

RESEARCH EDUCATION

**ACTION
EVERY DAY**



OPIRG Carleton
ontario public interest research group // action for social change
Over 30 Years of Student Activism



opirgcarleton.org

Annual Report & Financial Statements

September 2013 to August 2014

Presented at Annual General Meeting
April 1st 2015

- Unceded Algonquin Territory –

WWW.OPIRGCARLETON.ORG

Anti-Oppression

Consensus-Based Decision Making

Inclusive Space to Build Community on Campus

Indigenous Solidarity & Decolonization

Colloquium Speaker Series

Diversity

Skills Development & Training

Working Groups

Tools for Change Workshops

Accountability & Transparency

Practicum Student Placements

Sustainability

About Us

OPIRG-Carleton is a campus-based not-for-profit organization that works to create and sustain student and community-based engagement through research, education, and action on social justice and environmental issues.



OPIRG-Carleton uses an anti-oppression framework, consensus-based decision making processes, operates in a non-hierarchical setting, and supports multiple working groups struggling for social change.

OPIRG-Carleton was founded in 1980 after a lecture at Carleton by consumer advocate Ralph Nader. The following year the majority of students voted in a referendum in favour of placing a small levy on their student fees to support OPIRG.

In 1991, Carleton students again voted in support of OPIRG, agreeing to raise the amount of the levy to \$6.30 for full-time students and \$2.10/credit for part-time undergraduates and \$1.26 for part-time graduates.



In 2009, students voted yet again in favour of OPIRG and other campus groups to set the levy fee according to the consumer price index.

Graduate students voted to increase their fees to OPIRG-Carleton in 2010. The 2011-2012 full-time per semester levies were \$3.32 for full-time undergrads and \$3.34 for full-time grad students.

With this levy, all students at Carleton University are members of OPIRG. While the fee is classified as non-refundable, OPIRG-Carleton continues to offer refunds to students who object to the organization.

Over the years, OPIRG-Carleton has provided students a dynamic place to apply their knowledge, passions and energy to address issues of public concern, while benefiting from training, support, and real opportunities that build leadership skills and empower students to become active.



OPIRG-Carleton's office – 326 UniCentre

Year in Brief – Organizational Developments

In 2013-2014 OPIRG Carleton continued its commitment to research, education and action on social justice, environment and economic issues.

The year featured regular programming such as radical frosh, regular information fairs in the atrium and colloquium speakers.

The organization continued to offer space and resources to student and community groups.

Both permanent coordinators, Andy and Angela, welcomed new members to their families and took parental leaves. Yafa and Emma continued their excellent work contributing to the thriving hub that is OPIRG-Carleton. They will be missed and are remembered fondly for their skills, organizing abilities and general awesomeness.

The organization faced a challenge when its fees were not released by CUSA but after seeking assistance from a lawyer the situation was quickly remedied. It also provided OPIRG-Carleton a chance to highlight its excellent fiscal practices .



OPIRG-Carleton Financial Statements

(For Year Ended August 31, 2014)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2014

REVENUE

Student fees	180,390
Other	190
TOTAL	180,580

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits	119,789
Rent	14,825
Programs	18,936
Office expenses	2,679
Provincial dues	3,411
Insurance	1,647
Photocopy expenses	3,960
Advertising and promotion	2,411
Donations and bursaries	3,998
Telecommunications	1,269
Professional fees	8,734
Interest, service charges and penalties	1,779
Amortization of capital assets	798
Loss on disposal of capital assets	276
TOTAL	184,512

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (\$3,932)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OPIRG-Carleton is governed by a volunteer, non-hierarchical Board of Directors and that makes decisions by consensus. Directors are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and generally sit for one two-year.

The OPIRG Board of Directors is comprised of 5-9 individuals with 2/3 of the members being Carleton University students. The role of the Board is to support OPIRG's projects and programming, as well as to govern the direction, vision, and growth of the organization.

September 1, 2013 – March 26 2014

Sam Heaton, Francella Fiallos, Gabrielle Castilloux, Taylor Eby, Benjamin Daiz, Zoe George, Adam Carroll, Sean Smith

March 26 2014 – August 31, 2012

Sam Heaton, Sean Smith, Surya Sarkat-Huot, Samiha Rayeda, Gabrielle Castilloux, Francella Fiallos, Mariam al-Naser, Caleb DeWitt



Board member Benjamin Diab at the September 2013 Info Fair

STAFF

Staff Members:

Andy Crosby (interim Financial Organization Development Coordinator/Volunteer, Outreach, Programming Coordinator) (partial parental leave September 2013-2014)

Emma Slaney Gose - Assistant Coordinator (Term Contract August 2013 -2014)

Yafa Jarrar - Volunteer, Outreach and Programming Coordinator (Term Contract)

Angela Mooney (Financial Organizational Development Coordinator)(parental leave from June 2013-2014)

Rabita Sharfuddin - Summer Volunteer, Outreach and Programming Coordinator
Board Members:

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are involved at all levels of OPIRG-Carleton, from Board Members, Working Group members, practicum/intern/co-op students, researchers, general volunteers and supporters, and more!

