

RESEARCH
EDUCATION
ACTION
EVERY
DAY

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.



OPIRG Carleton

ANNUAL
Report

2012-2013

Annual Report and Financial Statements

September 2012-August 2013

Presented at Annual General Meeting:

March 26th, 2014

-Unceded Algonquin Territory-

www.opirgcarleton.org

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OPIRG Carleton

ontario public interest research group // action for social change



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Anti-Oppression

**Consensus -
Based
Decision
Making**

**Inclusive Space
to
Build Campus
Community**

**Indigenous
Solidarity
&
Decolonization**

**Colloquium
Speaker Series**

Diversity

**Skills
Development
&
Training**

**Working
Groups**

**Tools For
Change
Workshops**

**Accountability
&
Transparency**

**Resource
Centre**

Sustainability

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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.



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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 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 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. The refund period this year run from January 16th to the 20th. At the conclusion of this period, there were 32 under-

graduate student refunds, and no graduate student refunds.

In 2013 OPIRG-Carleton also saw its levy challenged by a referendum question proposed by sitting VP finance of the Carleton University Student's Association, Micheal DeLuca. Students successfully mobilized around this referendum, ensuring the continued existence of OPIRG-Carleton and further galvanizing its contribution to the Carleton campus (for more information see pg___).

Over the years, OPIRG-Carleton has grown into an established organization that provides students with 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 citizens.

YEAR IN BRIEF - ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The 2012-2013 year proved to be full of unique challenges and opportunities for OPIRG-Carleton, including the first ever referendum challenge to its 33 year old levy!

The year began with long-time staffer Angela Moony embarking into another leave of absence, resulting in the hiring of Yafa Jarrar into the Volunteer, Outreach and Programming Coordinator position. As such, Andrew Crosby continued on in the role of Finance and Organizational Development Coordinator.

With two staff working in the office, OPIRG saw a jump in its organizing capacity through the 2012-2013 year. This included new outreaching campaigns coordinated by Yafa Jarra and with graphic design work by board member Daniel Tubb. Eye catching posters, website content, pamphlets and flyers were all created and distributed by a host dedicated volunteers to let students know about OPIRG bursaries, equipment, resource cen-



Photo of OPIRG Volunteers which appeared in a March 2013 edition of the

tre, programming and working groups.

The 2012-2013 year also saw a boost in OPIRG programming, starting off with OPIRG's Disorientation Week, and continuing on through Idle No More teach-ins, a colloquium speaking event featuring Métis elder Maria Campbell, a whole host of workshops and much much more!

The referendum challenge to OPIRG's levy came at the end of a busy academic year. In spite of many challenges, dedicated undergraduate students effectively mobilized enough students to win 71% of the undergraduate vote. This indicates a continued need and validation of OPIRG's consensus based, anti-oppression driven work on our campus.



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

OPIRG-CARLETON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS -2012-2013

ONTARIO PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (OPIRG) CARLETON

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013 AND 2012

3

	2013	2012
REVENUE		
Student fees	\$ 170,978	\$ 161,965
Other	-	4,969
	170,978	166,934
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	103,589	72,442
Rent	14,825	13,910
Programming	13,016	9,948
Dues	5,123	4,257
Advertising and promotion	3,487	1,403
Office expenses	3,848	4,854
Donations and bursaries	2,600	1,150
Insurance	1,647	1,647
Photocopier leasing	1,497	1,500
Telecommunications	1,234	1,059
Professional fees	23,036	7,951
Interest, service charges and penalties	1,776	1,420
Amortization of capital assets	1,015	909
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	1,894
	176,693	124,344
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (5,715)	\$ 42,590

opirg
carleton



ontario
public
interest
research
group

“If politics is challenging the status quo in an unfair and unjust world, then OPIRG embraces politics. This is what students concerned about social justice issues do.”
Daniel Tubb in *The Charlatan* 01/30/2013



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OPIRG-Carleton is governed by a volunteer, non-hierarchical Board of Directors and makes decisions by consensus. Directors are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and generally sit for a 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 support OPIRGs projects and programming, as well as to govern the direction, vision, and growth of the organization.

September 1, 2012 - April 9th, 2013

Cody d'Entremont
Areej Schweel

Alice-Rose Mick
Taylor Eby
Arun Smith - resigned
Angel Nsenga - resigned
Emma Slaney Gose
Daniel Tubb
Sharrae Lyon- resigned

April 9th, 2013 - August 31st, 2014

Taylor Eby
Adam Carroll
Gabrielle Castilloux
Kim Taylor
Francella Fiallos
Benjamin Diaz
Zoe Georgaras- resigned
Sean Smith

“Those on campus who have experiences with OPIRG first-hand see the value it brings to our community. OPIRG gives financial support to a variety of action groups, which receive action group status following successful applications to the democratically-elected OPIRG governing board.”

Sam Ponting in *The Leveller*
03' / 04' 2013



STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

STAFF 2012-2013

Angela Mooney, Coordinator

Leave of Absence from September 2012- May 2013.

Andrew Crosby, Finance and Organizational Development Coordinator

Yafa Jarrar, Volunteer, Outreach and Programming Coordinator

Began her contract as of August 2012.

VOLUNTEERS

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

Of special note this year is the OPIRG No Committee for the 2013 CUSA referendum election. This inspiring team was lead by impassioned students who refused to let OPIRG be eliminated from

the Carleton campus and pulled out the vote—1,385 votes comprising 71% of the ballots cast—against what overwhelming odds. Dozens and dozens of volunteers comprised this group that will always have a special place in the heart of the organization.

1986: The Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group, with the help of OPIRG-Carleton, successfully convince Carleton's Board of Governors to Divest from South African Apartheid!
1994: OPIRG-Carleton brings bell hooks to speak at Carleton University!



EVENTS, SPEAKERS, & PROGRAMMING

OPIRG Projects

OPIRG-Carleton has a number of ongoing campus and community-oriented resources and services (bursaries, Radical Frosh, the 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, etc), educational initiatives (the colloquium speaker series, Tools for Change workshop series, training and Resource Centre) and organizes/supports events on campus and in the community.

Co-Sponsorships

OPIRG-Carleton co-sponsored numerous events and campaigns throughout the year, the following offers a small sample:

Programming

***Maria Campbell Colloquium speaking event**

***On Turtle Island: Dialogue Between Black and First Nations Womyn** (Featuring Zainab Amahady, Faith Nolan, Sherri Pranteau)

***Let's Decolonize Campus Panel Discussion**

Donations

Campus United

An alliance comprised of representatives from various groups that together make up the university. These include various student institutions and unions representing workers across the Carleton campus. Campus united meets as needed to address campus wide issues such as contract negotiations, tuitions fees, campus safety, and the Carleton administration.

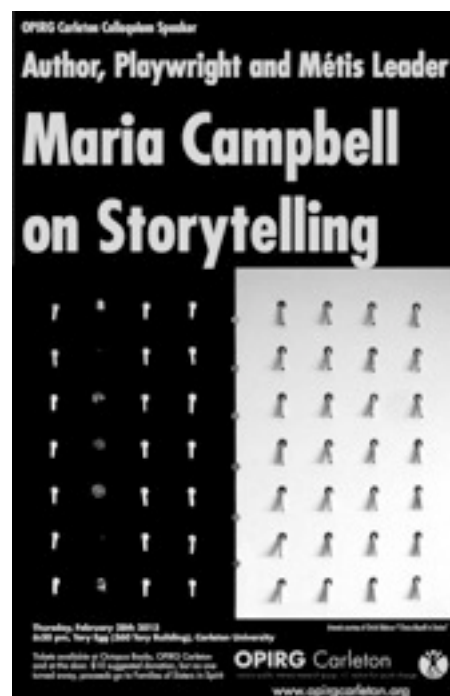
OPIRG- Provincial

OPIRG-Carleton is an autonomous member of the Ontario PIRG network. The membership to OPIRG Provincial is comprised of eleven autonomous, non-rpofit, university based, student-funded and directed organizations that conduct research, education and action about social and environmental justice concerns.

www.opirg.org

1996: Recycle Cycles Working group (now Re-Cycles Co-op) opens first bike shop space!

1997: After four years of the Burma Working Group's



CONNECTING STRUGGLES: REMEMBERING AMILCAR CABRAL FORTY YEARS ON

January 20th marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Amilcar Cabral, guerrilla, revolutionary thinker and theorist who worked for the liberation of Guinea Bissau, Angola and Cape Verde, and towards the emancipation of the so-called "third-world."

