

# OPIRG-Corleton



# the Ontario Public Interest Research Group

OPIRG-Carleton (the Ontario Public Interest Research Group) is a non-profit student-run organization involved in research, education and action on social and environmental issues.

We operate in a democratic way, working collectively and making decisions by consensus. OPIRG-Carleton is overseen by a nine-member Board of Directors (at least 2/3 of whom are Carleton students) elected at an Annual General Meeting and currently employs 1 full-time staff.

All students at Carleton University are members of OPIRG through a non-refundable fee in their tuition. While the fee is classified as non-refundable, OPIRG-Carleton continues to offer refunds to students who object to the organization. Everyone is welcome to visit our office and use our resource library. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

OPIRG-Carleton was founded in 1980 after a lecture at Carleton by famous 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 the OPIRG, agreeing to raise the amount of the levy to \$6.30 full-time students and \$2.10/credit part-time undergraduates, \$1.26 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 pricing index. Graduate students voted to increase their fees to OPIRG-Carleton in 2010.





## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**September 2009-May 2010**  
**August 2009-April 6th 2010**

**Emma Slaney Gose (returning)**

**Matt Hollingshead (acclaimed April 2009)**

**Mujahed Kmail (acclaimed April 2009)**

**Jenaaleinee Davarajah (acclaimed April 2009)**

**Stephanie Kittmer (acclaimed April 2009)**

**Tanya Miller (returning)**

**Adey Almosen (November 2009- acclaimed to replace Abla)**

**Janet Yip (returning, resigned in January or February 2010)**

**Abla Abdelhadi (acclaimed April 2009, resigned September 2009)**



# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**April 7th 2010- August 31st 2010.**

