



AP!RG

ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020



About APIRG

APIRG (The Alberta Public Interest Research Group) is an incredible resource based at the University of Alberta.

WE SUPPORT

We support student- and community-based research, education and social activism.

WE PROVIDE

We provide the administrative, informational and technological resources to help student working groups to transform social concern into effective action.



Our Mandate



***We acknowledge
that social change is
achievable and see social
awareness as a valuable
facet of the public interest.***

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.

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.



Our Team

STAFF

APIRG has three part-time staff positions. This year, we welcomed Tristan Turner to the Office Coordinator position in November 2019. Meara Kirwin worked as APIRG's Outreach Coordinator and Shima Robinson as the Working Group and Programming Coordinator. A warm goodbye and good luck to Kyla Pascal who left her role as Office Coordinator this year!

Our Board of Directors consists of University of Alberta students, alumni, and community members. Board Members are chosen via application based on their demonstrated commitment to consensus-based decision-making, positive social change, and anti-oppression. Board membership is an excellent opportunity for students and young people to develop principled leadership skills and learn to navigate both nonprofit and grassroots organizing spaces.

2019/2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Haley Ehl
Jennifer Ha
Simone Halliday-Shaw
Meerna Rachid
James Wincott
Jamie Zarn
Fia Friskie
Lisa Alyx Bui
Abigail Isaac
(Students' Union Representative)



***Thank you
to the board
and staff for
their dedication
and leadership
this year!***



Year in Review

Projects

LIBRARY OVERHAUL

The office got a summer makeover! A big purge, some new furniture, and most notably, a total overhaul of the APIRG Library. We were so lucky to have Daliso Mwanza working with us through a SCiP Internship, sorting through over a 1000 books to help us refine and update our collection. Many thanks to Joseph-Luis C.-M. for his creative and technical support.

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

Over summer and fall 2019, Outreach Coordinator Shima Robinson, SCiP Intern Mpoe Mogale and volunteer Deena Giri took the first hard steps to build the networks, resources and policy we need to effectively support community-based undergraduate research. We developed a partnership with the Undergraduate Research Initiative, and are looking forward to expanding this part of our work.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Building off of Daliso Mwanza's library purge in the summer, we started a volunteer-based Library Committee to guide every aspect of the library's activities - from book intake to distribution to programming. The committee grew from 3-8 volunteers throughout the year, simultaneously bringing the library back to life, building their collective governance and facilitation skills, and learning about the complexity of the knowledge economy.

CSL STUDENT PROJECTS

We were lucky to work with 14 incredible students on 5 CSL projects during the 2019-2020 year. CSL students helped us develop outreach strategies, book club programs, child care policy, and almanac content, demonstrating the principle that every student has valuable information and skills to contribute to community projects!

APIRG ALMANAC

In 2019-2020 we introduced the APIRG ALMANAC. This project was curated and organized by U of A student and community organizer, Ryanna Brattland, and designed by architecture student and graphic designer, Joy Olagoke. The ALMANAC is a dayplanner for folks who care about local art, community organizing, and social justice. This first version included community resources guides for both on and off campus, creative content from students and local artists, anti-oppressive horoscopes and more. We gave out 250 copies by donation from our office and other community spaces around the city including The Nook Cafe, Glass Bookshop, The Pride Centre of Edmonton and the Landing!

BOOK CLUBS

By popular demand, we started up two book clubs in Winter 2020. EVOKE, led by Shima Robinson, is a bookclub for all who want to read collectively, focusing on Black and Indigenous writing of all genres. The Political Theory and Praxis Bookclub tackles classic and contemporary works of political theory with a focus on accessibility and collective learning, and is led by Tristan Turner.

MEME COMMITTEE

In a small attempt to tackle quarantine isolation and political disengagement, Meara started a Meme Analysis and Creation Committee on the APIRG instagram page in March 2020. Members submit, discuss and vote on memes to post on the APIRG page, deepening their understanding of political issues and digital popular education through a fun and familiar medium!

WORKSHOPS & POPULAR EDUCATION

The APIRG staff offer free workshops on anti-oppression, consensus-based decision-making, accessible event planning and other topics tailored to group needs. In 2019/2020, we facilitated for groups such as UASU Student Group Services, Unitea, YONA-Sistema, interVivos, and at the UAlberta Student Sustainability Summit and the 2019 RAYE conference.





Events

AWOL 2019

AWOL (A Week of Liberation) is our fall event series aimed at welcoming students and community to the new school year, and building community, knowledge and power for the futures we want and need. AWOL 2019 featured a full week of programming, hosted with over a dozen different partner organisations and facilitators. Highlights included an Ice Cream Social with The Landing, our second annual Just(ice) for Laughs comedy show, a dance party co-hosted with pepper'd collective, a three day food justice training with Cheyenne Sundance from Sundance Harvest, decolonial campus tours with Kirsten Lindquist, and workshops on campus labour, land and student power. Huge thanks to everyone involved!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 23, 2019, at the Arts Barns off Whyte Ave. The meeting was well-attended and everyone went home well-fed.