Film: "African Leaders"

Panel Discussion
 - **Panelists:** Professor of Anthropology
 - **Adrian Rosemond** (PhD) Journalist
 - **Wagner Ribeiro** (PhD) Lecturer, York University

Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 6:00-8:00 pm
 Ottawa: Room 4100A 13th Road, 20th Floor, 2nd Floor

Film African Leaders followed by panel discussion



OPIRG Carleton, Ottawa Students' Society, York University, OPIRG Ottawa

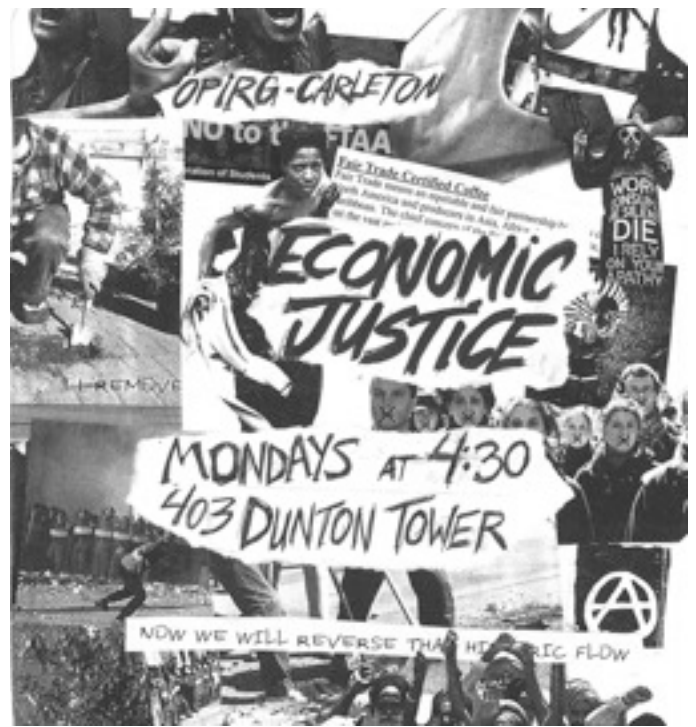
Idle No More Teach-In

Thursday, January 14, 3:00 pm
 GSA Lounge
 6th Floor of the UniCentre
 Carleton University



WORTH EVERY PEN

OPIRG Carleton



Left: Anti-Racist Working Group's 1993 publication Lick: People of Colour.

Right: Economic Justice Working Group - late 90's.

WORKING GROUPS BY YEAR

A testament to the incredible amount and variety of OPIRG-Carleton's work over the last 33 years! In chronological order, all the working groups and major campaigns OPIRG-Carleton has worked on over the years.

86/87

Peace and Disarmament Working Group
Environment Working Group

Close affiliation and support to Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group and their work in convincing the Carleton University Student's Association to divest from South Africa

Crosscurrents Radio Show

87/88

Housing working group
Environment Working Group
Peace and Disarmament Working Group
Crosscurrents Radio Show

88/89

Social Justice Working Group
Environment Working Group
Peace and Disarmament Working Group
Food Working Group
Crosscurrents Radio Show

89/90

Social Justice Working Group
Environment Working Group
Recycling at Carleton Campaign
Re-usable Mug Campaign
Crosscurrents Radio Show

90/91

Social Justice Working Group
Campaign for Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

Campaign for East Timor

Anti-Homophobia Campaign

Environment Working Group

Recycling Coordination at Carleton

Campaign to stop the Spraying of 2,4-D on Campus

Crosscurrents Radio Show

91/92

Social Justice Working Group

Anti-Homophobia Campaign

Environmental Working Group

Recycling Coordination at Carleton

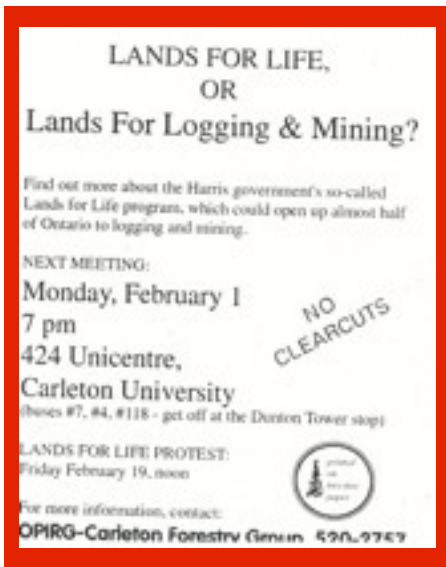
Campaign to stop the Spraying of 2,4-D on Campus

The Disability Action Working Group

Campaign for Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

The James Bay Working Group

Crosscurrents Radio Show

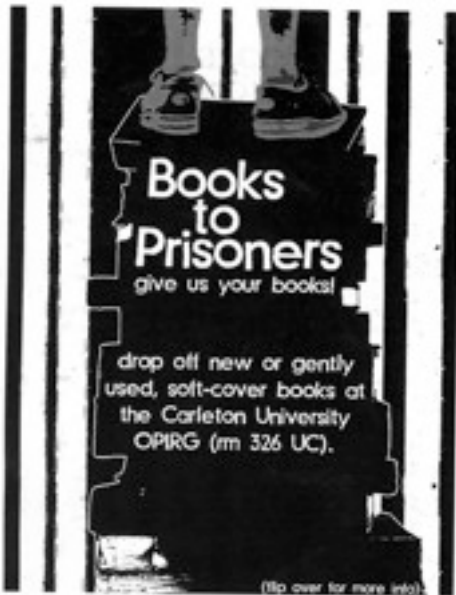


92/93

- The Anti-Racism Working Group
- The Hudson Bay Working Group
- South East Asia Working Group
- National Boycott of PetroCanada for involvement in the Burmese Military Dictatorship
- International Boycott of PepsiCo. for involvement in the Burmese Military Dictatorship
- Ecofeminism Working Group
- Crosscurrents Radio Show

93/94

- The Anti-Racism Working Group



- Dam-Reservoir Working Group
- Three Gorges Campaign
- South East Asia Working Group
- International Boycott of PepsiCo. for involvement in the Burmese Military Dictatorship
- Ecofeminism Working Group
- The Hemp and Herb Working Group
- Crosscurrents Radio Show
- Naturalization site project

94/95

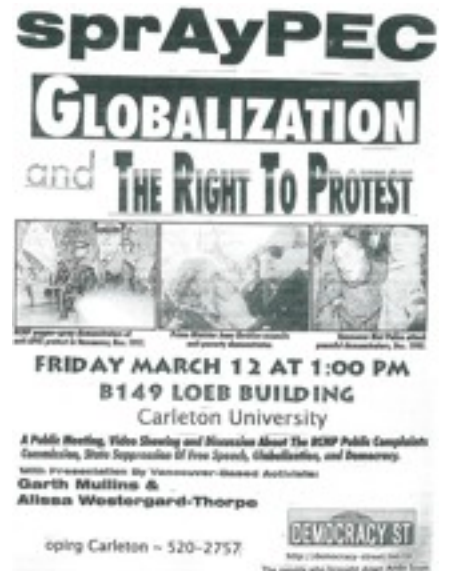
- Dam-Reservoir Working Group
- Solidarity with the Innu Campaign
- Burma/Tibet Working Group
- International Boycott of PepsiCo. for involvement in the Burmese Military Dictatorship
- Ecofeminism Working Group
- Hemp Working Group
- Crosscurrents Radio Show
- Naturalization Working Group
- Disability Action Working Group
- Coalitions built with the Carleton University Political Action Committee, 50 years is Enough coalition, Ottawa Coalition for Social Justice and the Coalition to Save Clayoquot Sound

95/96

- Ecofeminism Working Group
- Crosscurrents Radio Show
- Naturalization Working Group
- Burma/Tibet Working Group
- International Boycott of PepsiCo. for involvement in the Burmese Military Dictatorship
- Forestry Working Group
- Composting/ Waste Reduction Working Group
- Recycle Cycles Working Group
- Coalitions built with the Carleton University Political Action Committee, Stop the cuts coalition, Earthroots, Canadian Friends of Burma, Philippines Ottawa Support and Solidarity Effort and the Coalition against Nuclear Testing.