OPIRG volunteers make the office, campus and community a better place to be with their commitment to justice and work toward equality.

MUCH THANKS TO YOU ALL!



EVENTS, SPEAKERS, and PROGRAMMING

OPIRG PROJECTS

OPIRG-Carleton has a number of ongoing campus and community-oriented resources and services (Bursaries such as Terry Cottam Research, Radical Frosh, Free Store, Equipment loans, organizing and meeting space, supplies, and support to network and organize), student-led initiatives (eg. Working Groups, OPIRG Roots radio show; historically: Oxbow Park naturalization project, recycling, Garden Spot, anti-racism, etc.), educational initiatives (Colloquium Speaker Series, Tools for Change Workshop Series, Training, Resource Centre) and organizes and supports events on campus and in the community.

OPIRG BURSARIES

OPIRG-Carleton offered three bursaries in 2013-2014. The Terry Cottam Research Bursary, Undergraduate Research Bursary and Graduate Student Research Bursary provide \$500 each to a student whose research project falls within OPIRG's mandate of working on environmental, economic, or social justice issues. The bursaries were awarded in late March 2014.



The poster features a yellow background with the text "RESEARCH EDUCATION ACTION EVERY DAY" in large, bold, purple letters. Below the text is a purple silhouette of a person holding a megaphone. A small text box on the right side of the poster reads: "OPIRG Carleton is your campus portal to critical university engagement, radical community involvement, and active participation in movements for social, economic, and environmental justice. Through research and education we manifest action, every day." Below the yellow section is a purple section with the heading "RESEARCH BURSARIES" and the following text: "Every year, OPIRG Carleton provides a \$500 bursary to a Carleton University UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, GRADUATE STUDENT, & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT whose academic research or campus/community research project falls within our mandate of working on environmental, economic, or social justice issues. For more information on how to apply see: www.opirgcarleton.ca". At the bottom of the purple section is the OPIRG Carleton logo and the text "ontario public interest research group // action for social change".

RESEARCH BURSARIES

Every year, OPIRG Carleton provides a \$500 bursary to a Carleton University **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, GRADUATE STUDENT, & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT** whose academic research or campus/community research project falls within our mandate of working on environmental, economic, or social justice issues.

For more information on how to apply see:
www.opirgcarleton.ca

OPIRG Carleton
ontario public interest research group // action for social change

University Centre - RM 326 (up the stairs from Ziggy's Hair Studio)	Office Hours Mon - Thurs 10AM - 4PM	Phone (613) 520.2757	Facebook OPIRG Carleton
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ANNUAL PROGRAMMING

The OPIRG board and staff ensure annual programming rooted in OPIRG's mandate for research, education and action on social, environment and economic justice issues happens each year. To this end, there is an organizational commitment to providing core annual programming including the events described below.

➤ **Radical Frosh**

OPIRG-Carleton hosted radical frosh from Monday September 16th- 21st 2013. Aimed to provide students new to campus with an orientation to social justice and the OPIRG community, the week included workshops on *Tenant Rights*, *Access to Information*, *Permaculture Design*, *Pickling and Picketing* and *Hot, Safer, Sex*. Ottawa Cinema Politica screened : "Do the Math". There was delicious food provided by Food Not Bombs. The week closed with an open-mic, spoken word, raffle and social night. Involved

Radical Frosh
Sept. 16-20, 2013

MONDAY 2:30-4:30pm Tenant? Know Your Rights! Workshop (431 Tory)
5:30-8:30pm Families of Sisters in Spirit Event w/ Food by Food Not Bombs (133 Patterson)

TUESDAY 11:30am-1:30pm Leveller Workshop (326 UC)
2:30-4:30pm Digging Up Dirty Data: Using Freedom of Information Tools for Research (326 UC)
7-10pm "Do The Math" Film Screening w/ 350.org and Cinema Politica Carleton (280 UC)

WEDNESDAY All Day OPIRG Info Fair (Galleria)

THURSDAY 10am-1pm Introduction to Permaculture Design (GSA Lounge, 6th Floor UC)
2pm GSA Community Garden Tour (Meet in the GSA Lounge)
6:30-9pm Pickling and Picketing Panel w/ Carleton Food Collective (McNabb Community Centre)
7pm Permaculture Ottawa Meet and Greet (Mike's Place)

FRIDAY 2:30-4:30pm Hot Safer Sex for Everyone! w/ Venus Envy (431 Tory)
3pm Radical Bike Tour of Ottawa
8pm Spoken Word, Open Mic, Raffle & Social w/ GSA (Mike's Place)

opirg carleton
ontario public interest research group // action for social change

OPIRG Carleton 326 University Centre	Office Hours Mon-Thurs 10-4	Phone 613-520-2757	OPIRG Carleton
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groups and businesses included Families of Sisters in Spirit, the Leveller, Ottawa Cinema Politica, Sierra Youth Coalition, Carleton FOOD CLUB, Octopus Books, Mike's Place and Venus Envy. Much thanks to all the volunteers who supported the week!

