

AP!RG

ANNUAL

REPORT

2021-2022

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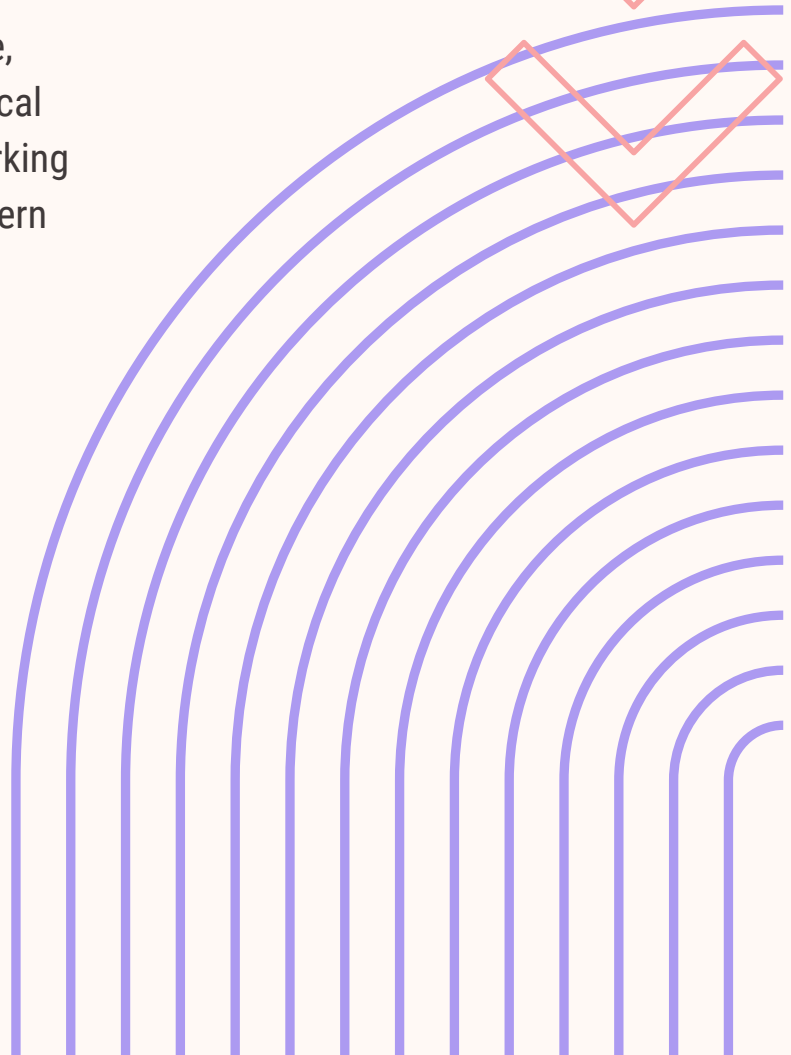
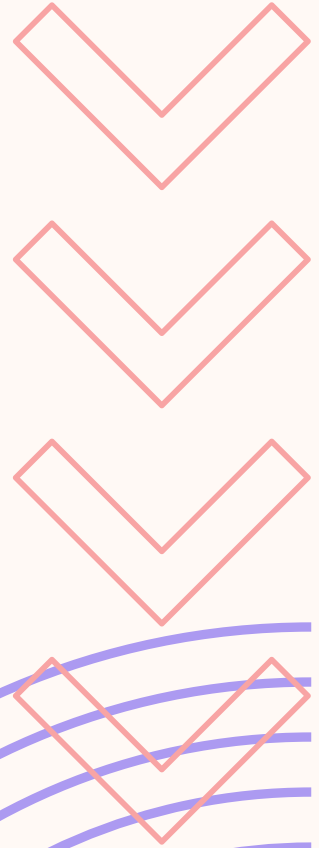
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ABOUT US

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

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

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



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.

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.



STAFF

This year APIRG transitioned from three part-time staff positions to two part-time staff positions. **Sarah Alemu** worked as APIRG's Outreach Coordinator and **Tristan Turner** as APIRG's Office Coordinator.

A warm goodbye and best of luck to **Shima Robinson** who left her role as Working Group and Programming Coordinator this year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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.

Abigail Isaac
Darcy Bemister
Erin O'Neil
Giovanna Rosal
Haley Ehl

Luthfia Friskie
Merna Rachid
Roisin Graham
Rojine McVea

THANK YOU TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP THIS YEAR!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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 2021/2022, we facilitated workshops for student groups and organizations such as the Student's Union Council & Student Representative Association, University of Alberta College Panhellenic Association, Fringe Theater Adventures, Common Grounds Arts Society, and the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta.