PWR URBAN COMMUNITY RESISTANCE

With space generously donated by Fringe Theatre Adventures, we hosted a weekend of solidarity-building workshops, conversations and performances for community organizers in October 2019. How do we build genuine community with each other? How do we support each other through conflict? How do we take care of ourselves? How do we find joy in our resistance? Highlights included an art build hosted by Beaver Hills Warriors, yoga with Asha, a fashion show from M.O.B.I.L.I.Z.E., and some hard community conversations.

FALL & WINTER OPEN HOUSES

We started each semester by filling our little HUB Mall office with food, music, books and community! Our office is a drop-in space for folks to browse and borrow library books, ask staff questions, eat their lunch and generally chill out in a comfortable space. Open Houses are our way of welcoming new and old faces into the space and catching up on all things APIRG.

INTERSECTIONS OF QUEER SYMPOSIUM 2020

This year, the annual Intersections of Queer Symposium transformed into the Intersections of Queer SERIES! Together with the Landing, the Community Social Work Team and Rainbow Alliance for Youth Edmonton, we planned, postponed, and ultimately had to cancel March's planned event due to scheduling difficulties and then, of course, COVID 19 safety measures. In its new form as an online workshop series, IQS brings 2SLGBTQ+ communities together in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) to share knowledge and build connections. Our programming is grounded in accessibility and community needs and desires. More about IQS 2020 in our next report!



Working Groups



Working Groups are autonomous collectives of U of A students and community members who come to us with their ideas and passion for change.

One of the main focuses of APIRG is to provide funding and support for Working Groups.

One of the main focuses of APIRG is to provide funding and support for Working Groups. They work together on an issue that falls within the APIRG mandate, with a focus on research, events, actions, publications, or other diverse activities. Working Groups represent the diversity of our membership and often introduce people to the organization. Check out our website or the 2020-2021 APIRG ALMANAC for more information on the groups listed below!

In 2019-2020, APIRG supported the following Working Groups:

CANADIAN STUDENTS FOR SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY - EDMONTON

Working Group since Fall 2018

Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy is a grassroots network comprised of youth and students who are concerned about the negative impact our drug policies have on individuals and communities. We consider problematic drug use in society primarily a health issue rather than a criminal justice issue, and we advocate for appropriate responses to reduce and prevent harm from drug use. We mobilize our members to participate in the political process at all levels, pushing for sensible policies to achieve a safer and more just future, while combating counterproductive drug policies, particularly those that directly harm young people. CSSDP works alongside other organizations and campaigns to support harm reduction, evidence-based legislation, and drug policy reform on local, national and international levels.

EMAIL

edmonton@cssdp.org

INSTAGRAM

@cssdpedmonton

CHINESE DIASPORA SHARING CIRCLES

Working Group since Fall 2019

Chinese Diaspora Sharing Circle is an open and inclusive dialogue for overseas Chinese people to safely share their opinions regarding cultural identity, social issues and their life in Canada. Our group aims to engage and give Chinese youth ready to speak up and talk about the oppression and traumas faced by and to our Chinese community in Canada.

EMAIL

Meghan at mmtsang@ualberta.ca

FUTURE CREATORS

Working Group since Fall 2019

Future Creators is a technology mentorship initiative that works with students from grades 7-12 to create their own technology projects with arduinos, 3D printing technologies and coding applications. We consist of undergraduate students from engineering and computer science. We strive to share our technical knowledge and skills to inspire youth in technology and design through our mentorship programming. Through our school partnerships, we are able to host free tutorial workshops in schools and find students interested in joining technology mentorship.

EMAIL

uaafc@ualberta.ca

FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Working Group since Winter 2011

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.

EDMONTON CLIMATE JUSTICE COALITION

Working Group since Winter 2020

Around Edmonton there are numerous groups involved in climate action related activities. We seek to provide a space for coalition building, skill sharing, and community building between those groups. Current members of the working group include Extinction Rebellion Edmonton, Climate Justice Edmonton, and the Alberta Environmental Network.

EDMONTON NATURAL HAIR SHOW

Working Group since Winter 2020

The Edmonton Natural Hair Show (ENHS) inspires people of all ages to embrace their natural hair as part of what makes them uniquely beautiful -- a hair type that society often frowns upon. The show builds and strengthens the natural hair community in Edmonton and surrounding areas through events and activities. We provide tools and resources for women, girls, and men to care for their coily kinky curly loose or loc'd hair from businesses and individuals in the industry, such as natural hair specialists, salons, independent hair stylists, and natural hair bloggers/enthusiasts/DIY-ers/social media influencers. Everyone is welcome to our events and activities regardless of their racial background!