➤ **Info Fairs**

On September 18th, October 15th, November 27th 2013 and January 9th 2015 OPIRG Carleton hosted Info Fairs in the Atrium at Carleton University. Info Fairs feature information and resources about OPIRG, working groups, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events.



➤ **Colloquiums**

OPIRG-Carleton host two colloquiums annually in both the fall and winter terms. This year's colloquiums featured Sunny Drake performing Transgender Seeking... in November 2013 and spoken word poet Andrea Gibson in March 2014.



Sunny Drake November 2013

OPIRG-Carleton hosted Sunny for a performance of *Transgender Seeking...* and a workshop about trans* identities, strengths, challenges and allyship.

About ***Transgender Seeking...***

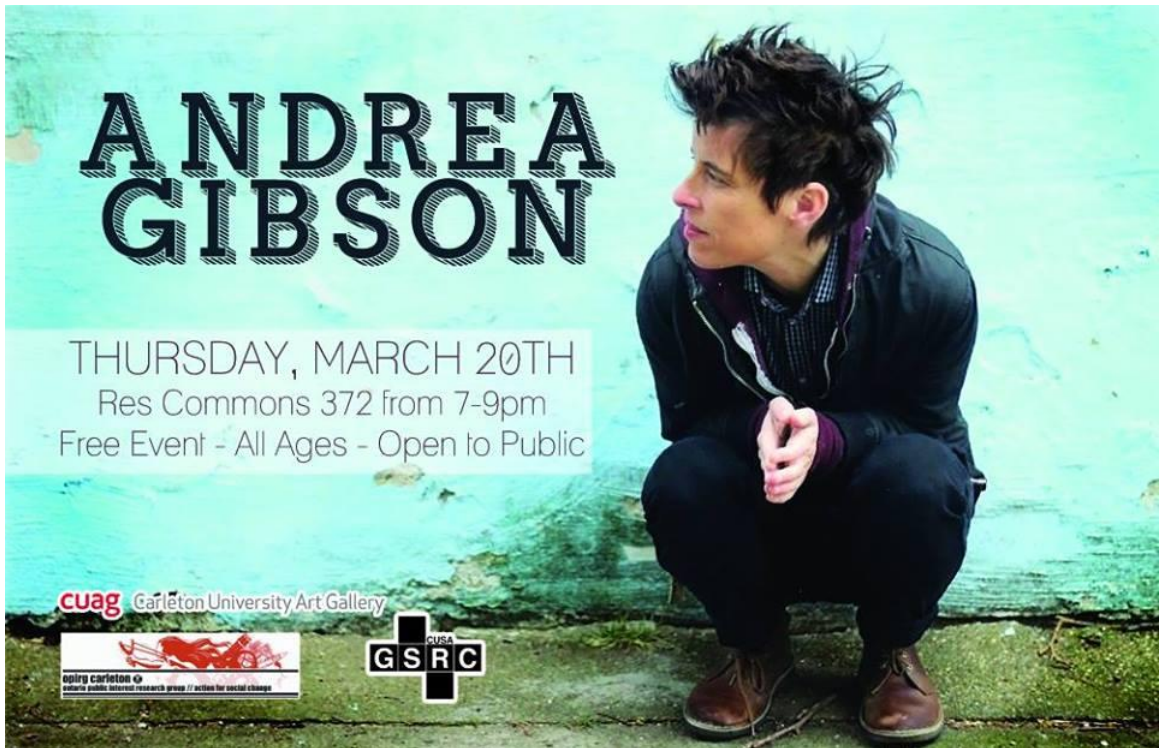
Jimmy is trying to quit romance, cold turkey. An exposing, funny and tender look at queer and trans relationships including run-ins with the anti-monogamy police, online dating mishaps and figuring out whether to throw out or reinvent mainstream relationship ideals. This smart, fast-paced take on dating in an age of social media and technology features visually stunning, highly interactive projections and sound.

About Sunny Drake // Educator// Facilitator// Theatre Artist// Workshop Facilitator and Educator:

Performance & theatre // 36 years in the making, queer & trans theatre maker & educator Sunny Drake is a complex piece of art. He lives his creative escapades, is usually in the middle of an art in life experiment.