AWOL 2021

AWOL (A Week of Liberation) is our annual 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. We planned a mini AWOL for September 2021 featuring a Community BBQ, virtual workshop series, and in-person APIRG Mixer and Variety Show. In response to the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic some in-person events were canceled.

Thank you to everyone involved!

AGM

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online on October 25 2021 through Zoom. This was the second time we held the AGM online and it was well attended!

APIRG ALMANAC

In 2021-2022 we created the third edition of the APIRG ALMANAC. The ALMANAC is a dayplanner for folks who care about local art, community organizing, and social justice. The project was organized by our volunteer APIRG ALMANAC Creation Collective. The ALMANAC carried on the legacy of the first ALMANAC, which was created by Ryanna Brattlan and Joy Olagoke, and included community resources guides for both on and off campus, creative content from students and local artists, anti-oppressive horoscopes and more! We distributed physical copies through our office as well as a free digital version.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This year our volunteer-based Library Committee guided and maintained our library activities including book intake, cataloging, distribution, library policy and outreach! The Library Committee also started researching and creating policy for the APIRG Archive.

APIRG ARCHIVE

As part of a CSL (Community Service-Learning) project, students from the GSJ 598/WGS 498 Building Intersectional Archives course started developing the APIRG Archive in summer 2021. This involved applying the research and policy developed by our Library Committee to create a digital archive that showcases APIRG's 20 year history on campus and beyond. The APIRG Archive is a resource and reference for current and future students and community members to address a lack of institutional memory in the context of student-based organizing. Thank you to all involved in this!

2021-2022 WORKING GROUPS

One of the main focuses of APIRG is to provide funding and support for 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. They work together on an issue that falls within the APIRG mandate, with a focus on research, events, actions, publications, or other diverse activities.

In 2021-2022 APIRG supported the following Working Groups:

PRAIRIE SAGE PROTECTORS

Working Group since Fall 2021

Prairie Sage Protectors was established in amiskwaciwaskahikan (Edmonton AB) in 2021 by a group of Black, Indigenous and colonized people of colour, new and experienced organizers, who saw a need for a more unified and radical response across the Prairies to the ongoing/escalating oppression of the state and its agents against Indigenous, Black, immigrant, queer, unhoused/displaced, impoverished, and otherwise marginalized people.

ROOTUP

Working Group since Winter 2021

RootUp is a group of students in Edmonton committed to bringing cultures together and creating a community that helps newcomers, such as immigrants and refugees, feel at home in a new environment while sharing their unique cultural identities with Edmonton's mosaic.

FENTANIL PROJECT

Working Group since Fall 2021

The FentaNIL Project aims to ameliorate the detrimental effects of the overdose crisis in Edmonton and the greater Alberta, including rural communities, by facilitating free naloxone training, distributing take-home naloxone kits, and educating community members on overdose prevention strategies and synthetic opioids.

FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Working Group since Winter 2011

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF) is a group of Library and Information Studies students who are interested in promoting intellectual freedom and social responsibility. They believe that issues concerning censorship, freedom of expression, and social justice go hand-in-hand, and hope that through information updates and direct action, they will be able to emphasize the importance of intellectual freedom and social responsibility in the personal and professional lives of their readers and their communities.

ERITREAN ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Working Group since Fall 2021

The Eritrean and Ethiopian Students' Association is established for the expressed goal of carrying out activities that create and strengthen the unity of Eritrean and Ethiopian students on campus and equally increase awareness about Eritrea and Ethiopia in the larger Edmonton community.

EDMONTON INDIGENOUS POETS SOCIETY

Working Group since Winter 2020

Edmonton Indigenous Poets Society's goal is to help promote healing, growth, leadership, connection, and resiliency through poetry. They come together not only to discuss social struggles, but to heal by celebrating connections with land, culture, history and identity. They provide a space where Indigenous poets can feel heard and understood by their own people and sometimes allies. They also 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.

EDMONTON ORGANIC GROWERS GUILD

Working Group since Winter 2010

Formerly known as the University Farm and Organic Growers. Edmonton Organic Growers Guild (EOGG) is a local volunteer-run urban farming initiative. They grow organic produce, encourage learning and eating, and provide food from their harvest to member volunteers and local food banks. They charge no fees and welcome folks from all walks of life.

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.

EUREKA UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE JOURNAL

Working Group since Winter 2022

Eureka is a student-founded and student-run initiative. This journal offers undergraduate scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific world through the peer review process. Eureka is an educational institution, with a diverse team of reviewers from many scientific backgrounds, exposing undergraduate students to the publication process often excluded from their traditional scientific education. Through clear and effective scientific writing, students will be able to work together with faculty members to contribute original research and promote science.

