways. Societal norms are what is considered normal, acceptable, valued and desired by society. All forms of oppression are based on a norm that is valued more, ex. whiteness is the norm valued by racism.
- **INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL:** Oppression operates at the institutional level to embed societal norms and values into the policies, laws, rules and processes of governments, institutions (ex. health and education systems).
- **INDIVIDUAL LEVEL:** Structural and institutional oppressions often get enacted at an individual level, through people's attitudes and actions.

#### **How to communicate that your work is anti-oppressive:**

- Avoid individualizing language of lifestyle and personal choices when talking about your cause. Instead, think about what structures, institutions, cultural forces are involved in the issue.
- Don't be afraid to call it what it is: use the language of racism, classism, sexism, ableism etc when talking about what you are trying to change.
- Reflect on and acknowledge the privileges/advantages that you may have and how you will engage with them in your work



## *Funding Support and Anti-Oppression*

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group

### *Consideration Two: Intersectionality*

APIRG also focuses on work that has an intersectional lens. Simply put, we want you to think about how all systems of oppression are connected and to inform your actions with this knowledge.

An example would be if you were looking to run a workshop for queer youth. An intersectional lens would acknowledge that homophobia and transphobia intersect with class, ability and race. You would include in your application this acknowledgment and also explicitly address how you work to make your event more accessible for individuals who live at these intersections (racialized, disabled, and/or poor queer youth). If you aren't sure how to do this, you can always contact APIRG!

#### **How to communicate that your work is intersectional:**

- Acknowledge the systems of oppression that impact your issue or target populations
- In your advertising/outreach plan explain how you will connect with individuals who live at these intersections

### *Consideration Three: Accessibility*

The third important consideration is how you will make your event/project/activities as a group accessible. At APIRG, we take a holistic and anti-oppressive approach to accessibility. This means its not just about physical accessibility, though that is important!

We ask that our applicants think about the barriers that might be created by systems of oppression. So, building on the first two considerations (anti-oppressive and intersectional lenses) there are more considerations to be made. Think about how class, race, sexuality, gender as well as ability may play a role in who attends your event and who doesn't.

Ask yourself:

- Who would normally attend this event? Is there certain structural privileges that is shared by these individuals?
- Who is missing from the event? What structural issues may be causing them to not attend?
- Resist the temptation to equate the attendance and accessibility of your event solely with individuals choice to attend or not. Focus on the social and structural level.

Ways to make your event more accessible:

- Hold it in a physically accessible venue with ASL interpretation
- Make your event free (or sliding scale with no one turned away for financial reasons)
- Offer bus tickets to facilitate transport to and from the event
- Offer childcare or financial assistance for childcare



## *Funding Support and Anti-Oppression*

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group

- Have food at your events
- Explicitly ask in your outreach/ advertising for people to contact you with any needs
- Think intersectionally and explicitly outreach to communities that exist at these intersections
- Consider the language you use to outreach your event: academic or jargony language can be a barrier
- If space is limited, explicitly acknowledge that people who experience structural oppression will be prioritized over those who don't. Ask privileged people to identify their privilege and offer to give up there space if there is not enough room.

If you have any questions about these considerations, or anything else to do with APIRG's funding, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Regarding Event/Project Funding: [outreach@apirg.org](mailto:outreach@apirg.org)

Regarding Working Group Funding: [programming@apirg.org](mailto:programming@apirg.org)

In general: [apirg@ualberta.ca](mailto:apirg@ualberta.ca)