

## **Table of Contents**

About Us	2
Year in Brief - Organizational Developments	4
Our Finances	6
Our Board of Directors	7
Our Staff and Volunteers	8
Our Bursaries and Co-Sponsorships	9
Annual Programming	10
Memberships in Other Orgs.	14
OPIRG Roots Radio	15
Working Groups	16
Thanks for Reading!	25

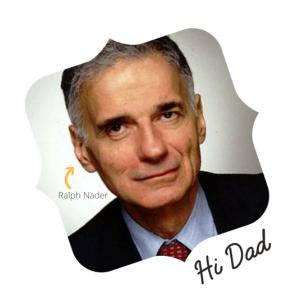
## **About Us**

OPIRG Carleton is a campus-based not-for- profit organization, working 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 that struggle for social change.

OPIRG Carleton was founded in 1980, after a lecture by consumer advocate Ralph Nader. In a referendum in the following year, the majority of Carleton students voted 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, \$2.10/credit for part-time undergraduates, and \$1.26 for part-time graduates.



In 2009, students once again voted in favour of OPIRG, among other campus groups, to set the levy fee in accordance with the consumer price index.

Graduate students voted to increase these fees in 2010. In the 2011-2012 term, levies reached \$3.32 per full full-time semester for undergraduates, and \$3.34 per full-time semester for graduates. With this levy, all students at Carleton University are automatically 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 with a dynamic environment in which to apply their knowledge, passions, and energy to address issues of public concern. Many have also benefited from the training and support that OPIRG offers, the real opportunities that build leadership skills and empower students to become socially active.



# **Year in Brief – Organizational Developments**

In 2018-2019, *OPIRG Carleton* continued its commitment to research, education, and action on social justice, environment, and economic issues.

In Summer of 2018, permanent staff Samiha Rayeda, Volunteer, Outreach and Programming Coordinator and Ashley Courchene. Administrative Coordinator resigned from their roles with OPIRG Carleton. Finance and Organizational Development Coordinator, Andy Crosby reduced his hours in light of him starting a PHD at the beginning of the school year. With these staffing changes and turnover came a hiring period for an Administrative Coordinator (AC) and a new Volunteer Outreach and Programming Coordinator (VOPC). In September of 2018, the OPIRG Carleton Board onboarded 2 new staff, Muna Mohamed as AC and Bradley Evoy as VOPC.

Additionally, this year, OPIRG Carleton welcomed 2 new placement students, Oliver and Michelle. As always, placement students have added unique and integral value to the organization and supported OPIRG Carleton in focusing on issues like disability justice.

In regards to Programming, The year featured several successful programs, such as Radical Frosh, Tools for Change and a variety of information fairs. OPIRG Carleton also turned its focus to Harm Reduction work this school year with a Harm Reduction and Naloxone 101 trainings as well as a naloxone kit station that was highly utilized by our membership.

In recent years, OPIRG employees staff have ensured that the organization has thrived and were pivotal in mobilizations to repel and overcome repeated challenges. This year, OPIRG Carleton has been hit

with a new challenge that will impact not only the work of OPIRG Carleton but the existence of critical and valuable student resources on campuses across Ontario.

#### **The Student Choice Initiative**

In February of 2019, the Ford Government announced series of measures that serve as a bureaucratic sledgehammer against the higher education sector. Unless successfully opposed, the Government plans to cut institutional funding and reduce non-repayable grants available under the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP).

At the same time, the Conservatives announced the so-called Student Choice Initiative.

With the uncertainty around the announcements impact on the future of OPIRG, our staff and board are in a place of planning and preparation in anticipation of the 2019-2020 school term. Aspects of that planning includes preparing advanced financial projections, reductions to staff hours, and strengthening our board presence in our day to day work.