LEVEL 7

Working Group since Fall 2020

Level 7 believes in crafting a legacy of sustainability advocates who seek discomfort by challenging the status quo – they believe in action-driven change. Their project integrates an alternative recycling solution at the University of Alberta through the combination of people, platforms, and passion. By repurposing collected waste, they are able to provide various on-campus groups with education and eco-friendly materials. Uniting the community through sustainability and engineering, Level 7 provides a tangible solution to help mitigate the global waste crisis, while also striving to stimulate innovation in student groups.

2021-2022

EVENT/PROJECT/RESEARCH FUNDING

The Event/Project/Research Funding line received 21 applications in 2021/2022 and funded 17 events, projects, and research initiatives up to \$2000 each.

FALL 2021

Anakbayan: Women's Basic Self-Defence Workshop

Everyday Harm Reduction Online Zine
Students for Consent Culture Speaker Series

Students for Consent Culture Speaker Series

Effect of Racism and Micro-aggressions on Mental and Physical Health Talk

The Queer Agenda

Understanding organizational responses in Edmonton to reports of hate crimes

MSDAA BIPOC/Queer Speaker Series

La Connexional Adult Swimming Program

WINTER 2022

All Spoons Project

All Ya'll Series

Centre for Autism Student Association Annual Conference

Creative Writing Club Anthology

GRadio.ca

How To Get A Thigh Gap

Hungry Zine

Pride Week

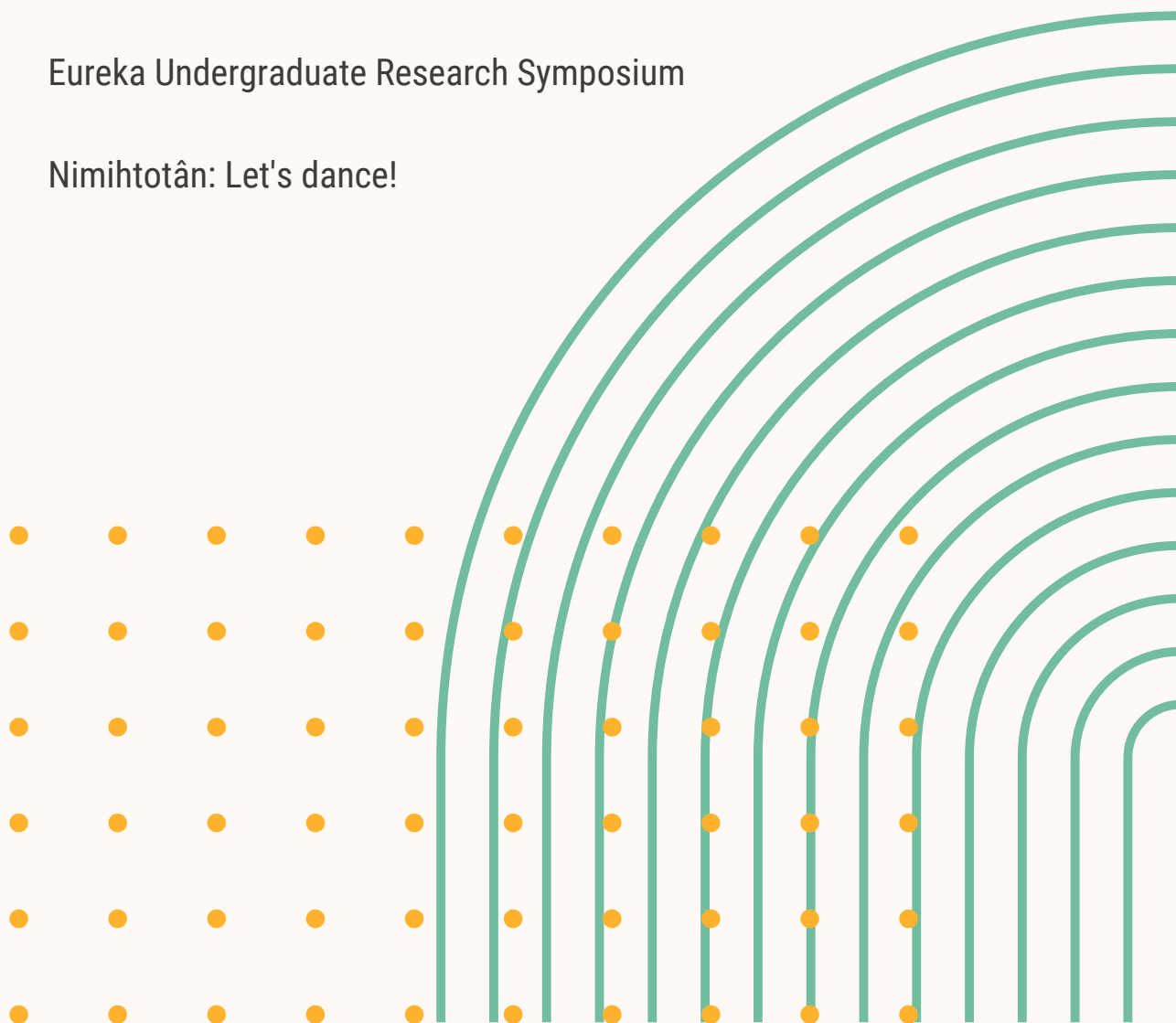
Indigenous Graduate Student Writing Retreat