Sunny is largely self-taught and has created his own unique style of multi-genre theatre, which he has been evolving since he was a teenage girl. Sunny has performed in theatres, festivals, living-rooms, streets, work places, deserts, schools, universities, basements, backyards & conferences in Australia, the USA & Canada. Sunny has performed in numerous festivals including the San Francisco International Arts Festival (2010), the USA National Queer Arts Festival (2008/10/12), NACL Festival (New York 2010), Mardi Gras (Sydney 2009/10), Gasworks Arts Park (Melbourne 2009/10), Brisbane Festival's UNDER THE RADAR (2009), Feast (Adelaide 2009/10), Metro Arts Independents (2012), Pride Toronto (2013) and SummerWorks (2013).

Sunny has facilitated over 280 workshops in the past 15 years including LGBTIQ training, creative workshops, practical political workshops, community engagement, professional development for project workers & artists. Participants have included people of diverse age, gender, cultural, sexuality, disability and class backgrounds; educational institutions (universities, high schools...), artists, young people, collectives, service providers & government in both urban & rural contexts.



OPIRG Carleton proudly hosted acclaimed spoken word poet ANDREA GIBSON in March 2014 for the winter colloquium. The event was cosponsored by CUSA Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre, and Carleton University Art Gallery.

About Andrea Gibson:

Andrea Gibson is not gentle with her truths. It is this raw fearlessness that has led her to the forefront of the spoken word movement – the first winner of the Women’s World Poetry Slam – Gibson has headlined prestigious performance venues coast to coast with powerful readings on war, class, gender, bullying, white privilege, sexuality, love, and spirituality.

Her work has been featured on the BBC, Air America, C-SPAN, Free Speech TV and in 2010 was read by a state representative in lieu of morning prayer at the Utah State Legislature.

Now, on her fifth full-length album FLOWER BOY and her second book THE MADNESS VASE, Gibson’s poems continue to be a rally cry for action and a welcome mat at the door of the heart’s most compassionate room.

Panic Button Collector: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6ZvYtIA98E>

A Letter To My Dog (live at The Crocodile):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW1R1T7tOPQ>

<http://www.andreagibson.org/>

“Gibson is among the nation’s most admired and emulated poets. Her verse is at once personal and political, feminist and universal, filled with incinerating verbs and metaphor, and delivered with gut punching urgency.”

— Metaphor Media

“Andrea Gibson’s work is at once deeply haunting and profoundly inspiring. Her words cut so sharply and completely they cannot be shaken.

To call her one of the best poets is a gross understatement. She is a rare artist who forever changes those who experience her poems.”

— Carlos Andrés Gómez, author/actor

➤ **Tools for Change Training**

OPIRG-Carleton is committed to providing training to its members, volunteers, staff and the community on consensus, anti-oppression and other skills-based trainings that contribute to strong, healthy and just movements for progressive change built on relationships of consent, respect and equality.

This year's trainings included workshops on decolonization, consensus decision-making, anti-oppression, and Sunny Drakes' workshop about trans* identities, strengths, challenges and allyship.

OTHER PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to OPIRG's annual programming the board and staff also organize and support additional programming each year based on the needs and interests of volunteers, working groups and the social justice community. Check out some of the 2013-2014 highlights below!

Memory Zine Launch and Volunteer Appreciation Party





On January 22nd 2014 OPIRG-Carleton invited past and current members & volunteers to celebrate 33 years of OPIRG Carleton's Social and Environmental Justice work!



The event featured free copies of the OPIRG-Carleton memory project. Snacks, laughs, stories and OPIRG trivia were shared among attendees.



The Memory Project Zine highlights some key points from OPIRG-Carleton's time on campus since the early 80s. It was made possible through the support of staff and volunteers but mostly through the research and writing efforts of then placement student, Emma Slaney Gose. Special thanks to Yafa and Emma for their organizing efforts and board member Ben for mc'ing the evening.



Students Against Migrant Exploitation (S.A.M.E) Tour at Carleton

OPIRG-Carleton brought the S.A.M.E. Tour 2014 to Carleton on Friday March 14 2014. The event featured a one hour presentation highlighting the plight of migrant workers in Canada, their fight for rights, and how students can make a difference.

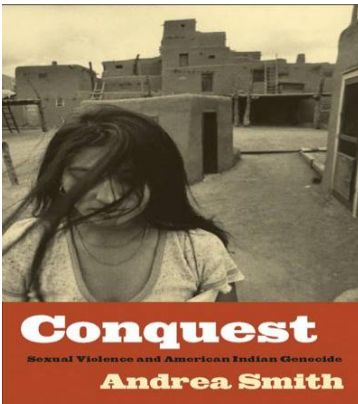
Information about SAME Students Against Migrant Exploitation

<http://www.thesame.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/samegroup>

CO-SPONSORSHIPS

ANDREA SMITH in Ottawa: Indigenous Feminists are Too Sexy for Your Heteropatriarchal Setter Colonialism!