## **Our Finances**

# ONTARIO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (OPIRG) CARLETON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AUGUST 31, 2018				5
		2018		2017
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash	\$	102,675	\$	59,887
Accounts receivable		29,710		14,782
Prepaid expenses		8,097		1,991
Term deposits, matured during the year		-		50,000
		140,482		126,660
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)		1,813		1,505
	\$	142,295	S	128,165
LIABILITY				
CURRENT LIABILITY				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	s	9,157	S	14,738
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted		46,138		26,427
Internal restriction - Special Operating Reserve (Note 4)		87,000		87,000
		133,138		113,427
	s	142,295	s	128,165

This is part of our audit by Marcil Lavallée available for review

## **Our Board of Directors**

OPIRG Carleton is governed by a volunteer, non-hierarchical Board of Directors and comes to decisions through consensus. Directors are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting and generally sit for one two-year term.

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 offer administrative support to OPIRG's projects and programming, as well as to maintain the vision of the organization, and to direct its growth.

## <u>OPIRG Carleton Board</u> Members 2018-2019

- Monib Abdul
- Zidane Mohamed
- Zainab Abdulhussein
- Sara Qureshi
- Fa'ttima Omran
- Nazneen Irshad
- Celeste Charlotte
- Ethan Brown



## **Our Staff and Volunteers**

#### **Current Staff**

- Bradley Evoy
   Volunteer, Outreach, and Programming Coordinator (Full-Time, permanent)
- Muna Mohamed
   Administrative Coordinator (Part-time, contract)
- Andy Crosby
   Finance and Organizational Development Coordinator (Full-Time, permanent)
- Oliver Debney and Michelle Macland-Hambleton Placement Students (Social Work)

#### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are involved at all levels of *OPIRG Carleton*, including 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 their work towards equality.



# **Our Bursaries and Co-Sponsorships**

## **Bursaries for 2018-19**

OPIRG Carleton offered five bursaries in 2018-2019: the Terry Cottam Research Bursary, the Undergraduate Research Bursary, the Indigenous Student Bursary, the International Student Bursary and a new bursary this year: the Name Change Bursary. Research bursaries each provide \$500 to a student whose research project falls within OPIRG's mandate of working on environmental, economic, or social justice issues. The new Name Change bursary offers five 100\$ bursaries to cover the cost of folks applying for a legal name change.

Bursary applications for the 2018-2019 term are currently undergoing review and we are excited to announce winners soon.

## Things We've Funded (or will be shortly) in 2018-19

- Herongate Youth Forum
- Peace in Yemen Fundraiser Dinner
- DIY Spring Festival
- Powershift Conference
- Upping the Anti Issue 20 Launch
- Ten Oaks Bowlarama
- Night of Queens 2019
- SPICE Arts Collective
- Survivors Speak
- Trans Day of Rememberence Vigil
- Free the Falls Panel

- From Tehran Streetstyle to the War on Terror: A Conversation on Gender, Feminism, Orientalism, White Supremacy, and Empire through Fashion
- Antifa the Comic Book Launch Event
- Various legal support requests, including for Michael Bueckert
- OurTurn Workshop
- Operation Education Gala

...and more!

# **Annual Programming**

OPIRG Carleton's board and staff are committed to provide annual programming that is rooted in OPIRG's mandate for research, education and action on social, environmental and economic justice issues.

## **Peer and Academic Support**

This year, OPIRG Carleton offered peer support drop in hours during studyPIRG and following. These hours were held to support students and connect them to resources on campus and in the city. We are pleased with the turnout of students this year and hope to continue hosting these hours in the future.



Need some tins in dealing with contribute to on how to work academic issues through the research inside and outside academic on academic the regular bureaucracy? policy? Academic advocacy with staff member Brad Evoy is here to offer knowledge to students dealing with the academic machine. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM 326, BACK OFFIC

also began to hold academic advocacy hours. This time was designed to assist students through academic issues they are faced with in the University, outside of the systems provided by the University (instead, helping folks navigate them). At this time, Academic Advocacy Tuesdays continues and will through studyPIRG.

