

ANNUAL

2022-2023

REPORT



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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 has transitioned from two part-time staff positions back to three part-time staff positions. We welcomed Salem Zurch to the Outreach Assistant role in January 2023. Sarah Alemu worked as APIRG's Outreach Coordinator and Tristan Turner as APIRG's Office Coordinator.

Board

Our Board of Directors consists of University of Alberta students, alumni, and community members. Board Members are chosen through an application process 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.

STAFF & BOARD

The 2022/2023 Board of Directors

Abigail Isaac
Ash Hariharan
Daniela Carbajal Velez
(Students' Union Representative)
Emily Quecke
Erin O'Neil
Luthfia Friskie
Kate Mullin
Roisin Graham
Rojine McVea
Sabian Compri

Thank you to the Board for their dedication and leadership this year!

APIRG Archive

As part of a CSL (Community Service-Learning) project, students from the GSJ 598/WGS 498 Building Intersectional Archives course worked to further develop the APIRG Archive throughout summer 2022. The APIRG Archive was first created as a CSL project in summer 2021. The APIRG Archive is a resource and reference for current and future students and community members to enhance institutional memory in the context of student-based organizing. Thank you to all involved in this!

CFB Snack Station

In 2022 we started hosting one of nine Campus Food Bank Snack Stations at our office. CFB Snack Stations provide students with free, nutritious snacks across campus!

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 2022/2023, we facilitated workshops for student groups and organizations including the Undergraduate Research Initiative, The Library and Information Studies Students' Association, Sustainability Awareness Week, Fringe Theater Adventures, Nextfest Arts Company, and the Edmonton Folk Music Festival!

AGM

Our 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online on October 25, 2022 through Zoom. This was the third time we held the AGM online and it was well attended and ran smoothly.

APIRG Coffee Hour

In the 2022-2023 year we started APIRG Coffee Hour, a recurring open house held at our office at 9111 HUB Mall. Coffee Hour is a time for students to drop by to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a free snack, explore our alternative resource library, learn about APIRG-funded projects & initiatives, and meet like-minded students!

We hosted five Coffee Hours throughout the school year - two in the fall semester and three in the winter semester! Overall Coffee Hour was a success and it was a great way to connect with students and organizers!

AWOL 2022

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. AWOL took place from September 12th-17th, 2022 and featured 17 fantastic workshops, tours, and events.

Thank you to everyone involved!

Solidarity Dinner

On February 8 we hosted our first Solidarity Dinner in collaboration with BIPOC and Allies Student Group at the Education Building Atrium. The Solidarity Dinner was planned to build solidarity amongst students amidst looming tuition increases and skyrocketing food costs. The dinner featured food from a local family-owned restaurant and was an opportunity for students and community members to gather and enjoy a warm meal together at no cost.

Farming in Community with Cheyenne Sundance

On February 24 Cheyenne Sundance joined us virtually offering a fantastic interactive workshop diving into what farming in a community looks like from a cooperative, collaborative and community land trust lens from the past and present day in real time. This was a fantastic event and was well attended by students and community members.

Halt The Hike

In response to continued rising tuition costs, student organizers planned a rally in opposition to proposed tuition hikes. APIRG Board members and Staff come out to the rally in solidarity and stand firmly in support of the student-led protests in opposition to continued tuition increases.

Learn to Screenprint

During AWOL, local artist and community builder Veronica Fuentes shared her knowledge about screen-printing with APIRG Staff and workshop attendees. It was a very well-received workshop and students voiced interest in having more opportunities to learn about screen-printing! Screen-printing has historically been a way for social and political movements to gain visibility. It's a low-tech tool with powerful impacts and a long history in political movements.

On February 23rd, we held a drop-in screen-printing session where attendees printed their own APIRG tote bag or t-shirt and helped to screen-print our logo on a tablecloth that we repurposed for tabling throughout the rest of the semester!

HALT THE HIKE STATEMENT

"APIRG unequivocally supports the student-led Halt The Hike protests, and joins students across the campus community, Alberta, so-called Canada and the world in solidarity with one voice: It is time to end tuition fees once and for all!