96/97

- Crosscurrents Radio Show
- Dam-Reservoir Working Group
- Naturalization Working Group
- Burma/Tibet Working Group
- Forestry Working Group



- How green is G*R*E*E*N Campaign
- Composting/ Waste Reduction Working Group
- Recycle Cycles Working Group
- Caribbean and Latin America Solidarity
- Fair Trade
- The MAI-Not Working Group
- Social Justice Working Group
- Coalitions built with the Carleton University Political Action Committee, Stop the cuts coalition, Canadian Friends of Burma, No APEC Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance

97/98

- Crosscurrents Radio Show
- Dam-Reservoir Working Group
- Naturalization Working Group
- Forestry Working Group
- Recycle Cycles Working Group
- Caribbean and Latin America Solidarity

The MAI-Not Working Group
 E.S.L. Working Group
 Hemp Working Group

Coalitions built with the Stop the cuts coalition, Canadian Friends of Burma, Chiapas Solidarity Group, Coalition Against Nuclear Testing

99/00

Y2K Preparedness



“MAI NOT” Initiative

Carleton Campaign Against the Cuts
 Caribbean and Latin America Solidarity
 Action group for Afghan Womyn
 Oxbow Park Naturalization Project
 Dam-Reservoir Information and Impact
 Archive (DRIIA)
 Forestry Working Group
 Economic Justice Working Group

00/01

RadioActivist Working Group
 Forestry Working Group
 Economic Justice Working Group

Caribbean Latin American Solidarity
 Dam-Reservoir Info & Impact Archive
 Naturalization-Oxbow Park
 Students Against Sweatshops

01/02

Carleton University coalition Against
 Racism

Carleton Food collective aka Garden
 Spot

Forestry Working Group

Free Store Working Group

Organic gardening Working Group

Naturalization -Oxbow park

02/03

Radical Frosh

Free Store

Books to Prisoners

Garden Spot (G-Spot) and the Carleton
 Food collective

Oxbow Park

Monday Morning Rise-UP

Food Issues Working Group

Indigenous Solidarity Working Group

No War On Iraq Working Group

Sustainable Campuses Working Group

Re-Cycles

03/04

Radical Frosh

Free Store

Books to Prisoners

Garden Spot (G-Spot) and the Carleton
 Food collective

No War On Iraq Working Group

Oxbow Park

Carleton Sustainable Campus Network

05/06

Books to Prisoners

Alternative Kanadian Heritage Mo-
 ments

Carleton Sustainable Campus Network

Direct Action Bike Collective

Direct Action Orchestra

Free Culture

Fair Trade

Animal Rights

Rad Frosh

Oxbow Park

06/07

Alternative Kanadian Heritage Mo-
 ments

Animal Rights

Books to Prisoners

Oxbow Park Naturalization Project

Carleton Sustainable Campus Network

Community Action Collective

Fair Trade

Free culture

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Move-
 ment of Ottawa

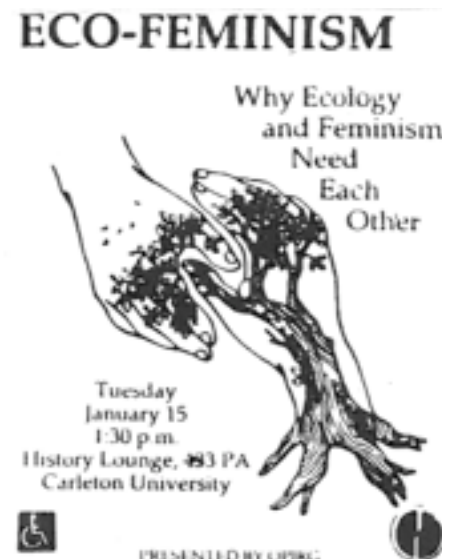
Informed Choice

Carleton Coalition Against Poverty

Student coalition Against War (SCAW)

Radical Frosh

Capitalize “coalition”



07/08

Alternative Canadian Heritage Moments
Animal Rights

Books to Prisoners

Oxbow Park Naturalization Project

Carleton Sustainable Campus Network

Community Action Collective

Fair Trade

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement of Ottawa

Monday Morning Rise-UP

Student coalition Against War (SCAW)

Stop the War Against children (SWAC)

Radical Frosh

Add No More Child Soldiers

08/09

Cinema Politica Carleton

Books to Prisoners

Students Against Israeli Apartheid

Canadian Students for Sensible drug Policy (CSSDP)

Oxbow Park Naturalization Project

Carleton Sustainable Campus Network

Community Action Collective

Fair Trade

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement of Ottawa

Monday Morning Rise-UP

Radical Frosh

09-10

Books 2 Prisoners

Carleton University Canadian Students for a Sensible Drug Policy

Carleton University Free Skool Society

Cinema Politica

Critical Social Research Collaborative

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement-Ottawa

InSol: Womyn of Colour Collective

Killer Coke-Carleton

Men For Equality and Non-Violence

Oxbow Naturalization Project

Reducation

Students Against Israeli Apartheid-Carleton

Students for Fair Trade

10-11

Books 2 Prisoners

Carleton University Free School Society

Cinema Politica

Critical Social Research Collaborative

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa

InSol: Womyn of Colour Collective

Killer Coke-Carleton

Men for Equality and Non-Violence

Reducation

Students Against Israeli Apartheid Carleton

Students for the Communication of Critical Issues

11-12

Access to Information

Books 2 Prisoners

Cinema Politica

Critical Social Research Collaborative (CSRC)

Ecojustice Carleton

Fair Trade Carleton

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa

InSol: Womyn of Colour Collective

Kawala (Unbound)

The Leveller newspaper

Permaculture Project Ottawa

Students Against Israeli Apartheid Carleton

12-13

Access to Information

Books 2 Prisoners

Cinema Politica



Street theatre at Lands for Life protest organized by OPIRG-Carleton Forestry Group, February 19. Photo: Carol Hodgson.

Carleton Students for Electoral Reform

Carleton University Human Rights society

Critical Social Research Collaborative (CSRC)

Ecojustice Carleton

Families of Sisters in Spirit

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa

InSol Womyn of Colour Collective

Kawala (Unbound)

The Leveller newspaper

Mathare Radio

Ottawa Student's Mobilize

Permaculture Project Ottawa

Roots Radio

Students Against Israeli Apartheid Carleton

FORESTRY WORKING GROUP: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR FORESTS?

by Mike Buckthought
Peace and Environment News
April 1999

By some time this month, the Harris government is expected to announce a decision about Lands for Life, its program to decide the future of forests covering almost half of Ontario.

With an election coming up, watch for taxpayer-funded tabloids announcing new parks in the Algoma Highlands and elsewhere. What the government won't tell you is how small the parks will be, and what will happen to land that isn't protected—it could be handed over to corporations under long-term logging agreements.

Back in June 1997, the government appointed three round tables to make land-use decisions for Ontario's wilderness areas. The round tables held public hearings, and in October they released their final report.

The report calls for only 0.6 percent of the area to be protected in new provincial parks. The rest would be opened up to logging and mining. Other recommendations include creating temporary parks, selling public lands to industry, and allowing mining in conservation reserves.

However, there has been public opposition, despite the short 30-day commentary period.

"The feedback that we received was overwhelming; we have received well over 17,000 different recommendations and comments," said Paul Demers, spokesperson for Minister of Natural Resources John Snobelen.

Because of widespread public opposition, the Minister had a revelation, according to Demers. He decided that Lands for Life wasn't satisfying the government's commitment to complete a system of parks and protected areas.

At this point Snobelen brought a few conservation groups and corpora-

tions together to come up with options for new parks. One of the corporations taking part in the negotiations was Tembec. In the past, companies such as Tembec have asked to log in parks, but now they are trying to portray themselves in a greener light.

"I think we've got a good solution on the table, but I don't think it will be accepted 100 percent by industry and by all the environmental groups," said Frank Dottori, President of Tembec.

One of the environmental groups opposing the program is OPIRG-Carleton.

"The process so far has been very undemocratic. Closed back-door meetings...do not represent my interests. I feel like I've had my voice taken from me," said OPIRG member Rebekah Rooney.

OPIRG-Carleton is asking for protection for all old-growth forests, and is raising public awareness at demonstrations.

"The public is being kept in the dark about Lands for Life...by organizing and putting on demonstrations we help spread the word," said Rooney.