INSTAGRAM

@edmonton_naturalhairshow

FACEBOOK

Edmonton Natural Hair Show

WEBSITE

edmontonnaturalhairshow.com

EL-TAWHID

Working Group since Winter 2020

El-Tawhid in partnership with The Muslim Feminist Collective are striving to uphold the values of speaking truth to power, acting against injustice, and living in relationship to the land at the core of Islam. MFC amplifies the voices of those who are doing justice work and offers a condemnation of injustice from an Islamic doctrinal and historical perspective. El-Tawhid strives to offer an inclusive space to pray and practice justice centered Islam with a community invested in dismantling systems of oppression. This space centers and exists for those whose identities exist at the margins of mainstream Islam including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Muslims. Both virtual and physical spaces serve to hold Muslims, including ourselves, accountable to dismantling racism and patriarchy within ourselves, our communities, and social systems.

EMAIL

eltawhidyg@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

Muslim Feminist Collective of Edmonton

FOOD NOT BOMBS EDMONTON

Working Group since Winter 2020

FNB is an organisation dedicated to feeding our communities and pushing for a better society where homelessness and poverty are things of the past. We provide hot meals for community members experiencing homelessness and groceries for low-income people as well as participating in the local political sphere.

INSTAGRAM

@foodnotbombs_yeg

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Working Group since Fall 2019

The Indigenous Medical and Dental Students' Association (IMDSA) is a group of Indigenous students at the University of Alberta in the medical and dental programs from a variety of backgrounds who are passionate about our culture and Indigenous health. The IMDSA was founded in 2018 and is the first of its kind in Canada. All Indigenous medical and dental students accepted to the University of Alberta are automatically members of the IMDSA and hold the responsibilities associated with membership. Our mission is to represent, encourage, and advocate for future Indigenous health care providers while staying grounded in our traditions and teachings. Through a positive narrative, we will promote an Indigenous presence in health professions through mentorship and support with career transitions.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NETWORK (SVAAN)

Working Group since Fall 2019

The Sexual Violence Advocacy and Accountability Network (SVAAN) commits to ending sexual violence in the hospitality and arts industries and the shared communities of our membership through survivor-centered restorative justice.

INSTAGRAM

@svaan.ab

FACEBOOK

SVAAN

EMAIL

info@svaan.org

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Working Group since Fall 2009

The Palestine Solidarity Network is a non-profit, grassroots collective aimed at advocating for 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. On March 3, David Kattenburg came from Winnipeg and gave two talks on the issue of illegal Israeli wine. And on March 12 there was a very successful screening of the film Soufra, an inspiring tale of women in Palestinian refugee camps, creating a food truck business.

EMAIL

psnedmonton@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

Palestine Solidarity Network - Edmonton

SHADES OF COLOUR

Working Group since Fall 2018

Shades of Colour is a grassroots collective located within treaty 6. We are QTBIPOCs (Queer + Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) making space for other QTBIPOCs who need this space to breathe. We hope that this will help to fill the gaps within community in ways that affirm our experiences and identity and move towards strengthening healthy multi-generational relationships that are needed.

INSTAGRAM

@shadesofcolouryeg

FACEBOOK

Shades of Colour Community YEG

EMAIL

shadesofcoloryeg@gmail.com

THE HUE

Working Group since Winter 2020

The Hue is your QTBIPOC+ Community Hub. Building community and advocating for QTBIPOC+ inclusion, accessibility, and safety in Edmonton. We host events and workshops, and maintain a community calendar of events by and for QTBIPOC in Edmonton!

EMAIL

thehueyeg@gmail.com

WEBSITE

thehueyeg.com

FACEBOOK

The Hue YEG

INSTAGRAM

@thehueyeg

INDIGENOUS POETS' SOCIETY

Working Group since Winter 2020

As of January 2019, Edmonton has become home to the second chapter of the Indigenous Poets Society. The original collective was founded in Saskatoon in 2012 by Kevin Wesaquate. Our goal is to help promote healing, growth, leadership, connection, and resiliency through poetry. We hope to come together not only to discuss our social struggles, but to heal by celebrating our connections with land, culture, history and identity. We hope to provide a space where Indigenous poets can feel heard and understood by their own people and sometimes allies. We are also here to support new poets who wish to branch out and share their words with the rest of the world. Poets of all levels, styles, and ages are welcome.