Andrea Smith is a co-founder of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence and the Boarding School Healing Coalition. She is the author of *Conquest* and editor of *Revolution Will Not Be Funded*. Octopus Books, *Families of Sisters in Spirit* and OPIRG-Carleton hosted Andrea Smith in September 2013 at 251 community space.

David Rovics

On Saturday October 12 2013 Ottawa Cuba Connection hosted performer David Rovics for a concert in memory of Marvin Gladd who taught within the philosophy department at Carleton for 40 years. Marvin passed away in May 2013. The concert was also in support of the Ottawa Cuba Connection's Che Guevara Brigade and Solidarity Syria. OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored the concert in the amount of \$100.00 (sept minutes).

Movement for Justice in El Barrio

Movement for Justice in El Barrio is a self-described as “part of the simple and humble community that lives in El Barrio”. An immigrant-led, grassroots organization- it fights against neoliberal displacement in East Harlem and beyond. Members fight for dignity and against displacement, for the liberation of women, immigrants, gays, lesbians, the transgender community, people of color, and indigenous communities. On November 27th 2013 the group came to Ottawa to share their experiences and engage with the community here. OPIRG-Ottawa hosted the group with the support of a \$100 contribution from OPIRG-Carleton. Movement for Justice in El Barrio operates on a commitment to self-determination, autonomy, and participatory democracy. For more information about the group visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movement_for_Justice_in_el_Barrio

Nappy Loves Curls and Moisture

Nappy Loves Curls and Moisture is a conversation about self-care and natural hair, a celebration of self-defined beauty. The event organized by Be More Academy took place on February 23rd 2014. There were workshops for all types of textures and a natural hair journey that follows, one for children and one for adults. The event was mainly geared toward Black people, people of colour who choose not to chemically alter their hair patterns. It was an event focused on self-care, feeling good in one's skin and creating a positive environment for personal growth and community building. OPIRG co-sponsored the event with a \$50.00 contribution (Oct 17th 2013 minutes).

Hidden Bruises: HIV and Violence in the Caribbean

In March 2014, OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored the an event in support of a documentary film and project aimed to provide a face for Caribbean persons who are survivors of HIV&AIDS and Violence.

Hidden Bruises seeks to promote discussion, engagement and awareness about the intersections that exist between HIV and Violence with specific emphasis on

the inadequate systems, practices and policies that further hinder the fight to end HIV&AIDS and Violence in the Caribbean region.

For more information see: <https://www.facebook.com/hiddenbruises>

Movie Screening and Fund Raiser for the Algonquins of Barriere Lake

On April 22 2014 the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa with Diffusion Multi-Monde screened Honour Your Word. The documentary provided an intimate portrait of life behind the barricades for the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, an inspiring First Nation whose dignity and courage contrast sharply with the political injustice they face.

Barriere Lake community members including Norm Matchewan and Elder Michel Thusky, and filmmaker Martha Stiegman (via Skype) partook in the evening. OPIRG-Carleton joined Mining Watch Canada and OPIRG Ottawa in co-sponsoring the event.

Solidarity Against Austerity - May Day Mobilization

Solidarity Against Austerity (SAA) is a broad-based coalition of students, workers, environmental, anti-poverty and anti-war activists based in Ottawa. The group held a general assembly around the time of May Day. OPIRG Carleton co-sponsored the events, providing \$250.00.

The group advanced four demands for May Day 2014 including:

- ✓ Saving the Postal Service (and door to door mail delivery);
- ✓ Opposing the Energy East pipeline;
- ✓ Fighting for a \$14 minimum wage; and,
- ✓ Free post-secondary education

Mathere Radio Project

Mathare Radio was created to provide ongoing information to and about Kenya's Mathare region. Mathare is the name of a valley and a township located just outside the centre of Kenya's capital, Nairobi. It is what the media, government, churches, non-governmental organizations and residents themselves often refer

to as a slum. Mathare Radio spotlights Mathare's hidden challenges and broaden local and international understandings of the socio-economic and political issues that impact our lives and those of the oppressed worldwide. In June 2014 OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored audio and visual video material for the Mathare Radio website. You can learn more about the project at: <http://mathareradio.org/>

Iftar Meal

In July 2014 OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored an Iftar meal along with the Graduate Students Association.

Resisting Carceral NationStates: The Fifteenth International Conference on Penal Abolition- June 13th-15th 2014

Carceral nation states across the world know no bounds as they work to sustain economic, gender, sexual and racial inequality. In the Canadian context, the carceral nation state has used exclusionary practices in a stated effort to keep 'us' safe from 'them' – the 'criminals', Indigenous peoples 'in need of civilizing' and 'assimilation', 'problem' drug users, 'bogus' refugee claimants, 'threats' to national security, political 'dissidents', and other dehumanized and demonized populations.