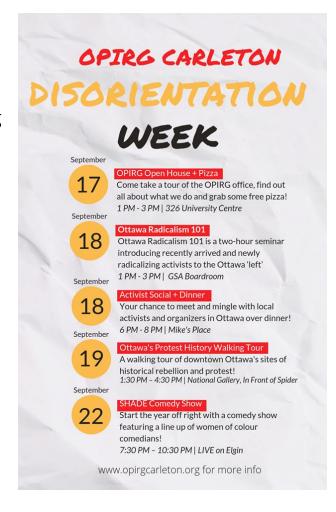
**Peer Support** 

#### **DisOrientation**

DisOrientation 2018 went incredibly well with an excellent open house and activist social-both well attended events-and a small but mighty walking tour and rad. org workshop. The SHADE Comedy Show was spectacular and set an excellent tone for closing out the week. We are unsure of what will come for DisOrientation 2019, but planning will begin soon.

### **Tools For Change**

In Fall 2018, the Tools for Change workshop series was held, but was overall lightly attended. With turnover and issues with Carleton's room booking system, the event series was not implemented in a fulsome way. That said, the events themselves that did move forward went well for those who did attend.





## **Harm Reduction Project**

Following our Naloxone Training in November 2018, staff and members began an ad-hoc harm reduction shelf that contains condoms, naloxone kits, and other related harm reduction supplies using existing OPIRG resources (an existing metal shelf) and supplies provided by the members of the former working group *ONPAHR: Ottawa Network of Peers Acting in Harm Reduction*. As of

January 2019, a more solidified committee formed as the *OPIRG Harm Reduction Collective* (HRC) to advance a mandate of harm reduction related activities and services across campus. Shortly after the forming of the committee, Carleton administration began harassing us with emails, calls, and bringing threats of campus police action. Their main issue concerned the hallway. Because OPIRG doesn't rent the hallway, the shelf would be subjected to countless and needless bureaucratic oversights. Without consultation, the harm reduction shelf was stolen by campus security. The collective is purchasing a new shelf and will continue to provide supplies. The goals for HRC are to continue offering harm reduction materials through the use of a new shelf and by utilizing time on Wednesday's OPIRG already has at UC.

### **Israeli Apartheid Week**

This year's Israeli Apartheid Week was focused on the theme of "Stop Arming Colonialism" and SAIA's events ranging from *Palestine to Turtle Island: Greenwashing Panel* to *Verses Versus Apartheid* were well attended and forged ahead the broader goals of supporting Palestinian liberation and sovereignty. Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an international series of events that seeks to raise awareness about Israel's apartheid regime over



the Palestinian people and build support for the growing Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. It now takes place in over 200 cities across the world, where events such as lectures, film screenings, direct action, cultural performances, postering, among many more help in grassroots organizing for effective solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle.

#### **Take Note!**

During the course of this year, OPIRG has been engaged in the *Take Note!* campaign which focused on accessibility services here at the University. We got quite a great deal of campus media attention for this work and our pressure has impacted the Paul Menton Centre, forcing some response to their weak



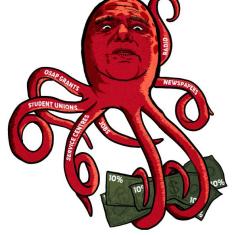
note-taking services. In the coming weeks, our survey final report and analysis of accessibility policy will be released for members to continue on the fight for an accessible campus.

#### **All Work Is Work**

Similarly to the above campaign, All Work is Work is a campaign focused on combating unpaid internships and placements at Carleton University. We have had success in providing research materials to student organizers and the public, while producing a report on the impacts of unpaid work upon students following our most recent survey on the matter. We hope that our continued efforts to provide research materials can further assist the development of student-led campaigns.

## **Taking On The Ford Government**

OPIRG members have been active in the fight against the Ford government from assisting the Ottawa Coalition Against Ford, working with the Ontario Student Action Network, and countless other groups and events throughout the year. We have, in particular, released a slew of



infographics and conducted sharp research on issues surrounding cuts to OSAP and the introduction of the Student Choice Initiative. Additionally, OPIRG Carleton led province wide developments on the Free Speech Directive which the Ford Government released in August to hamper protest and dissent rights on campuses in Ontario by helping shape OPIRG Network's wider position on the issue.