First Nations have also been vocal in their opposition.

"I think the process and the approach from a First Nations perspective was totally wrong. The government treated First Nations people as a special interest group," said Wally McKay, former member of the Boreal West round table. McKay represented the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation in the Lands for Life process, but he resigned in July because his concerns were being ignored.

"There are no constructive discussions with Harris on recognition of First Nations rights. If there was ever a government that has brought Aboriginal relations to an all-time low, it's this government," said McKay.

For information about upcoming protests, contact OPIRG-Carleton, 520-2757. Other groups working on this issue include the Sierra Club, 241-4611, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, 730-2797.

Mike Buckthought is a member of OPIRG-Carleton's Forestry Group.

TEMAGAMI WILDERNESS THREATENED BY LOGGING AND MINING

From Taiga-News 20 (March 1997)

A couple of centuries ago, a large part of eastern North America was covered with red and white pine forests. Many years later, there are only a few fragments left, and now even these last remnants are endangered by logging and mining. One of these last wilderness areas is Temagami, in Northern Ontario. For many visitors from all over the world, Temagami is a place to go canoeing in the calm waters of its lakes and rivers, or hiking under towering pine trees. Ontario's new government seems to have a completely different perspective. It has thrown out restrictions against development, and it has opened up the area to intensive logging and mining.

Background

The Temagami wilderness contains some of the last remaining old-growth red and white pine forests in Ontario, and the world. The white pine is Ontario's official tree, but ironically, less than 1% of the province's original pine forests are left. These forests are the habitat for many endangered species such as the eastern cougar, golden eagle and aurora trout. Temagami is also the homeland of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and the Ma-komin-Ising Anishnabeg, who have inhabited the area for thousands of years. They have been struggling for over a century to regain control over their land. Successive provincial and federal governments have chosen to ignore their rights, giving control of the forests to logging and mining companies instead. Logging and mining began earlier this century, and clear cutting started in the 1960s. In 1973 the Teme-Augama Anishnabai succeeded in slowing the destruction, by filing a land-claim caution which prohibited mining. Later, in 1983, local residents succeeded in persuading the provincial government to establish

Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park, which protects part of the region. In 1988-89, with the help of concerned people from all over Canada, they blockaded logging roads in an effort to stop clearcutting. Over 300 people were arrested in those blockades, including then-opposition leader Bob Rae.

Biased Planning Council

As a result of these protests, the Ontario government intervened to slow down the logging, and in 1990, it established the Comprehensive Planning Council (CPC) to decide Temagami's future. The CPC included local residents representing a variety of conflicting interests. It originally included representatives from the Teme-Augama Anishnabai, but they left after they became dissatisfied with the process. It is worth noting that the CPC was biased towards resource extraction, if only because it was forbidden to consider adding any new parks. Inherent in its flawed process was the belief that it is possible to protect the environment, and accommodate recreation, and industrial activities such as logging and mining. In April 1996 the CPC finally unveiled its land-use plan, after six years of deliberations, and uninterrupted logging. The plan calls for 78% of the region to be opened up for logging and mining. Only a few isolated stands of old-growth are protected as "tree museums."

Ontario's Neo-Conservative Government Since being elected in 1995, Ontario's Progressive Conservative government has dismantled social programs and environmental legislation. It has completely ignored public opinion. According to an opinion poll conducted last year, 81% of Ontarian's favour government action to protect wilderness areas. This widespread concern for the environment has been dismissed as the concerns of "a few special interest groups." Premier Mike Harris has chosen to ignore public opinion, declaring the Temagami wilderness "open for business." In September 1996, Goulard Lumber started logging the Owain Lake old-growth pine forest, the third largest stand of old-growth red and white pine left in North America. The Harris govern-

ment also threw out the land-claim caution which protected Temagami from mining -and Temagami was invaded by hundreds of prospectors looking for gold, copper and other metals. The Harris government has also continued a long tradition of Canadian indifference towards, or outright genocide of, indigenous peoples. In 1929, the Ontario government of the day asked the Teme-Augama Anishnabai to pay rent to stay on their land. Many years later, little has changed. The Harris government has broken off land-claim negotiations, and has handed over the Teme-Augama Anishnabai's land to logging and mining companies.

Opposition from Environmental Groups

Environmental groups have responded in a number of ways. From September to November, a Toronto-based group, Earthroots, organized blockades of logging roads to try to stop the Owain Lake old-growth forest from being logged. They succeeded in slowing the logging down, and attracted some media attention. Some groups have taken a more conservative approach. The Wildlands League and other groups came up with an alternative development plan for Temagami. Like the CPC plan, it allows for logging and mining, but there are more protected areas, and control is given to local citizens. A number of environmentalists have also joined the gold rush, staking claims in the headwaters of rivers flowing into Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park. By staking claims, they are hoping to keep these areas away from the mining companies.

Consumer pressure needed

OPIRG-Carleton's Forestry Working Group (a student group based at Carleton University in Ottawa) has focused on consumer pressure, and other alternative strategies. One of Canada's most powerful corporations is George Weston Limited, a transnational which conducts food processing, food distribution and resource operations. Most Canadians know about stores such as Loblaws and Zehrs, and products such as G*R*E*E*N, President's Choice, Clover

Leaf canned tuna and salmon, and Brunswick sardines. What most people don't know is that George Weston Limited controls a number of forest products companies, including E.B. Eddy Forest Products Limited, Agawa Forest Products Limited and Grant Lumber. All of these companies are using wood from wilderness areas with old-growth forests, in Temagami, Algoma Highlands and even Algonquin Park. OPIRG-Carleton has been trying to raise public awareness of the connection, by distributing pamphlets, postcards, and petitions. And starting January 26, we have been organizing information pickets at Loblaws stores to bring the message directly to the public. Because a lot of Weston products are exported, international pressure is crucial. Seafood products such as Cloverleaf canned salmon and Brunswick sardines are available in over 30 countries around the world. And much of E.B. Eddy's timber and paper is exported to the United States, with a smaller fraction going to Europe. We are looking for groups in Europe and the United States to join us, to help put pressure on this company.

Ban Imports of Old-growth Wood Products

We are also calling on legislative bodies such as the European Parliament to pass resolutions banning imports of wood products from Temagami and all other old-growth forests in Canada threatened by logging. In October last year, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling for the protection of the rainforests in the State of Amazonas, Venezuela, after the Venezuelan government proposed to lift a ban on logging and mining there. The resolution also asked the Venezuelan government to reform its policy towards indigenous peoples, whose health and land rights are threatened. The situation in Temagami is quite similar. Like the rainforests of Venezuela, the ancient forests of Temagami are now in danger because the Ontario government has opened up the area to logging and mining. The health and land rights of indigenous peoples are also threatened, for similar reasons. International pressure to stop.

STUDENTS AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID



Above: The banned Israeli Apartheid Week poster of 2009 with cartoon depiction of the 2008 bombings in Gaza.

Below: Image from a 2010 protest at Carleton University which shut down a Board of Governor's meeting. SAIA had been denied the ability to present their research on ethical investment policies.

BASIS OF UNITY

1. 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
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 by:
 - A) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands, dismantling the Wall and freeing all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners;
 - B) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and,
 - C) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN General Assembly resolution 194.

CARLETON HAS NO RESPECT FOR GLOBAL AND LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Reprinted from *The Leveller*, Volume 1, Issue 2, March 2, 2009

On February 8, Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) at Carleton University put up 100 posters for Israeli Apartheid Week, a series of lectures and public events that will occur on campuses in over 40 cities around the world. On February 9, following a complaint to Carleton's Equity Services, these posters were banned from public view on campus by university authorities, who cited the rationale that the posters "could be seen to incite others to infringe rights protected in the Ontario Human Rights code" and are "insensitive to the norms of civil discourse in a free and democratic society."

The poster was created by noted cartoonist Carlos Latuff and depicts a child being killed by aerial bombardment—a situation that occurred over 430 times in Israel's latest attack on Gaza according to UN reports. Given this factual basis, the notion that such an invite to a week of discussion is an incitement to infringe rights or a violation to norms of civil discourse is preposterous. The university president and authorities have repeatedly refused to acknowledge the war crimes in Gaza, yet have been swift to condemn a poster depicting such events. Far from defending human rights, the Carleton administration is treating them with contempt.