High quality, universally accessible post-secondary learning is necessary for a healthy and free society, and is easily affordable in cooperation between levels of government. Education has become entirely unaffordable for the vast majority of students, which has and will cause lasting damage to the long term economic and social wellbeing of everyone: whether they have received a post-secondary education or not.

All of us students are being faced with an impossible choice when entering school: Accept many 10's of thousands of dollars of crushing debt at unpayable interest rates for which we will never be able to repay, or accept insecure low wage jobs without any hope for housing or any economic security. It is not a choice we will accept making anymore. Free education, or we march!

APIRG will continue to support any and all student-led organizing to fight against tuition increases anywhere."

WORKING GROUPS

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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. Working Groups represent the diversity of our membership and often introduce people to the organization. Check out our website for more information on the groups listed below!

Black Pharmacy Students' Association

Working Group since Fall 2022
The Black Pharmacy Students' Association, was founded in October 2020 with the vision to increase Black representation and engagement in the pharmacy profession. Their mission is to provide a safe space for Black pharmacy students, empower them, and create a strong and extensive network. Specifically, to advocate for and support current and prospective Black pharmacy students.

Website: uabpsa.com/

Centre for Autism Students' Association

The Centre for Autism Students' Association strives to increase awareness and educate the student body and general public of Autism Spectrum Disorder by means of fundraising and volunteer support for the Centre for Autism Services Alberta. They also hope to provide opportunities for our general members to gain hands-on experience through volunteer work with children, teens, and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Website:
alberta.campuslabs.ca/engage/organization/cfasa

The Counternarrative

Working Group since Winter 2023

The Counternarrative is an intergenerational, multilingual and cultural magazine that publishes the creative work of racialized gender diverse people in the Canadian Prairies and rural communities. They strive to create a safe and accessible space to amplify marginalized artists in these communities by publishing their work on their own terms, both online and in our physical bi-annual issues. TCN is a means for folks to engage in information seeking, wisdom and resource sharing, and community building.

Edmontunes

Working Group since Winter 2023

Edmontunes is a club for fans of independent and underground music. They aim to provide a casual open space for post secondary students in Edmonton to share their passion for independent, experimental, and underground music outside of mainstream attention. They host regular meetings and events for members to discuss various relevant topics, connect with each other, and get involved in the local music scene.

website:

alberta.campuslabs.ca/engage/organization/edmontunes

Diversity in Engineering

Working Group since Fall 2022

Diversity in Engineering (DivE) are committed to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts in alignment with the University of Alberta's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Strategy, and their own Engineering at Alberta Vision and Strategic Direction. DivE seeks equity in access to engineering programs and employment opportunities to supports students with different backgrounds and genders.

Website: diversityineng.ca/

WORKING GROUPS

Clean Air Community Action Group

Working Group since Winter 2023

Clean Air Community Action Group exists to combat the unmitigated spread of SARS-Cov-2 by raising awareness and educating people about aerosol science, including how to build Corsi-Rosenthal (CR) boxes as DIY air purifying devices. We will teach community members how to customize their boxes so they are suitable for various environments, especially schools and universities, daycares, and workplaces. We will distribute the CR boxes to settings in Edmonton and surrounding areas at high risk of spread. We hope to help build a community more aware and equipped to reduce the spread of SARS-Cov-2.

Email: cleanaircommunityactiongroup@gmail.com

Edmonton Indigenous Poets Society

Working Group Winter 2020 - Winter 2021 and since Fall 2021

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.

Email: yeginindigenouspoets@gmail.com

WORKING GROUPS

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Edmonton Organic Growers Guild

Working Group from Winter 2010 - Winter 2019 and since Winter 2021
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.

Website: eogg.org

Email: edmontonorganic@gmail.com

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.

Website:

journals.library.ualberta.ca/eureka

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.

Instagram: [@fentanilproject](https://www.instagram.com/fentanilproject)

WORKING GROUPS

Gaywire on the Ground

Working Group since Fall 2022

Gaywire on the Ground was created to provide space by and for Mad/disabled queer and trans folk to create art and share support amongst community. They aim to provide a space with radical accessibility and kinship. This work is achieved by hosting in-person events, online events, resource sharing and accumulation, and throughword of mouth. Their work is guided by practices of Disability Justice and Mad Liberation, and they are constantly evolving our practices of organizing to become more sustainable.