# Memberships in Other Orgs.

## **Campus United**

A group comprised of representatives 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.



## **Campus SCI Coalition**

A new coalition started by the GSA and Canadian Federation of Students, the SCI Coalition held its first action with the campus walkout (following the departure of lead organizers, RSM Carleton) and has continued to build towards the Campus Blackout on April 3.



## **Ottawa Coalition Against Ford**

OCAF is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to taking action in defense of poor and working class people, and all those targeted by the policies or actions of the Doug Ford government, through solidarity and collective action. In particular,

we are opposed to the regressive and oppressive agenda of the government, whose sole purpose is to further line the pockets of the wealthy at the expense of poor, working class, Indigenous and racialized communities. Above all, we believe in the collective power of people and communities to fight for and win a more just society. OPIRG Carleton is an OCAF member and has contributed to events and designed the group's logo.

#### **OPIRG Provincial Network**

OPIRG Carleton is a member of the OPIRG Provincial Network. OPIRG Provincial is comprised of thirteen autonomous, non-profit, student-funded and directed organizations that conduct research, education, and action on social and environmental justice issues. http://www.opirg.org/



## **OPIRG Roots Radio**



OPIRG Roots Radio on CKCU 93.1 FM 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 justice.

# **Working Groups**

# OPIRG Carleton 2018-19 WORKING GROUPS

Yoga Unity

The Leveller
Books 2 Prisoners
Anakbayan Ottawa
Demilitarize Carleton
Families of Sisters in Spirit
Herongate Tenant Coalition
Millhaven Lifers' Liaison Group
Independent Jewish Voices Carleton
Access To Information (ATI) Carleton
Mapuche Liberation Cinema Collective
Students Against Israeli Apartheid Carleton
Ottawa Cuba Connections (Carleton University)
Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement – Ottawa

Working Groups are collectives who are working together towards achieving social and environmental justice. Together with our volunteers, PIRG Working Groups are the heart of our organization. OPIRG working groups are provided access to the office and office resources, a budget and training.

Here's a little bit about each working group and the unique social and environmental organizing lens that they bring to OPIRG Carleton:

#### **Anakbayan Ottawa**

Our mission is to unite youth from different sectors and communities in the Filipino diaspora in Ottawa in order to advance the struggle for national liberation, democracy and a just and lasting peace in the Philippines. We seek to educate, organize, mobilize Filipino youth on issues that affect the Philippines, as well as here on Turtle Island. Made up of second generation, as well as



first and 1.5 generation youth, Anakbayan Ottawa seeks to address

systemic issues that oppress the Filipino youth and community through campaigns, community events, and educational workshops and discussions.

There are growing number of Filipino youth migrating into the Ottawa area and Canada over all. Many Filipino organizations have a strong focus on ethnicity, culture and fun. While Anakbayan is also excited to focus on these aspects of our lived experiences, we seek to address the nuances and complexities of being migrants on stolen territory, how migration has been affected by capitalism and imperialism, and what the root causes of our struggles are.

#### **ATI Carleton**

The Access to Information Carleton (ATI) Carleton Working Group uses Access to Information and Freedom of Information legislation to research various issues of public interest. Issues can be related to other WG areas, or determined by OPIRG members. We put the R in OPIRG.

In recent years, we have 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.



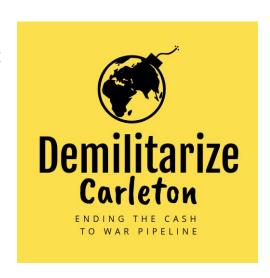
#### **Books 2 Prisoners**

We send free books to prisoners across Canada and the US, and respond to letters from prisoners. We are an abolitionist group and believe that education and human contact are important to maintain mental health while incarcerated. We have been active for more than four years and are entirely volunteer-run. We work with Booth Street Salvation Army providing volunteer hours for court purposes.