**Mujahed Kmail**

**Jenaaleinee Davarajah**

**Stephanie Kittmer**

**Morgan Meloche (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

**Kate Ayalogu (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

**Allen Buck (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

**Chris Bisson (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

**Reem Buhaisi (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

**Caroline Larocque (Acclaimed April 6th 2010)**

# STAFF & TEMPORARY/CONTACT STAFF:

**Angela Mooney, Working Groups and Volunteer Coordinator**

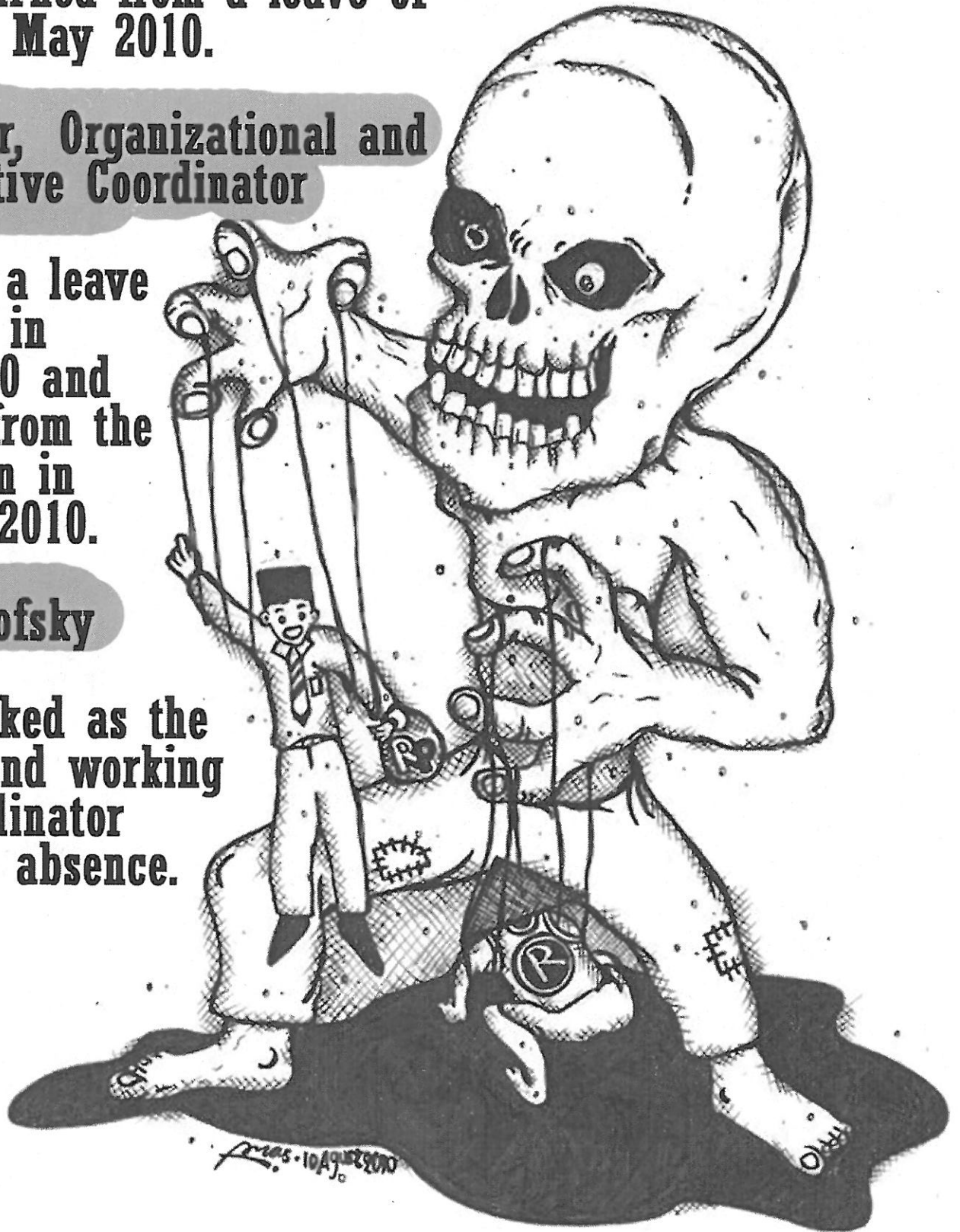
Angela returned from a leave of absence in May 2010.

**Dan Sawyer, Organizational and Administrative Coordinator**

Dan began a leave of absence in August 2010 and moved on from the organization in September 2010.

**Rachel Gurofsky**

Rachel worked as the volunteer and working group coordinator in Angela's absence.





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. Contact the working groups directly to find out how you can get involved!

## Books 2 Prisoners

32P - Ottawa was unsuccessful - again - at smashing down and chewing up the industrial prison complex that seems to plague us. We did however, have another good year of killing cops in our brains, the brains of our friends, and others within our periphery of influence. 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 their violent day to day functions. We also held our annual booksale, printed the money. Used the payola to send books to our friends held captive on the inside. Remember friends: The only vehicle for prison reform.... a bulldozer.



Contact: [books2prisoners@hotmail.com](mailto:books2prisoners@hotmail.com)

## **CARLETON UNIVERSITY CANADIAN STUDENTS FOR A SENSIBLE DRUG POLICY**

100 years after the 1908 Opium Act certain groups of drug users continue to be criminalized and marginalized, youth are told to 'just say no,' drug dogs and police are commonplace in high schools, and lies continue to be told about certain medicinal plants while mass medications by the medical industry and the pharmaceutical industry ensue. CU CSSDP's mission is, in affiliation with the national CSSDP network, to provide education, outreach, training and resources for students and youth affected by or interested in the history or current state of drugs, drug users or drug policies. Chapters across Canada take on projects based on the needs and interests of the communities around them. Chapters have worked in areas such as peer drug education, public education, drug policy work, and harm reduction projects. We promote education and action around issues of substance use and the negative impact our drug policies have on individuals, families and communities.