MICROGRANT FUNDING

Through our Microgrant Funding stream, we provide up to \$150 on a rolling basis to small-scale events and projects undertaken exclusively by undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

Eureka Undergraduate Research Symposium

Nimihtotân: Let's dance!



COVID

APIRG programming and day-to-day operations have continued to evolve in response to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2021-2022 year, we continued to work remotely for most of the year, continued holding meetings online, and continued offering our programming online.

PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN

APIRG is funded through a small, optional undergraduate student fee. Every 5 years the student body votes to affirm that they would like to continue funding APIRG through this fee. In March 2022 we ran a plebiscite campaign in the SU election to continue our student fee. Unfortunately, for the first time in our 20 year history on campus we were unsuccessful in securing the student vote.

As a result, we have made some changes including going from having three part-time staff positions to two. In the 2022-2023 academic year we will run a referendum campaign in the SU election to create a new fee.



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SU Elections 2022 Q&A: Alberta Public Interest Research Group Plebiscite

The Students' Union 2022 election will allow students to decide on renewing the Alberta Public Interest Research Group's dedicated fee unit.

Luke Fassone · March 3, 2022 · 2 minutes read




ALBERTA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Lochlainn Kerr


In addition to electing new student representatives, the Students' Union 2022 election will give students the opportunity to decide on renewing the Alberta Public Interest Research Group's (AP!RG's) dedicated fee unit (DFU).

AP!RG PRESENTS



A WEEK OF LIBERATION
SEPTEMBER 13TH - 17TH

build power. get free.



COMMUNITY BBQ
WORKSHOPS
MEET & GREETs
VARIETY SHOW

apirg.org/awol-2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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 2021/2022 audit verified that our financial statements are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting practices.

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 Portfolio and Office Coordinator

| REVENUE | 2022 Budget \$ | 2022 Actual \$ | 2021 Actual \$ |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Student Fees | 187,184 | 215,119 | 204,353 |
| Student Fees (hold-back from 2019-2020) | - | - | 10,406 |
| Community and Events Revenue | 1,400 | 350 | 1,400 |
| Interest revenue | 229 | 257 | 239 |
| Office and retail revenue | - | 21 | - |
| Other revenue | 1,014 | 2,815 | 430 |
| Canada Emergency Business Account Loan Forgiveness | - | 20,000 | - |
| Wage Subsidy | - | - | 1,544 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 189,827 | 238,562 | 218,372 |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| EXPENDITURES | 2022 Budget \$ | 2022 Actual \$ | 2021 Actual \$ |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Board Expenses | 4,700 | 252 | 1,862 |
| Contract Work | 2,475 | 2,327 | 3,000 |
| Direct Grants | 46,500 | 39,612 | 40,371 |
| Insurance | 2,456 | 2,550 | 2,444 |
| Library | 2,000 | 58 | 818 |
| Office | 5,900 | 1,691 | 2,105 |
| Professional Fees | 6,500 | 7,413 | 6,405 |
| Programming | 13,500 | 2,119 | 3,154 |
| Promotion & Outreach | 12,360 | 4,519 | 4,622 |
| Rent | 14,266 | 10,385 | - |
| Telecommunications | 2,850 | 4,415 | 1,804 |
| Wages & Employee Benefits | 151,504 | 148,620 | 146,064 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 265,011 | 223,961 | 212,649 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES | (75,184) | 14,601 | 5,723 |



AP!RG

apirg.org

apirg@ualberta.ca

IG: [@alberta_pirg](https://www.instagram.com/alberta_pirg)

FB: [@alberta.pirg](https://www.facebook.com/alberta.pirg)

TW: [@apirg](https://twitter.com/apirg)