We call on your readers to e-mail the Carleton University President, Roseanne Runte, at to demand that she immediately restore the rights of Carleton students and send a copy of their message to SAIA.

— SAIA Carleton



SAIA DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGN MOVES FORWARD: GSA REFERENDUM PASSES BY 72%

By: Students Against Israeli Apartheid
Reposted from rabble.ca
March 27, 2012

On March 21 and 22, graduate students at Carleton University overwhelmingly voiced their support for the Palestinian people, by voting for the university's pension fund to divest from four companies that are complicit in the occupation of Palestine. With the vote taking place through a referendum question, all graduate students had the power to make their voices heard, and in the end, over 72 per cent took a principled stance, by voting for Carleton to stand on the side of justice, equality and accountability.

The referendum question asked students to support Carleton adopting a binding Socially Responsible Investment policy that would require the university to divest from companies complicit in illegal military occupations and other violations of international law, including, but not limited to: BAE Systems, Motorola, Northrop-Grumman and Tesco Supermarkets. These companies are directly engaged in the subjugation of the indigenous peoples of Palestine, complicit in an illegal military occupation and an apartheid system that operates contrary to the letter and spirit of international law.

In 2008, Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), the group that spearheaded the referendum campaign, was formed at Carleton University. SAIA came together in response to the July 2005 Palestinian civil society call for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and recognizes the indigenous Palestinian people's inalienable right to self determination.

The idea of international human rights was a Western-liberal project launched following the atrocities of World War II; the advancement and defence of it has historically been contingent on social

and political movements, particularly the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles that liberated millions from dire and oppressive conditions in the twentieth century. Where nation states have stood by, idle, mute and therefore complicit, civil society has stepped into the void, and has spoken strongly in favour of the oppressed.

Now, graduate students at Carleton have voted yes to divestment, and in through this referendum victory --which needs to be formally ratified by the Graduate Student Association council in April --they have said no to lending their tuition and image, as an academic body, to the normalization of military occupation, further entrenched via abhorrent systematic discrimination and other violations of international law.

This marks the first time in Canada that a referendum question on divestment has passed on a university campus, and it is one of many results of nearly four years of intensive campaigning by SAIA. The graduate students' will to divest adds further strength to SAIA's growing divestment campaign, which consists of 2500+ petition signatories and the endorsements of over 25 student clubs, academic workers' unions and university service centres in an expanding student movement across campus.

Although Carleton's administration has shown little interest in divesting from the aforementioned companies or in adopting a binding mechanism to prevent unethical investments in companies that violate international law, students have spoken out and grad students have voted explicitly in favour of divestment.

University is an academic institution comprised of a student body; its financial structure is rooted in enrolment and tuition fees. As such, this administration is accountable to the student body, and we do not support profiting at the blatant expense of human rights.

In 1988, the Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group forced the university to divest from South African apartheid. We did not stand for South Africa's apartheid system back then; we will not stand for Israel's now. We salute Carleton's grad students for once again standing on the rights side of history!

If you would like to get involved with or get more information from Students Against Israeli Apartheid Carleton check out:

— Carleton University Divestment video join the movement!

PERMACULTURE OTTAWA: CULTIVATING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Permaculture Ottawa is a community of students and community members that are interested in permaculture design. Permaculture is an ethics-based design art that mimics local ecosystems to create socially just and sustainable human habitats. Permaculture Ottawa was founded in the fall of 2010 out of a conversation between Carleton students about the lack of an organized permaculture community in Ottawa. At the People's Summit in Toronto that summer before the G20 protests, some of us met folks organizing the Greater Toronto Area Permaculture Project. Their work consisted of popular education, guerrilla gardening and "permablitzes"—voluntary backyard garden work bees. It was clear that Ottawa could have a similar network of people doing similar work.

An informal gather took place in February 2011 to discuss the organization of the "Permaculture Project Ottawa" (PPO). Meanwhile, discussion was taking place about working permaculture into the environmental platform of Common Cause Ontario, the provincial network of anarcho-communists/anarcho-syndicalists.

A workshop took place about the connections between anti-oppression/anti-hierarchy struggles, environmental justice and permaculture design. This back-and-forth between Common Cause and the emerging

permaculture community lead to PPO's inaugural public event on "Liberation Permaculture."

This event took place in April 2011 and attracted about twenty five people. The event resulted in a heated discussion on social justice and political resistance. What emerged from this discussion was a Facebook group for PPO in order to continue the discussion.

For about half a year a lot of discussion took place on Facebook between an increasing number of interested community members in Ottawa. The PPO was featured at the 2011 Eastern Ontario Permaculture Convergence that August organized by the Permaculture Institute of Eastern Ontario (PIEO). This resulted in a large e-mail list of interested potential participants in PPO.

At this point, PPO also became a working group of OPIRG-Carleton.

With more online discussion and a growing e-mail list-serv, a first "general assembly" meeting took place in November 2011 at the OPIRG-Carleton office. Since that meeting, monthly general assemblies have taken place. In the Winter of 2012 PPO began working with Just Food-Ottawa's grassroots food justice organization-on creating a "Community Urban Food Forest" at the Community Food Hub compound in Blackburn Hamlet in the east-end of Ottawa. At this point the PPO changed their name to Permaculture Ottawa (PO), because the PPO acronym was already taken by Planned Parenthood Ottawa-and the acronym OPP (Ottawa Provincial Police) was in no way desirable to the group.

In the Winter of 2012, PO helped co-organize the 2012 Eastern Ontario Permaculture Convergence, which took place in May that year.

In March 2012 PO reached their highest attendance for any general assembly with 35 people in attendance. In May 2012 PO and PIEO also co-hosted a plant propagation workshop at the Just Food Community Food Hub. In June that year, PO began working with the Reel Food Film Festival to organize a permaculture film night that took place in Oc-

tober 2012. The film night filled the theatre at the Ottawa Main Branch Library. In the Fall of 2012, PO also organized two site mapping workshops, and held several social events.

In the Winter of 2013, PO began working with PIEO again about organizing the 2013 permaculture convergence, which will take place in March.

Permaculture Ottawa has thrived as a result of its partnership with OPIRG-Carleton. The resources, staff, and institutional support were vital for our small community organization to organize and develop in ways that allowed us to cultivate robust and democratic community participation. OPIRG-Carleton is essential for grassroots community work to thrive. The community we have built around permaculture would not have been possible without OPIRG.

OXBOW PARK NATURALIZATION PROJECT

Taken from a 2008 report written by Emma Slaney Gose on Student Organizations For Social, Economical and Environmental Sustainability at Carleton University

Since 1994, OPIRG-Carleton has been naturalizing the area on Carleton University campus known as Oxbow Park. This initiative was born out of concern from the campus childcare centre over the use of 2,4-D herbicide to maintain a nearby sports field located between Raven Road and the Rideau River. The Oxbow Park Naturalization working group negotiated an agreement with the University to maintain the park using natural methods. After extensive rehabilitative work Oxbow park is one of the only areas left on campus providing valuable green space where wildlife and humans can interact.



**Permaculture Project
Ottawa Logo above;
and
Permaculture Ottawa
member hanging out with
some carrots below.**



Contributions to a more sustainable campus:

The Oxbow Park Naturalization Project has made many contributions towards campus sustainability by reducing pesticide use and increasing diversity. With the establishment of a butterfly meadow and regular tree planting in the area surrounding the sports field, what used to be a barren field has been restored to a more natural state. By organizing annual planting sessions for over a decade, volunteers have restored a wide range of native trees, shrubs and other perennials to the park. Efforts have been

made to control invasive species and bird-and bat-houses were built and installed. As a result, the park provides habitat for an increasingly diverse range of wild species. In the past three years, wildlife such as monarch butterflies, bats, wood ducks, mergansers, a cooper's hawk, muskrats, beavers and many other species have been sighted in the park.

Oxbow Park volunteers have helped to inform students and community members about naturalization by producing pamphlets, installing interpretive signs in the park, doing outreach to other community groups, organizing tours, staffing information tables and giving workshops.

Oxbow Park is appreciated by geography, biology, history, and environmental studies professors who use it as an educational resource for their students. At the request of professors, volunteers have done presentations on naturalization in classes, as well as giving tours of the park to students. Volunteers have organized a

range of activities in Oxbow Park including interpretive walks guided by biology Professor Michael Runtz, as well as fun events such as last winter's snow-shoe tour of the park.