Contact: [cu.cssdp@gmail.com](mailto:cu.cssdp@gmail.com)

## **CARLETON UNIVERSITY FREE SKOOL SOCIETY**

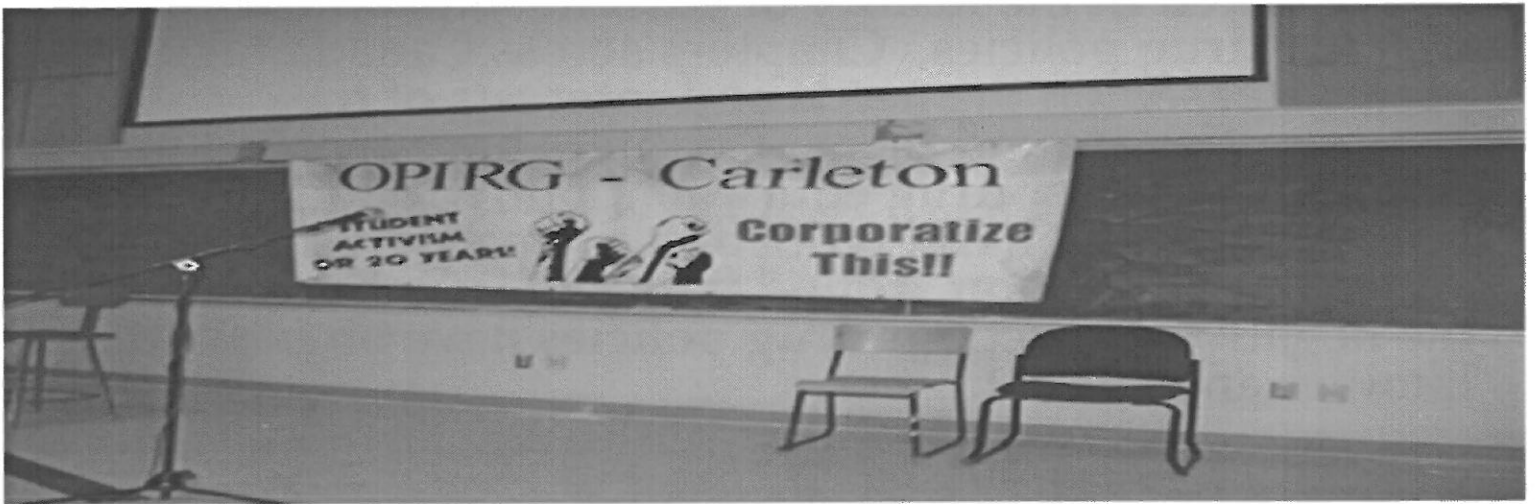
Free Skool (CUFSS) provides an environment for any individual who wishes to learn about a broad spectrum of topics in an anti-oppressive setting. Free Skool also acts as a network base, in which individuals can connect with others who share similar ideological perspectives. We are breaking down educational barriers and bringing people with a desire to broaden their minds together! Free Skool will officially be launched September 2010, however we are holding multiple events over the winter/spring semester to kick-start our existence.

Contact: [carletonfreeskool@gmail.com](mailto:carletonfreeskool@gmail.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](mailto: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 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](mailto:csrcproject@live.ca)



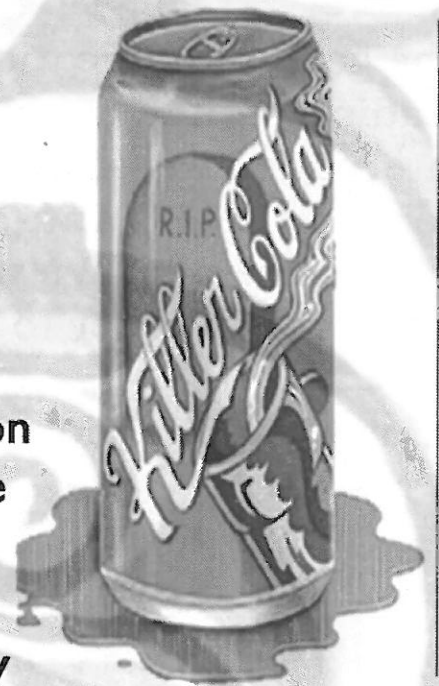
# Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement-Ottawa

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.