Instagram: [@gaywirecjsr](https://www.instagram.com/gaywirecjsr)

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.

Email: level7@ualberta.ca

Palestine Solidarity Network

Working Group since 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.

Website: psnedmonton.ca

WORKING GROUPS

Root-Up

Working Group since Winter 2022

Root-Up is a youth-led organization whose vision is to foster an environment in Canada where cultures can flourish. They are committed to bringing cultures together and helping newcomers through events and initiatives in the community.

IG: [@rootupedmonton](#)



COVID Safety

APIRG programming and day-to-day operations have continued to evolve in response to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2022-2023 year, staff worked hybridly, with a combination of in-person and remote work. Our Board of Directors met monthly online, and we offered a mix of in-person and online programming and events. Our office remains a mask-friendly space.

FALL 2022 FUNDING RECIPIENTS

- **Addiction through an Indigenous Lens:** Screening and discussion of Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy
- **Beyond Consent:** An SFCC Speakers Series
- **Black History Month Gala**
- **BSA Period Equity Project**
- **Chakastaypasin James Cree First Nation**
- **Dasvandh/Drive**
- **Circe Issue 2 Launch event**
- **Compassion Bags for ER Patients**
- **Economics Alumni Panel**
- **Latin Film Festival**
- **Surviving the Canadian Dream:** Stories of Undocumented Families in Edmonton

**The Event/Project/
Research Funding line received 39
applications in 2022/2023 and funded 16
events, projects, and research initiatives
up to \$2000 each.**

WINTER 2023 FUNDING RECIPIENTS

- **Debby Oladimeji - Research Project:** The impact of accent on assessment of residents by physicians, nurses, and patients
- **Fit4Youth**
- **Keep Moving Podcast Series:** Pekiwewin
- **The Landing Queer Prom**
- **Mission SpaceWalker - Analogue Mission**
- **Voices of the Dead to the Living:** A Multimedia Zine of Women in the Margins

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.

In **March 2023** we ran a referendum campaign to reinstate our student fee and **were successful in securing our optional student fee for the next four years.**



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR FANTASTIC DEDICATED TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND APIRG STAFF WHO HELPED MAKE THIS WIN POSSIBLE!

2022/2023 Actuals and Budget	Budgeted 2022/2023	Actual 2022/2023	Budgeted 2023/2024
REVENUE	\$221,300.00	\$239,955.49	\$228,050.00
Student Fees	\$220,000.00	\$237,361.34	\$225,000.00
Events Revenue	\$1,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,700.00
Interest and Investments	\$200.00	\$1,851.45	\$1,200.00
Office/Retail	\$100.00	\$142.70	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$221,300.00	\$239,955.49	\$228,050.00
EXPENDITURES			
Board/ Volunteers	\$4,700.00	\$496.76	\$4,700.00
Bookkeeper	\$2,500.00	\$2,665.92	\$2,500.00
Direct Grants	\$52,500.00	\$35,366.62	\$52,500.00
Insurance	\$2,534.00	\$2,723.00	\$3,000.00
Library	\$1,000.00	\$138.13	\$1,000.00
Office	\$7,900.00	\$5,116.57	\$12,950.00