B2P meets on the second Wednesday of every Month.

#### **Demilitarize Carleton**

Demilitarize Carleton will advocate for Carleton University to establish transparent and ethical investment strategies. We demand that Carleton, as a public institution of higher learning, divest from the military-industrial complex and em brace ethical investment policies. Demilitarize Carleton will follow in the footsteps of movements before it such as Demilitarize McGill to push for meaningful financial and social change.



#### **Families of Sisters in Spirit**



FSIS is all-volunteer, grassroots, unfunded group of families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people and ally-friends. Since January 2011, FSIS has hosted two events per year to honour MMIWG2S and families; on February 14th and October 4th.

This has included numerous vigils and rallies, and more recently: community feasts, giveaways and a youth pow-wow. Donations raised by FSIS are passed on to Indigenous families impacted by disappearance, murder, and violent death.

#### **Herongate Tenant Coalition**

We are a group of tenants in the Herongate neighbourhood of south Ottawa who are fighting back against mass evictions, demolition, rent increases. The landlord, multi-billion dollar Timbercreek Asset Management, owns housing for 4,000 people in Herongate and we are trying to

stop them from tearing our neighbourhood apart. We are working towards a vision of resident-control and community ownership of land, to prevent speculators and other financial actors from pushing out low income tenants.



#### <u>Independent Jewish Voices</u> Carleton

Independent Jewish Voices Carleton is a chapter of Independent Jewish Voices Canada. IJV Carleton is composed of Jewish students and other community members who stand in solidarity with Palestine. Alongside its focus on social justice and

activism, IJV provides an alternative Jewish space on campus, for students to engage with Jewish culture outside of Zionism. IJV is a grassroots Palestine solidarity organization grounded in Jewish tradition that provides a voice for Jewish Canadians who support a just peace in Israel-Palestine. IJV aims to centre Palestinian voices in its work, and supports the 2005 call issued by the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) National Committee for an international campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

In addition, IJV stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and with all marginalized peoples in Canada against racism, settler colonialism and white supremacy. IJV also works to combat antisemitism and distinguish it clearly from critiques of Zionism and Israeli policies.

#### **Indigenous Solidarity Ottawa (ISO)**

The Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement – Ottawa (IPSMO) is a grassroots organization that directly supports indigenous peoples in diverse struggles for justice. We also work within communities to challenge the lies and half-truths about indigenous peoples and colonization that dominate Canadian society. The organization is open



to both indigenous and non-indigenous people, and focuses on local and regional campaigns. As we act in solidarity with indigenous people, we build relationships where we can learn from indigenous cultures. By doing this, we can further decolonize ourselves, and so learn to better challenge the racist and colonial ideas that dominate Canadian society.

We provide support to actions and campaigns for Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, defense of the land, environmental protection, cultural revitalization, and the honouring of treaties and agreements.



#### **Mapuche Liberation Cinema Collective**

The Mapuche Liberation Cinema Collective is an indigenous Mapuche group that seeks to create awareness of the plight of indigenous and oppressed peoples in Abya Yala (Latin America) and the world through the showcasing radical film.

We are affiliated to the grassroots Mapuche indigenous group, the Women's Coordinating Committee for a Free Wallmapu in Toronto, which advocates for the rights of the Mapuche Peoples of so-called southern Chile and Mapuche Political Prisoners, and seek to continue this work in the Ottawa region.

#### Millhaven Lifers' Liaison Group

The Millhaven Lifers Liaison Group (MLLG) is made up of volunteers from the Ottawa community who have established a connection with

people serving life sentences at Millhaven maximum security institution in Bath Ontario.

Our objective is to serve as a bridge between the community and the prisoners, with a view to supporting their eventual release and re-integration.

The MLLG's mission is to maintain a positive, ongoing relationship with the Millhaven Lifers Group (MLG) in order to support successful releases through joint projects.