Contact: [ipsmo@riseup.net](mailto:ipsmo@riseup.net)

## Killer Coke-Carleton

Killer Coke-Carleton was formed to pressure Carleton University to sever its contract with Coca-Cola in the year 2011; when it expires and will be "renegotiated". We believe Carleton has a moral and legal obligation to not do business practices that are host to unsavory business practices. Coca-Cola is complicit in numerous and ongoing violations of labour and human rights and is considerably harmful to the environment. We hope to see Carleton choose a responsible alternative to the monopolistic distribution of soft drinks on campus.



Contact: [carletonkillercoke@gmail.com](mailto:carletonkillercoke@gmail.com)

# Men For Equality and Non-Violence

Men For Equality and Non-Violence (M.E.N.) is a group that strives to bring together men, women, and anyone else to discuss and take action to promote equality and end domestic violence. Domestic violence is perpetrated primarily by men, and as such the focus will be on male violence. We will look at the source of this violence and at ways to curtail it. This is a complex, nuanced issue and as such requires the input of open minds from across society. M.E.N. will work closely with women's groups to take advantage of their expertise. Although this discussion has been going on for a very long time, M.E.N. wants to create an environment where anyone can express their ideas without fear of shame or blame.

Contact: [men.carleton@gmail.com](mailto:men.carleton@gmail.com)

## Reducation

The goal of Reducation is to inform people through educationals, reading groups, movie showings, etc. on issues affecting the modern international working class from a mas-line Marxist orientation. We hope to expand anti-capitalists consciousness both on campus and in the community. We will also look at the intersection of race, gender, and class in order to advance a more holistic critique of capitalism.

Contact: [reducation@live.com](mailto:reducation@live.com)

## STUDENTS FOR FAIR TRADE

The goals of Students for Fair Trade (SFT) are: to raise awareness about fair trade on campus and the importance of fair trade; to promote the use of fair trade products among student-run centres on campus; and to lobby the university to implement a fair trade purchasing policy wherever possible (food, sports equipment, clothing). We believe that fair trade is an important step in fighting the inequalities and injustices brought about by the current trading system. We are committed to promoting fair trade not as an end in itself, but as a step in the right direction, and as an alternative to the current system.

Contact: [fairtradenotfreetrade@gmail.com](mailto:fairtradenotfreetrade@gmail.com)

# 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. If you have not had an opportunity to see SAIA Carleton's new website, take a look: <http://www.carleton.saia.ca/>. It's full of information on, among other things, academic boycott and the Carleton administration's attempted repression of anti-apartheid activists.

Contact: [saia.carleton@gmail.com](mailto:saia.carleton@gmail.com)

## Students for Fair Trade

THE GOALS OF STUDENTS FOR FAIR TRADE (SFT) ARE: TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT FAIR TRADE ON CAMPUS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FAIR TRADE; TO PROMOTE THE USE OF FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS AMONG STUDENT-RUN CENTRES ON CAMPUS; AND TO LOBBY THE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT A FAIR TRADE PURCHASING POLICY WHEREVER POSSIBLE (FOOD, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING). WE BELIEVE THAT FAIR TRADE IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN FIGHTING THE INEQUALITIES AND INJUSTICES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE CURRENT TRADING SYSTEM. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING FAIR TRADE NOT AS AN END IN ITSELF, BUT AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM.

CONTACT: [FAIRTRADENOTFREETRADE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FAIRTRADENOTFREETRADE@GMAIL.COM)



# EVENTS, SPEAKERS and PROGRAMMING

-> Radical Frosh is a first year orientation program for students looking to change the world from the bottom up. It provides an intro to the OPIRG alternative! Complete with speakers, workshops, film screenings, live music & art, and useful info for new comers to the city and/or campus. The August-September 2009 Radical Frosh was coordinated by Hani Siyad. Many volunteers helped ensure the orientation happened!

-> In September OPIRG-Carleton hosted its bi-annual info fair. This tabling event showcases OPIRG working groups and helps spread the word about OPIRG projects and events. Books to Prisoners hosted its by donation book sale in conjunction with the fair.