FACEBOOK

Edmonton Indigenous Poets' Society

MIGRANTE ALBERTA

Working Group since Winter 2015

Migrante dedicates its work to grassroots migrants advocacy. Understanding and addressing the immediate needs of migrants is important to them. They have regular education programs from rights training to language review classes. At the height of Covid 19, they did outreach to precarious workers in Edmonton, Calgary and to workers at High River and Brooks that were affected by the outbreak. In April of 2020, Migrante also kickstarted a campaign called AHS4ALL addressing the lack of health care access for undocumented migrants.

WEBSITE

migrantealberta.ca



SOUTH SUDANESE YOUTH OF EDMONTON

Working Group since Winter 2020

The South Sudanese Youth of Edmonton (SSYEG) is a group that is aspiring to connect and empower South Sudanese youth (SSY) across the Edmonton region. By engaging youth in a series of workshops, events and volunteer opportunities. In addition SSYEG focuses on the integration of newcomers into Canadian society and assists in maintaining their unique ethnic heritage and culture. Furthermore, SSYEG strives to connect Edmonton based SSY to other active SSY groups across the country.

INSTAGRAM

@ssyedmonton

FACEBOOK

South Sudanese Youth of Edmonton- SSYEG

YEG THE COME UP

Working Group since Fall 2019

YEGTheComeUp (TCU) is a youth program under the Africa Centre. The collective works towards empowering and sharing various voices and experiences of young peoples of African and Caribbean descent. By coming together to discuss youth-relevant topics through the inclusion of diverse cultures and experiences, YEGTheComeUp provides a means for building and supporting identity, collective and self-awareness and community

WEBSITE

yegthecomeup.com

INSTAGRAM

@yegthecomeup

TWITTER

yegthecomeup

SNAPCHAT

yegthecomeup1



Funding Recipients

Event / Project / Research Funding Recipients

The Event/Project/Research Funding line received 39 applications in 2018/2019 and funded 20 events, projects, and research initiatives up to \$2000 each.

FALL 2019

Centre For Autism Alberta Student'
Association Annual Symposium

Break Borders by Syrian Heritage
Association of Canada

University of Alberta Permaculture Group
Aquaponics Research Facility

The People's Forum

RaricaNow Trans Day of Remembrance
March & Open House

Nowhere Kitchen

La Connexional Afro x
Latin End of Year Party

AWAKEN

Vector Vault

WINTER 2020

Salaam Week hosted by the Muslim
Students' Association

Trans-femme Sexual Health Community-
Based Research Project

Finessing Finals Tutoring hosted by
the Ethiopian and Eritrean Students'
Association

Among the Dead

Augustana Pride Week Speakers hosted by
AQUA

Emo Karaoke Night Fundraiser

the revolution starts with us

Remix the Ritual

Decolonization Day

Microgrant Funding Recipients

Through our microgrant funding stream, we provide up to \$100 on a rolling basis to small-scale events and projects undertaken exclusively by undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

Future Creators: WoW Tabling

QTBIPOC community meetups

El-Tawhid Inclusive Islamic Prayer Space
Milad un Nabi Celebration

COVID-19

APIRG programming and day-to-day operations have changed greatly as a result of COVID 19 safety measures.

At the end of the 2019-2020 year, we closed our office and began all work remotely. We cancelled much of our spring and summer programming, introduced home delivery of library books, transferred all meetings online, and, most notably, prepared the May 2020 opening of a COVID 19 Emergency Response Funding Stream to support direct action, mutual aid and advocacy projects led by students, working groups and community members. We're feeling grateful for the culture of care and support within APIRG, which has allowed each board member, volunteer and staff to adjust their involvement according to their changing needs during this time.

Statement of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2020

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL
REVENUE			
Student Fees	189,742	195,173	199,932
Student Fees (Recovery)	-	-	(10,406)
Community and Events Revenue	100	150	8,370
Interest Revenue	465	711	564
Office and Retail Revenue	550	112	489
Other Revenue	10	1,615	345
Wage Subsidy	-	1,490	-
TOTAL REVENUE	190,867	199,251	199,294
EXPENDITURES			
Board Expenses	3,910	4,738	5,154
Contract Work	2,392	1,630	1,477
Direct Grants	30,000	28,098	27,381
Elections	1,250	-	1,112
Insurance	2,225	2,348	2,272
Library	500	1,836	489
Office	5,675	6,985	5,901
Professional Fees	6,195	6,438	6,332
Programming	5,350	12,975	19,754
Promotion and Outreach	3,401	9,056	4,732
Rent	14,189	14,226	15,076
Telecommunications	3,050	4,644	3,759
Wages and Employee Benefits	120,913	125,609	110,827
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	199,050	218,583	204,266
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(8,183)	(19,332)	(4,972)

EMAIL

apirg@ualberta.ca

PHONE

(780) 492.0614

WEBSITE

apirg.org

AP!RG

FACEBOOK

alberta.pirg

TWITTER

apirg

INSTAGRAM

alberta_pirg