#### **Ottawa Cuba Connections**



OCC (CU) is committed to strengthen in the friendship and solidarity between students at Carleton University and the people of Cuba. To this end we will work with Ottawa Cuba Connections, the Cdn Network on Cuba, and student clubs and organizations to promote social, cultural, political, academic, and economic relations between students at Carleton and the people of Cuba on the

basis of mutual respect.

Ottawa Cuba Connections (Carleton University) will promote solidarity between Carleton students and Cuba. The working group will help to enhance students understanding of revolutionary Cuba and its particular approaches to youth and students. OCC (CU) will promote participation in the Che Guevara Brigade which normally goes to Cuba in April/May each year.

#### Students Against Israeli Apartheid - Carleton

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 We understand Israeli apartheid as one element of a system of global apartheid. To this end, we stand in solidarity with all oppressed groups around the world, in particular, the indigenous people of North America. We oppose all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

Our demands are based upon a July 2005 call from over 170 Palestinian organizations in support of a global campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions. Boycott, divestment and sanctions should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law

#### The Leveller

The Leveller is a publication covering news, current events, and culture at Carleton University, in the city of Ottawa and, to a lesser extent, the wider world.

It is intended to provide readers with a lively portrait of the university and their 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 Carleton



students, staff, and faculty as well as Ottawa residents.

The Leveller leans left, meaning it challenges power and privilege and sides with people over private property. It is also democratic, meaning that it favours open discussion over silencing and secrecy. Within these

very general boundaries, the Leveller is primarily interested in being interesting, in saying something worth saying and worth reading about. It doesn't mind getting a few things wrong if it gets that part right.

The Leveller is mostly the work of a small group of volunteers, so far. In fact it is produced entirely by volunteers. To become a more permanent enterprise, it will require more volunteers to write, edit, and produce, to take the pictures, and to dig up the stories, and to make it a more truly democratic and representative paper.



#### Yoga.Unity

Yoga. Unity is a series of pay what you can (PWYC) yoga classes for self-identified womxn and non-binary people of color. It is a queer and trans inclusive space. Classes are held weekly for an hour at the Rideau Sports Centre. Besides yoga, we hold workshops/events which promote healing and serve to strengthen a community of trust and care.

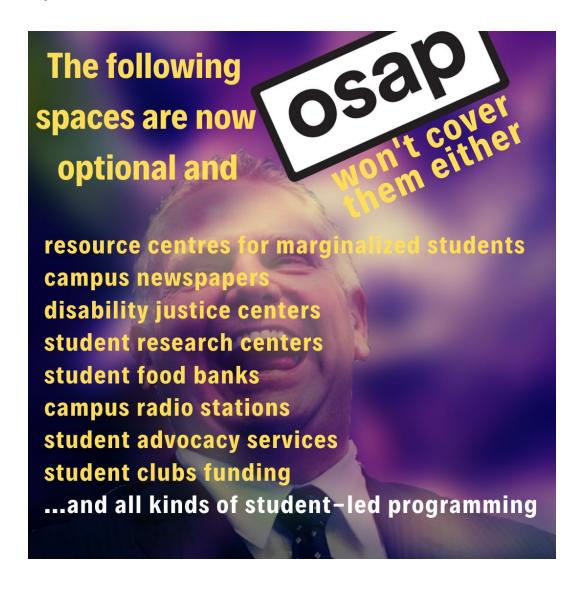
Our classes are introductory which permits people of all levels and ages to participate. It is

also a place where body image, health concerns, and wellness are shifted to look closer to what we experience them to be. The term "women of colour" refers to all and any racialized womxn, regardless of "skin colour" who considers herself to fall outside of the dominant racial and ethnic group.

Yoga. Unity is a unique space where womxn of colour and non-binary people of colour can come together in collective processes of healing, building solidarity and community.

# **Thanks for Reading!**

This has been a great year, everyone! Thanks for giving our report a read. If you've got any questions, feel free to email us, give us a call, or come by the OPIRG Carleton Office (Third Floor UC, Stairwell D)



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OPIRG Carleton