-> OPIRG-Carleton hosted "Canadian Aid, NGOs, and Imperialism: Africa and Beyond A Talk with Yves Engler" on Thursday October 1st. Geopolitical concerns have always been the primary motivators for disbursing Canadian aid. The government may call it foreign aid, but a central aim of the Canadian International Development Agency is to help Canadian companies expand abroad both directly and indirectly.

-> How do government funded NGOs deal with the intervention-equals-aid principle? Are some major Western non-governmental organizations really just an arm of imperialism? Are development NGOs compatible with real democracy? Yves Engler addressed these questions and debunked the mythology of Canadian aid as sheer benevolence. For more information on The Black visit <http://blackbook.foreignpolicy.ca/>

-> In October 2009 OPIRG Carleton hosted Standing Against Apartheid; a provincial networking meeting. Networking meetings allow PIRG organizers from across Ontario to get together and collaborate on similar projects. The weekend featured workshops on the Boycott, Divest & Sanctions campaign, Indigenous Solidarity, Media Relations, Israeli Apartheid Week organizing, Handling Backlash & Repression, the Right to Education and a general session on next steps.

-> On October 10th 2009, OPIRG- Carleton in collaboration with SAIA and others presented: Verses vs. Apartheid: An evening of poetry and music in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom. The event brought together local and traveling artists.

**Ontario Health Coalition(OHA):** The Ontario Health Coalition is a network of over 400 grassroots community organizations representing virtually all areas of Ontario. Their primary goal is to empower the members of its constituent organizations to become actively engaged in the making of public policy on matters related to health care and healthy communities. To this end, the coalition seeks to provide to member organizations and the broader public ongoing information about the health care system and its programs and services. Through public education and support for public debate, the OHC contributes to the maintenance and extension of a system of checks and balances that is essential to good decision-making. The OHC is an extremely collaborative organization, actively working with others to share resources and information. It is a non-partisan group committed to maintaining and enhancing our publicly-funded, publicly-administered health care system.

<http://www.web.net/ohc/AboutOHC.htm>

## OPIRG Provincial:

The membership of 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/>



Presents for your consideration:

- drag show radical campus tours
- a woman's guide to orgasm
- singshot hip hop
- zombie karaoke free vegan bbq
- and much more...

## Volunteer Ottawa:

A bilingual agency committed to building the capacity of our community through strong leadership and quality services.

# RADICAL FROSH WEEK

NEXT EVENT:  
 WHERE:  
 WHEN:



LESS SCHOLARLY ... MORE BRAINS®  
[WWW.OPIRG-CARLETON.ORG](http://WWW.OPIRG-CARLETON.ORG)



# MEMBERSHIPS:

## 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.

## Canadian Peace Alliance:

The Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) is Canada's largest umbrella peace organization. Since its foundation in 1985 the organization has been helping member groups to act as a broad network, in order to provide a strong, coordinated voice for peace issues at the national level. CPA member groups range from grassroots community groups to major pan-Canadian organizations. Our goals include redirecting funds from military spending to human needs; working toward global nuclear disarmament; making Canada a consistent leader for world peace; strengthening world institutions for the peaceful resolution of conflict; and protecting the rights of all people to work for peace, social & economic justice.

<http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/about.html>

## Ontario Environment Network (OEN):

The Ontario Environment Network (OEN) is a non-profit, non-governmental network serving Ontario's environmental non-profit, non-governmental community. Ontario has over 700 environmental groups that range from national to neighbourhood-based and focus on a wide range of issues. The OEN seeks to increase awareness of these organizations and encourage discussions about means to protect the environment. OEN is a non-advocacy network and therefore does not take positions on issues. The Network provides a central referral service for anyone seeking environmental information, organizes workshops and conferences, publishes resource materials and facilitates issue specific caucuses. The OEN also maintains a database of Ontario environmental groups and a delegate database for public consultations.

The purpose is to provide citizen/settler support for the Algonquin 'land claim' in the Ottawa Valley.

<http://oen.ca/index.php?page=about>

## Coalition of Concerned Citizens (CCC):

In existence since the early 90s this coalition is comprised of individuals and representatives of various organizations.

The purpose is to provide citizen/settler support for the Algonquin 'land claim' in the Ottawa Valley.