Current Difficulties:

This project has encountered a number of difficulties including:

- need for long-term permission to continue naturalization activities in the park (a five-year agreement of use was negotiated with Vice President Duncan Watt in 2004-ideally the park would be protected well into the future)
- formal recognition of Oxbow Park by identifying it on official school maps and on the Carleton University website would increase awareness about its existence and location
- the volunteers have had difficulty maintaining interpretive signs in the park, which are frequently vandalized
- a need for help in maintaining the educational trails (i.e. when large trees fall across the path, volunteers are unable to clear them away).



Volunteers and a turtle in Oxbow Park, the site of OPIRG-Carleton's longstanding naturalization project

FAIR TRADE CARLETON

Taken from a 2008 report written by Emma Slaney Gose on Student Organizations For Social, Economical and Environmental Sustainability at Carleton University.

Fair Trade Carleton is a (mostly) student group based at Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada), working to provide a better deal for workers and producers in the developing world, according to a set of principles: fair wages, equal opportunities, environmental sustainability, long-term trade relationships, healthy and safe working conditions, and financial and technical assistance.

Contributions to a more sustainable campus:

Fair Trade Carleton is responsible for the Fair Trade beverage options available at most campus cafes.

Since this time, Fair Trade Carleton re-

emerged to do more work on campus.

CARLETON SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS NETWORK

Taken from a 2008 report written by Emma Slaney Gose on Student Organizations For Social, Economical and Environmental Sustainability at Carleton University

The Carleton Sustainable Campus Network is a group of students, faculty, staff, and administrators committed to sustainable development at Carleton University. Through interdisciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration we are striving to engage our campus as a living laboratory and learning tool in creating a sustainable society.

Vision of sustainability

The concept of sustainability overlaps several areas. It has been described as addressing a triple-bottom line: environmental (planet), economic (prosperity), and social (people).

Sustainability is

- Using the world's resources in ways that will allow human beings to continue to exist on Earth with an adequate quality of life. The world that is passed on to future generations and other creatures [must] be one worth living in.
- Balancing today's needs with tomorrow's.
- To explore and take into account the social and ecological consequences of our decisions. -To earn the respect of future generations for the ecological, social and economic legacy we create.
- Sustainability is living within the earth's limits. In a sustainable future, no one would think twice about going outside for a walk or drinking a glass of tap water. Food would be free from pesticide residues, antibiotics, and growth hormones. Air, water, and soil would be uncontaminated by toxic substances. In a sustainable future, it would be safe to swim in every river and lake; safe to eat



fish wherever they were caught. Clean, renewable energy would be generated by harnessing the sun, the wind, water, and heat of the Earth. A sustainable future would mean a global climate undisturbed by human impacts. We would no longer fear sunburn or cancer caused by damage to the ozone layer. No one would worry about nature's extraordinary diversity diminishing at human hands. Endangered ecosystems and species would recover and thrive. We would be confident that future generations would enjoy the same spectacular natural heritage and quality of life that we enjoy today.

LUG-A-MUG CAMPAIGN

Event: CSCN's campaign to promote the use of reusable mugs. Goals: Education about the potential for reducing garbage and energy use by carrying a reusable mug rather than purchasing a disposable one. Informing about the excessive amount of waste generated daily on campus through the use of disposable cups. Raising awareness in the campus community about sustainability issues and about CSCN.

Promotion

CSCN put up posters to promote both the Lug-A-Mug week and the Lug-A-Mug concept

5in general. Coffee/beverage vendors on campus were asked to promote the campaign by having a poster in their facility, by encouraging the use of reusable mugs during the campaign week, and by emphasizing the benefits of lugging a mug, including a discount on purchase. Vendors were visited by CSCN the week before the campaign and provided with information about the

benefits of reusable mugs, as well as posters for their establishments.

CARLETON-> OFF

CarletON-> OFF is CSCN's campaign to save electricity usage by encouraging the community to turn off non-lab computers and office equipment at the end of the day. CSCN has designed stickers to be placed on monitors, printers, photocopiers, and light switches as reminders.

The stickers were paid for by Physical Plant and are available at no cost to University departments.

CARLETON FOOD COLLECTIVE -GARDEN (G)-SPOT

G-Spot Statement from 2008 report compiled by Emma Slaney Gose on Student Organizations For Social, Ecological and Environmental Sustainability at Carleton University

Profit does not make the world valuable. Pre-packaged plastic food does not sustain our bodies or our minds. As we yearn for something nutritious, something sustainable, we are told to shut up and hand over our money. But we stopped. And we stood up. And we said "No more."

The students at Carleton University are hungry. Rising tuition and rent in Ottawa meant that the average food budget took a nosedive. Many students literally live on rice and ketchup for weeks at a time, their energy and concentration faltering, and increasingly must rely on coffee and

other stimulants to stave off hunger and keep them going.

That's why the Garden Spot was formed by the Carleton Food Collective, a loose bunch of students looking to serve the need within their own community through direct action.

The Garden Spot is a revolutionary act of defiance started in December of 2001, to provide meal alternatives to the South Ottawa community. Inspired by the People's Potato at Concordia University, Montreal, volunteers have served over 12000 multi-course vegan meals. We continuously work towards being an autonomous collective, empowering the community to meet its needs through alternative economics.

The G-Spot serves nutritious vegan meals everyday using a "pay-what-you-can" system, enabling eaters ranging from a few homeless people to university professors to each pay what they are able to. Volunteers meet to prepare lunch every morning in an off-campus cooking space and then haul the food to school to serve in the University Centre. Food is obtained mainly through donations from a handful of stores and a local wholesaler who sells 'ends-of-lots' at a reduced price. The Collective tries to use as much organic produce as possible. The pay-what-you-can system pays for all food purchases with a margin left of reserves. An average day brings anywhere from \$20-\$300 in donations. Striving for as little waste as possible, the G-Spot uses reusable plastic containers and composts leftover food. This is accomplished through volunteer labour, either in the kitchen, serving at lunch or washing and cleaning up the dishes.

For the first four months of 2002 the G-Spot served meals. That's when Administration and Carleton's corporate food monopoly, Chartwells, stepped in. The G-Spot was the first open challenge to monopoly capitalism and enforced hunger on campus and the profiteers took notice. They wanted it shut down.

Chartwells is an aggressive monopoly. It actively exploits workers and poor students to the benefit of the profit-hungry. The workers are paid minimum wage and treated poorly. They are often immigrants who in many cases speak little English or French and therefore have little knowledge of their rights or labour law. Chartwells has an exclusive monopoly on over 200 college and university campuses across North America and is a subsidiary of the Compass Group, based in the UK. The Compass group is the worlds largest private supplier of prison meals, and is heavily involved in the US private prison system. The food available at Carleton University is expensive, low quality, caters to the meat-eating majority, and largely ignores healthy, nutritious and good tasting vegetarian and vegan alternatives. Any vegetarian items Chartwells serves come from dubious production and serving methods making many doubt the purity of their food.

On the Compass website, their goals are outlined in terms of market and pure profit. Their goal is to increase profitability for their clients, partners and shareholders. This is, of course, at the expense of their workers and the people eating their food, whether in a prison or a school cafeteria who garner no mention on the list of goals.

The Carleton Food Collective was well aware of Chartwells presence on campus. As more and more students were alienated from accessible, healthy and sustainable food choices, there was no choice but to stand up and clear the way for a more viable alternative.

In April of 2002, the student body had a referendum, resulting in a majority vote, entitling the G-Spot to a \$1.50 student fee on each students tuition. This gave the Collective about \$20,000 which was to be used to was to build a kitchen and serving space on campus. Health concerns had been raised about the fact that on a daily basis

food was travelling in coolers between the church kitchen and Carleton where it was served. Essentially, along the way, the food could become contaminated and make someone sick.

After winning an initial vote from the Board of Governors to allow the Collective to raise the money (student democracy being tenuous at best), all seemed to go well. That is, until the classroom Administration had allocated for the G-Spot to convert was not approved by the health inspector, as it was underground without ventilation. The G-Spot was left with nowhere to cook and serve from.