EXPENDITURES

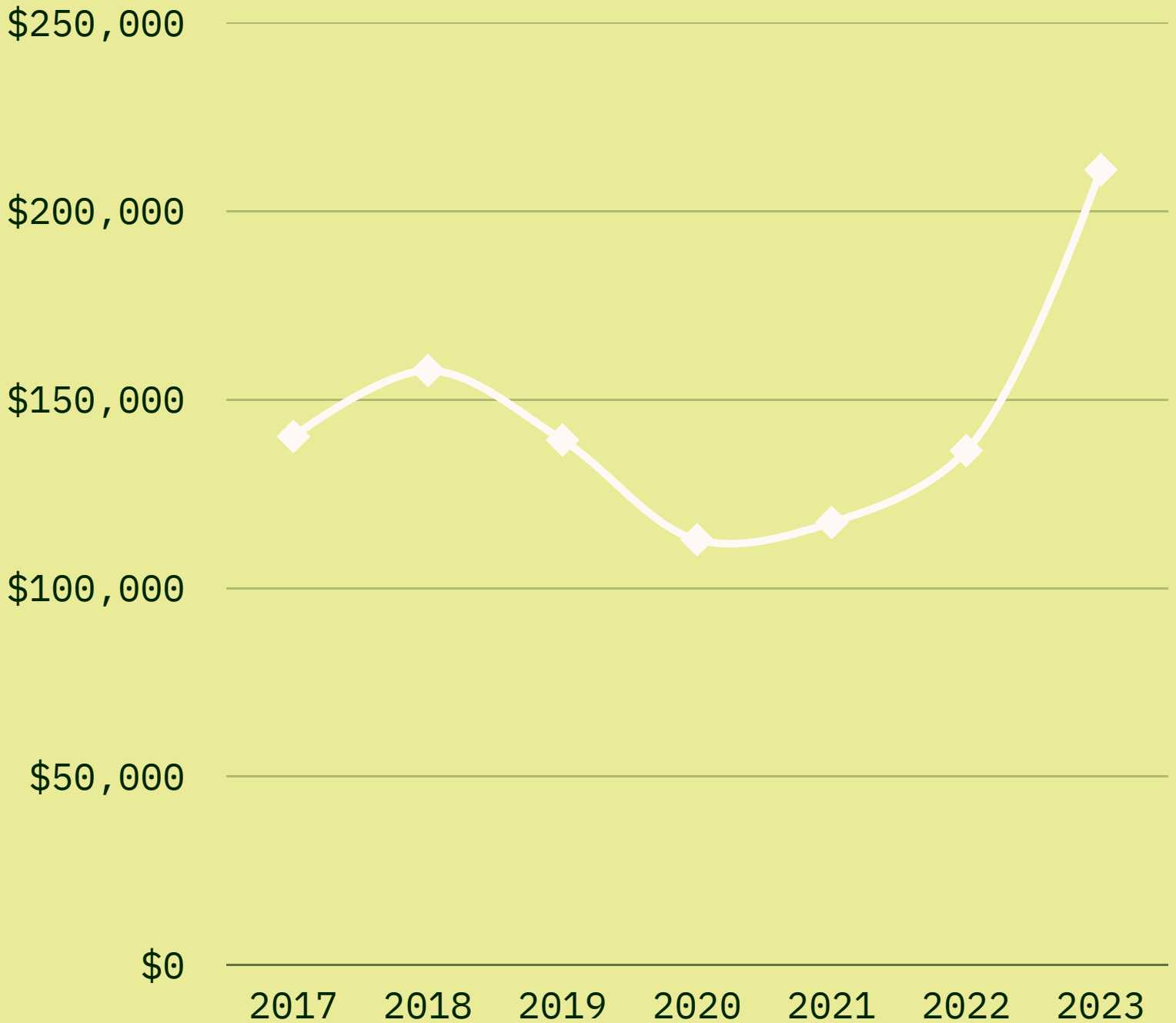
Audit	\$6,510.00	\$5,570.00	\$7,500.00
Programming	\$9,500.00	\$7,738.93	\$7,500.00
Outreach	\$10,900.00	\$1,258.24	\$4,000.00
Rent/ Utilities	\$14,266.00	\$13,359.71	\$14,266.00
communications	\$4,200.00	\$4,915.22	\$4,450.00
Staff	\$131,199.60	\$117,111.51	\$186,152.27
Total	\$247,709.60	\$196,460.61	\$300,518.27

SUMMARY

Revenue	\$221,300.00	\$239,955.49	\$228,050.00
Less Expenses	\$247,709.60	\$196,460.61	\$300,518.27
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	\$ (26,409.60)	\$ 43,494.88	\$ (72,468.27)

FINANCIALS -

End of Year Cash



FINANCIALS

17

2022
\$

2023
\$

ASSETS

Cash	150,803	205,658
Accounts Recievable	27,119	15,570
Prepaid Expenses	1,456	1,544
	179,378	222,772

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued liabilities	9,536	5,925
Source Deductions payable	2,572	5,854
	12,108	11,779

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	136,473	210,993
Internally Restricted	30,797	--- **
	167,270	210,993
	179,378	222,772

**** Going forward grant recipients will need to use their funds within 1 calendar year of funding approval**