People currently or formerly imprisoned, victims of state and personal harm, activists, advocates, artists, academics, journalists, professionals, along with others from around the world came together for ICOPA 15 on Algonquin Territory at the University of Ottawa. During this international conference participants: 1) shared their first-hand experiences of state brutality and tactics of resistance; 2) exchanged ideas on how to think about and respond to complex community issues that are often met with costly, unproductive, unjust, and violent interventions; and 3) built international alliances and developed strategies to struggle against state repression and work towards peace and social justice in our world.

The conference featured art, film, music, photography, plays, poetry, short stories, spiritual and healing activities, essays, papers, reports, workshops,

debates on proposals for ICOPA policy positions and resolutions, and everything in between.

OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored ICOPA in the amount of \$500.

DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS & SUPPORT

- BriarPatch Magazine
- Indigenous Adoptee Gathering
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- CKCU 93.1 FM
- Families of Sisters in Spirit
- People's Social Forum
- Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Network Ottawa

A note on IPSMO...

While in 2013 IPSMO didn't renew its working group status for the 2013-2014 academic year due to strained capacity at the time of renewal, the group remained active and connected to the OPIRG-Carleton community. Members of the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement–Ottawa (IPSMO) gave several workshops on Indigenous Solidarity for Settlers. These workshops engaged participants to recognize their status (and responsibilities) as settlers, and the illegitimacy of the Canadian state so long as it refuses to recognize indigenous sovereignty. At the Peoples Social Forum in August, IPSMO was an anchor group for the Indigenous Solidarity Assembly. Speakers included Clifton Nicholas, Lynn Gehl, activists from the Unist'ot'en Camp, and Algonquin land defenders. IPSMO held its annual 'Celebrating the Defense of Mother Earth' event on April 22. A fundraiser for the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, it featured speakers from the community and a screening of 'Honour Your Word', a documentary about the community. On June 19, IPSMO's community event 'Indigenous Resistance and Solidarity: Against Pipelines, For The Land' included a screening of 'RESIST: The Unist'ot'en's Call To The Land' and other short films on land



defense and allyship. On May 28, in solidarity with Idle No More, IPSMO hosted a 'Decolonize & Anti Oppression Workshop' facilitated by Tami Starlight. In October, IPMSO helped to organize 'Decolonizing Together: an Indigenous Walking Tour, Solidarity Assembly & Asinabka Festival Film Screening'. In recent months IPSMO has also worked to raise awareness of Grandfather William Commanda's vision for the Sacred Cha udière Site, which has been re-zoned by the City of Ottawa to allow condominium/commercial development on the island.

CAMPUS UNITED

A group comprised of representatives groups that make up the university, from workers, to students, to organizations and unions. This group meets as needed to address campus wide issues such as contract negotiations, tuition fees, campus safety, and the Carleton Administration.

OPIRG PROVINCIAL

OPIRG-Carleton is a member of Ontario PIRG. OPIRG Provincial is comprised of eleven autonomous, non-profit, university student-funded and directed organizations that conduct research, education, and action on social and environmental justice issues. <http://www.opirg.org/>

WORKING GROUPS

Working groups are collectives - groups of people who voluntarily agree to work together on a common issue towards a common goal while sharing responsibilities and decisions equally. Together with our volunteers, PIRG working groups are the heart of our organization. Working groups with OPIRG are provided access to the office and office resources, a small budget and training.

2013-2014

- Access to Information
- Books 2 Prisoners
- Cinema Politica Carleton
- Student Action Movement
- The Leveller



- Families of Sisters in Spirit
- No One Is Illegal
- Justice for Deepan
- Roots Radio
- Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA)

Working Group Descriptions and Highlights

Access to Information

In recent years, ATI has published several academic and media publications resulting from ATI/FOI requests. These publications have appeared in *Policing and Society*, *Security Dialogue*, *Current Sociology*, *Punishment and Society*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Crime and Criminal Justice*, *The Dominion*, *The Leveller*. News coverage of our research has been aired on CBC's *As It Happens*, the *Globe and Mail*, *CTV*, and *APTN*.



Our publications have focussed on Canadian security and policing institutions and their suppression of domestic social movements – most recently surrounding the “Green Scare.” Our recent work has revealed the nature of the Canadian security apparatus targeting environmental activists, featured in the *Globe and Mail*: “Environmental extremism a rising threat to energy sector, RCMP warn” and in the *Vancouver Observer*: “Canada more at risk from environmentalists than religiously inspired terrorists: RCMP.” Over the past year we have been working on a couple of big projects that will change the course of history.

Contact: ati.carleton@gmail.com

Books to Prisoners



Books 2 Prisoners

The Books to Prisoners Project was initiated by OPIRG-Carleton members who were inspired by the prison activism of other PIRGs, especially those in Montreal. Our aim is to use Ottawa community resources - namely, books - and deliver the donations to prisoners who have requested reading materials. This project ties together research regarding prison regulations, programming, and accessibility; education of the public about these conditions; and action, in the form of getting books to the prisoners. It is a great way to get involved in Ottawa's activist community.