For two years the Garden Spot was homeless. In this time we tried to serve sometimes out of Baker's Lounge on the fourth floor of the Unicentre and continued negotiations with the Carleton Administration. In September 2004 we changed our tactics and decided to try to negotiate with CUSA, the Carleton University Student's Association. After a year of working with CUSA, the Garden Spot was able to lease 426H in the Unicentre from CUSA on September 12, 2005. In this same time period Carleton switched from Chartwells to another food service provided by Aramark.

There has been an unexpected change in Carleton's environment. The social interaction between people created a com-

munity of diverse individuals. Many students sight the days that they volunteered with the Collective as the highlight of their week. As people cooked together, ate together, and cleaned together, ties and connections were made. It has created links between students, the public, community groups and small businesses. Suddenly, those who were once alienated had an entire support system surrounding them. Through the G-Spot, isolated individuals have come together in an active community. Carleton University is a better place for it and so is the city of Ottawa.

In the short time the G-Spot has been running it has become an established part of community life. The opposition to the Garden Spot by Administration is a misplaced over-reaction.

The Garden Spot has set a precedent, that's why we're dangerous. We've built a community, uniting students and the Ottawa public around a local issue. Solutions to problems don't have to depend on government or corporate handouts. People can work together as a community to meet their own needs. There are still hunger and poverty in our community, but with this success, they're closer to being eliminated. This is why the Carleton Food Collective is not going to stop fighting until it wins. Contact us at: carletonfoodcollective@gmail.com



Photo of the G-spot food serving by Chris Roussakis 2009.



Above: 2013 event poster followed by a classic anti-apartheid poster.

Below: 2009 photo of volunteers in Oxbow Park.



Contributions to a More Sustainable Campus:

- provides a healthy, affordable alternative to other campus food services.

- emphasizes and practices local and organic consumption.
- reduces waste from excessive food packaging by encouraging and providing reusable containers.
- diverts food from landfills and composts all food waste.
- fosters a sense of sustainable community on campus.

Current Difficulties:

- The G-Spot currently Serves out of 426H in the University Centre for Breakfast (8:30am-12pm

- Monday to Friday) and Lunch (12:30pm-2:30pm Monday to Thursdays). This location is small as well as somewhat obscure and consequently the Garden-Spot remains one of Carleton's best kept secrets.

G-Spot operations are also made difficult by the exclusive food contract between Aramark and Carleton University: Food must be prepared off-campus and then transported to the serving space. These unfortunate situations have rendered the services provided by the Carleton Food Collective less accessible, which is undeniably unfortunate.

CARLETON ANTI-APARTHEID ACTION GROUP

THE OTHER APARTHEID: LOOKING BACK AT CARLETON'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Reprinted from Leveller, Volume 2, Issue 3, January 2010
by Alroy Fonseca

"A classmate of mine came up to me after class one day and said, 'Glenn Babb is

coming to campus. What are we going to do?'" recounted Con McAfee, a coordinator for the Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group (CAAAG) in the mid-1980s.

In October 1985, the Carleton Press Club (CPC) had announced that Babb, the South African ambassador to Canada, would visit campus to debate the merits of the apartheid system.

Rob McKenzie, the CPC's vice-president, told *The Charlatan* at the time, "We feel Babb should have a chance to announce his views. . . . We're concerned with freedom of expression."

The ambassador's views were eventually heard in April 1986, after student opposition caused many delays and also led organizers to move the event off campus, to the National Press Gallery.

In the year and a half between the announcement of Babb's visit in the fall of 1985 and March 1987, a major student movement against apartheid coalesced on campus and succeeded in forcing the university to take a firm stand against the South African regime.

Awakened to the apartheid struggle as a result of the CPC's announcement, student activists soon moved their campaign from a focus on the impending visit to one aimed at forcing the Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA) and the university administration to cut all institutional links with South Africa.

The aims set out by CAAAG were far-reaching, and when the Board of Governors (BOG) announced in December 1985 that Carleton would demonstrate its opposition to apartheid by subscribing to the Canadian Code of Conduct, students were deeply disappointed.

The code was a set of guidelines developed by the federal government in 1977 to encourage Canadian firms doing business in South Africa to treat Black workers marginally better and pay them enough "to achieve a standard of living required to meet their basic needs," but fell short of challenging the basic system of apartheid.

In response to the BOG announcement, McAfee, the CAAAG's coordinator, observed that "companies still abide by South African law, which is at the root of racial discrimination in South Africa. Until the law is changed, nothing is going to happen."

What Carleton needed to protest apartheid was full divestment.

In this context students from campus groups like Oxfam, the International Socialists, and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group joined to form CAAAG.

There was a rapidly growing student consciousness about the situation in South Africa.

By fall 1985, for instance, CUSA had resolved to rid the Unicentre Store of many South Africa-linked products, including certain fruits and Carling-Okeefe beer, and eventually Rothmans cigarettes.

By late winter 1986, the anti-apartheid climate on campus was such that The Charlatan devoted a large chunk of its February 20th edition to the matter. Staff writer Lynn Marchildon observed that “anti-apartheid activism at Carleton surfaced only five months ago but since that time the university has made considerable progress in severing its links to South Africa ... and has found itself unexpectedly one of the leading Ontario universities of anti-apartheid activity.”

Throughout 1986, students kept the pressure on the administration, writing letters to the president, sending BOG members individually signed postcards, meeting with various officials, accumulating some 3,000 signatures on a divestment petition, organizing forums and lectures, and presenting the administration with hefty dossiers explaining their case.

However, the administration did little.

In fact, when it was discovered in June 1986 that a company linked to Carleton’s endowment fund (Moore Corporation) had violated the Code of Conduct, President W.E. Beckel lamented having to sell the stock as it had proved to be a “good investment” and added that he believed the company had been “really conforming to the guidelines, only not to the extent that some people argue they should.”

Student frustration grew in the face of the administration’s inaction and when a BOG meeting on January 26, 1987—after more than a year of steady lobbying on the part of CAAAG—did not result in a decision to divest, students erupted into loud protest.

According to the The Charlatan’s coverage, “at least 300” demonstrators were on hand.

They shouted down the BOG, forcing the group to move to a new room in the president’s office, and then trapped the governors there until police arrived. Others blocked doors and hallways and became “limp if the police tried to remove them.”

Eventually, the arrival of journalists and television crews distracted demonstrators, and a number of governors made an escape for the elevators. They were prevented from closing the doors by chanting students.

The decision on divestment was sent for reconsideration to the BOG’s Executive Committee a few weeks later and, during this time, it appears that student lobbying and protests changed President Beckel’s mind.

In his official submission to the committee, Beckel stated, “I believe their [the students’] arguments have merit... I simply believe that if we are to be influenced by morals or social responsibility it is as good or better to attempt to eliminate apartheid by no investment as by partial investment based on adherence to a code of conduct. Let’s get out of South Africa as much as we can and stay out, on moral and financial grounds.”

With the president on board, and with continuing student pressure, the BOG finally opted for full divestment in early March 1987. In addition to ridding Carleton’s endowment fund of South Africa-linked companies, the administration decided to not contract for goods or services of South African origin except in extreme circumstances when adhering to the ban “would significantly interfere with the operation of the University.”

Nevertheless, President Beckel noted in the memorandum outlining the new contracts policy that “Carleton University abhors apartheid and will do all it can to show its position on apartheid within its business practices.”

McAfee, former CAAAG activist, recalls, “The anti-apartheid movement had many enemies [but] as a pressure group [we students] were able to maintain our strength and eventually saw to it that the university agreed to divest from South Africa.”

Less than three years after Carleton’s divestment, Nelson Mandela was released from a 27-year captivity, his walk out of Victor Verster Prison broadcast live to the world.

MAI-NOT WORKING GROUP

Text is taken from the MAI-Not Project Website.

Welcome to the MAI-Not! Project. With the exception of the links above, it has been inactive since the OECD gave up on the MAI in October. For up-to-date news and action, see the MAI-not newsgroup, the world’s largest, searchable, anti-globalization archive. If you wish to subscribe, click here. Also, visit the sites listed below. Most are still active.

The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) would have crippled our governments’ ability to implement laws in the public interest, by permitting foreign-based corporations to directly sue our governments for huge settlements through an unaccountable MAI tribunal. But is the MAI really on the rocks? What next: an “MIA” at the WTO? The IMF? Similar rules are still planned in other treaties. As we have learned, the “forces of darkness” don’t ever give up. The Globe and Mail likened it to a high-powered game of marbles.”

What is the MAI?