Highlights

Books 2 Prisoners Ottawa was unsuccessful -again again- at smashing down and chewing up the industrial prison complex that seems to plague us. We are like a Cold War, that is neither cold, nor a war, but more closely associated with the common cold: biting, annoying, working hard to keep those fragile bodies in the bureaucracy at CSC from performing their violent day to day functions. We held our annual book sale and a book launch for David Gilbert's *Love and Struggle*. We used the money to send books to friends, some we know and some we've never met, held captive on the inside.

REMEMBER FRIENDS: The only vehicle for prison reform...a bulldozer.

B2P has spent this past year, as every year 1) responding to mail requests for reading materials, and legal materials (from U.S. and Canadian prisoners), 2) participating in various coalitions or networks that organize around prisoner justice, opposing recent trends that emphasize punitiveness and imprisonment, particularly the federal government's tough on crime agenda, 3) working with other groups to organize and participate in Prisoner Justice Day events in August.

Contact: books2prisoners@hotmail.com

Cinema Politica

Cinema Politica aims to educate, enlighten and inspire individuals using progressive documentary films that cover a wide variety of social, political and environmental themes.

We are committed to raising awareness about pressing contemporary issues, inspiring activism in relation to these issues, and promoting independent media and political arts. In addition to screening a range of films, we also invite guest speakers to complement screenings while answering questions and facilitating discussions. The Cinema Politica network now boasts over 40 chapters across Canada and is the largest grassroots documentary film series in the country.

Contact: carleton@cinemapolitica.org



Critical Social Research Collaborative

The Critical Social Research Collaborative (CSRC) is an interdisciplinary research group made up of faculty, graduate students, organized labour and community activists based at Carleton

University. With an emphasis on social justice, grassroots organizing & labour solidarity, we encourage the sharing of collective knowledge, critical debate and interdisciplinary inquiry, which advance or challenge to theoretical and contemporary issues. The CSRC encourages non-traditional, provocative and radical analyses that may not find a forum in conventional academic or mainstream venues. We aim to provide a forum for collaborative social research through conferences and workshops, publications and podcasts, critical cinema and radical scholarship, which enhance and promote progressive political interventions. Contact: csrcproject@live.ca



No One is Illegal Ottawa

No One is Illegal Ottawa is a group of im/migrants and allies guided by anti-oppression principles that advocates and fights for the dignity and self-determination of all im/migrants regardless of status.

In 2013-2014 we kicked off the Solidarity City campaign to ensure that city and social services in the city are open to all migrants regardless of status. We launched the End Immigration Detention (EIDN) campaign in Ottawa to support the activities of the broader national campaign. The EIDN campaign aims to educate the public around migrant detention and to seek an end to the indefinite detention of migrant families and children.



no one is illegal - ottawa (re)launch & conference

BUILDING MOVEMENT
NOVEMBER 1 - 2 2013

In November, we hosted 'Building Movement'. The two-day conference had two key goals: to enhance community knowledge and engagement on migrant justice; and to strengthen community partnerships between activists, academics, immigrants, and service providers in the city.

In June, we collaborated with migrant justice organizers to support actions and panels on migrant detention for the ICOPA conference, and in August we participated in the migration movement assembly during the People's Social Forum, in Ottawa. We hope to continue our direct action, campaign organizing, and support work in the next year. Come join us!

contact: noiottawa@gmail.com

Website: leveller.ca

Facebook: The Leveller: Campus • Community • Culture

Twitter: @leveller_ottawa

Email: operations.the.leveller@gmail.com

The *Leveller* is a publication covering news, current events, and culture in the Ottawa/Gatineau region and, to a lesser extent, the wider world. It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of their campus and community and of the events that give it meaning. It is also intended to be a forum for provocative editorializing and lively debate on issues of concern to post-secondary students, staff, and faculty as well as Ottawa residents.


During the 2013-14 academic year, the *Leveller* published six hard-hitting issues comprising Volume 6. February marked the 5th anniversary of the newspaper, which continues to expand its readership and reach throughout the city. We also continue to diversify and work hard to build the French language section of the newspaper.

Justice for Deepan!

HOW SECURE IS CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP?

While his parents and younger brother are Canadian citizens, Deepan lives an anguished life in a stateless limbo, without access to basic health and social services.


Deepan Budlakoti was born and raised in Ottawa. In his youth, he was issued several passports which identified him as a Canadian citizen. The Harper government has revoked his citizenship and is determined to deport him to India. But India won't issue him travel documents, considering him a Canadian citizen. India's High Commissioner confirmed Deepan's Canadian birth.



Join the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Amnesty International, the Council of Canadians, the Canadian Labour Congress, CUPW, CUPE, and many others, in Deepan's struggle to regain his citizenship and remain with friends and family in his native Canada.

Deepan's case sets a precedent in the context of recently passed Bill C-24, which reforms the *Citizen Act*. Migrants and people of color have been and will continue to be targeted by racist and neo-colonial immigration laws and citizenship reforms.

Deepan studied at Laurentian University in the Law and Justice program, focusing on Human Rights and has extensive training and accreditation in worker safety. He is involved in the local activist community, working on his own case and that of others who are affected by the present government's repressive policies.



SCAN TO GO DIRECTLY TO JusticeForDeepan.org

To see the complete list of Deepan's supporters and to find out more, go to: JusticeForDeepan.org

Justice for Deepan

justicefordeepan.org

As an OPIRG- Carleton Working Group, Justice For Deepan continues to support Deepan Budlakoti in his fight to stop his deportation, to have his conditions dropped and to have his Canadian citizenship restored. In 2013-2014, Justice For Deepan accomplished a great deal through our organizing efforts. We have developed a website through which we encourage

individuals and organizations to sign a public support statement, and where we post upcoming events, actions and other relevant news. We maintain a social media presence through Facebook, Twitter as well as a YouTube channel. Justice For Deepan has organized direct actions through which we have sought to demand meaningful action and accountability from various MP's, who in their positions of power can intervene in his case, despite their frequent claims to the contrary. We have organized numerous public education and awareness events about Deepan's case, situating his experience within a larger context of double punishment, systemic racism, criminalization and incarceration – this has included a multi-city tour in January 2014 in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. With Justice For Deepan's legal team, we have achieved legal and other victories that have direct implications for Deepan's daily life (some of his Immigration and Refugee Board-imposed conditions have been changed or dropped altogether, and Deepan has obtained a work permit and social insurance number. Throughout our work, we have consciously sought to make connections, to build links and solidarity with other social justice groups and movements in Ottawa and elsewhere, including migrant justice group No One Is Illegal.

The Justice for Deepan support committee was formed in July 2013 to support Deepan Budlakoti in his quest to have his citizenship restored. Justice For Deepan rejects the Canadian state's systematic, racist policy of 'double punishment' in which im/migrants, refugees and those without status are punished twice for the same thing.
www.justicefordeepan.org

OPIRG Roots Radio



OPIRG Roots Radio on CKCU 93.1 FM was launched in January 2013. OPIRG Roots Radio covers social justice issues on campus and in the larger community themed broadly along the activism that OPIRG's working groups are engaged in. The show airs every 2nd Tuesday during the noon hour slot. The overall goal is to engage with Carleton students and the broader community to not only inform of social justice initiatives, but to create dialogue and get people actively engaged in movements for social, environmental, and economic justice.

Contact: opirgonckcu@gmail.com

Online: <https://www.facebook.com/OPIRGRootsRadio>

Students Against Israeli Apartheid-Carleton

SAIA supports the July 2005 call from over 170 Palestinian organizations for a global campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law. We believe that justice will not be achieved without equal rights for everyone in the area of historic Palestine, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality.



SAIA's website – <http://www.carleton.saia.ca/> – contains information on, among other things, the academic boycott and the Carleton administration's attempted repression of anti-apartheid activists.

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) March 3rd-7th 2014

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an annual international series of events (including rallies, lectures, cultural performances, film screenings, multimedia displays and boycott of Israel actions) held in cities and campuses across the globe. Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an annual international series of events (including rallies, lectures, cultural performances, film screenings, multimedia displays and boycott of Israel actions) held in cities and campuses across the globe. This year's IAW consisted of the panel Discussion: "Arab Spring, Apartheid Falls? The Egyptian Uprising and Possibilities for Palestinian Resistance," featuring Deena Gamil (a journalist, writer, revolutionary socialist activist and leading figure and a founding member of the Socialist Popular Alliance Party, the largest leftist party in Egypt) and Mostafa Henaway (a Canadian-born Egyptian based in Montreal organizing with the Immigrant Workers Centre). He is active with Tadamon! Montreal which works in solidarity with struggles for self-determination, equality, and justice in the Middle East and an end to Israeli Apartheid. Henaway also recently co-authored *A People's History of the Egyptian Revolution* with Rami El-Amine.

Contact: saia.carleton@gmail.com





ADDRESS:

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Carleton
326 UniCentre, Carleton University
1125 Colonel By Drive,
Ottawa Ontario, K1S 5B6
Unceded Algonquin Territory

PHONE: (613) 520-2757

EMAIL: opirg@carleton.ca

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2261598026>

TWITTER: @OPIRGCarleton

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST: <http://opirgcarleton.org/contact/>

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WWW.OPIRGCARLETON.ORG