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) is an international treaty being negotiated behind closed doors by the 29 rich countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Under this agreement governments would become ruled by large corporations, who already dictate much of our governments’ policy behind the scenes.

The MAI would further cripple our respective Parliaments’ ability to implement laws in the public interest, by permitting foreign-based corporations to directly sue our governments for huge settlements through an unaccountable MAI tribunal. The MAI was developed to enable investors in multinational corporations to discourage any legislation

issued by national or even subnational governments that foreign investors perceive as against their profit objectives.

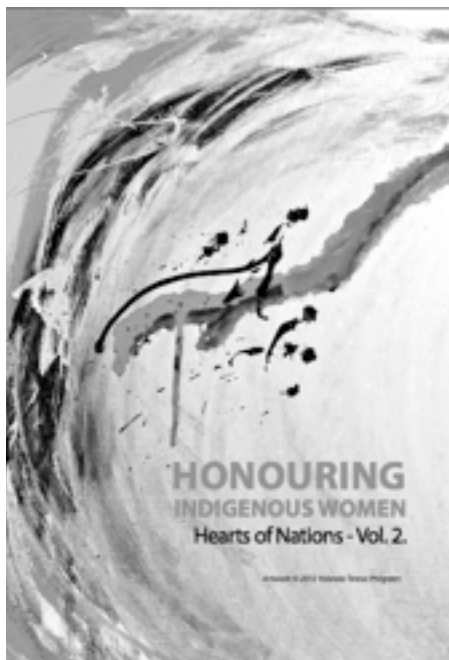
The MAI would contain no provision to make investors accountable to national governments. If the MAI were signed and implemented, it would establish corporations as our final legal arbiter, with elected governments as their compliant puppets. In the words of Renato Ruggiero, Director General of the World Trade Organization, "we are writing the constitution of a single global economy."

The MAI is being negotiated with no meaningful consultation with the public. The MAI draft text was leaked to the Internet in April 1997. This treacherous proposal has been flushed out of secrecy, and its proponents put on the defensive, by a network of citizens, grassroots and national groups, and even concerned governments.

Under the ensuing public outcry, as well as pressure from dissenting countries, the OECD has responded with more deception: They have postponed further "negotiations" until October, but meanwhile pursue informal one-on-one "consultations" with governments which are more difficult to monitor, in order to whittle down their growing lists of reservations. Meanwhile, corporate media such as the Financial Times and Globe and Mail have spread propaganda that "the MAI is dead." To counter this mass deception, citizens groups such as Friends of the Earth U.S. have issued reports analyzing the OECD's real intentions. As for Canada, our government may try to bypass Parliament --unless citizens hold Parliamentarians accountable on the MAI.

Speaking of Parliament, here are the recommendations (including NDP and Reform minority reports and more) and the transcripts of the Canadian government MAI hearings from last November. The most critical recommendations (e.g., calls for an "impact analysis") were ignored by the Minister. But growing public pressure prompted a few "town hall meetings" in March, 1998 by some Liberal MPs to gauge which way the "MAI-not wind" is blowing.

FSA Update: House bill delayed until fall. The government has delayed implementing legislation to harmonize



**Cover of the IPSM
Ottawa's 2012
Honouring
Indigenous
Women: Hearts of
Nations (Vol. 2.)
booklet, featuring
poetry, writing and
artwork by
Indigenous
Women.**

Canada's Bank Act with the Financial Services Agreement (FSA) to which Canada signed an agreement in principle on 12 Dec 1997. But we still must act now and adamantly oppose any attempt to bypass full debate in Parliament, a practice now well-entrenched by our bureaucratic elites. Officially the WTO Agreement on Financial Services, the FSA would not by itself enable the sell-off of our financial sector. First, the so-called 10 per cent rule limiting foreign ownership would have to go. Will Canadian banks, who now insist on mega-mergers, press for this sooner or later? Like the MAI, the FSA may be unconstitutional as it would tie the hands of future parliaments, in this case permanently. Democracy Watch suggests questions to ask our Canadian MPs. Use our free fax link to fax MPs before they vote on implementing legislation related to the FSA. Also see our FSA page, now with hyperlinks to WTO and Canadian Government. Our MP survey also asks questions on the FSA.

"MAI? Tell Us Why"

NEW: here's an article summarizing our campaign, including our next step: anti-deception training. We offer several campaign tools, including our second petition and survey of MPs. They do not replace lobbying and fighting, but instead give them better aim, i.e. "we want answers." This can help force the MAI back into the media spotlight, and stop the

government from using deception to force through bad proposals. In short, if politicians and their media proxies try to "sell" the MAI, we can be ready.

Why are so many politicians deceiving us?

Authorities by nature condition people to blindly trust them. We protest when they predictably betray us, but the deception continues to grow because we fail to expect them to report their intentions or meet certain standards of performance. The consequence is a treadmill: more and more politicians rarely answer our questions because we don't expect it, and because it might affect their careers. Our response is to "hold them to account" to force valid answers on the MAI. Some scientists have noticed this pervasive conditioning to "trust the experts." They have drafted the precautionary principle that it's our duty not to wait for scientific proof to oppose the MAI or any proposal where harm may result. Proponents must publicly state the MAI's alleged benefits and hazards, so that the public may challenge their validity.

**BURMA/TIBET/ EAST
TIMOR WORKING
GROUPS: PETRO-**

CANADA BACKS DOWN UNDER BOYCOTT PRESSURE

by Rolf Auer
Peace and Environment News
December 1992-1993

Activists are claiming victory for a consumer boycott against Petro-Canada following the oil company's announcement November 2 that it will not renew its oil exploration contract with the military government of Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Though Petro-Canada claimed its decision was primarily economically motivated, Petro-Canada's Public Affairs Director Dave Hocking admitted "the concerns that Canadians have shown have been heard and were part of the decision making process." The unsuccessful three-year, U.S.\$28 million exploration for oil by the Calgary-based national energy company was clouded by protests from human rights groups, who saw it as support for the oppressive Myanmar government.

The Canadian campaign to boycott Petro-Canada was a protest against human rights violations by the Myanmar military regime, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). Described by Amnesty International as a "State of Terror," SLORC is responsible for slaughtering thousands of pro-democracy student demonstrators, closing universities, enforcing mass slave labour, condoning drug dealing, overriding the 1990 elections, and imprisoning 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi along with opposition Members of Parliament.

The campaign began in April with letter writing and phone calls to Petro-Canada by the Canadian lobby group Friends of the Rainforest. The All Burma Student's Democratic Front called on other countries to halt imports from Myanmar, and that led to the Petro-Canada boycott. By September 1992, OPIRG-Carleton and the Canadian Youth Network for Asia-Pacific Solidarity (CYNAPS) joined Friends of the Rainforest in the boycott. In October, twenty-five Public Interest Research Groups plus

approximately 160 student organizations were urged to publicize and participate in the boycott, and a petition asking Petro-Canada to cease operations in Myanmar was circulated to these groups as well.

Terry Cottam, an Ottawa resident who coordinated the Petro-Canada boycott, said that critics still don't trust Petro-Canada since it has failed to admit responsibility for supporting the SLORC's abuses, and has insisted on fulfilling its three-year contract.

The Canadian Council of Churches is pursuing the issue to ensure that Petro-Canada follows through with its commitment to withdraw. The Canadian Friends of Burma organization is petitioning Petro-Canada chairman Bill Hopper to have Petro-Canada make a goodwill gesture toward citizens of Myanmar by helping fund a new short-wave radio station broadcasting from Norway called the Democratic Voice of Burma. It is also hoped that pressure will be exerted on other oil companies to withdraw from Myanmar.

PepsiCo new focus

Cottam said the protest will now focus on PepsiCo Inc., which has a 35 percent shareholding in a U.S.\$3 million bottling plant in Rangoon, capital of Myanmar. PepsiCo also owns restaurant chains Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell, and makes the snack foods Frito-Lay and Doritos.

In response to a phone call from Cottam informing PepsiCola International of the boycott, Ken Ross, Director of Special Projects, said, "We hope you

can appreciate our position on trade and the very real and positive long-term value it can bring to a total humanitarian effort....We do believe that it was not external forces that ultimately forced the governments [of Eastern Europe] to change. It was internal movements, created by pressure from citizens and consumers alike [italics added ed.] to institute reforms..."

In response to Mr. Ross's statement, Cottam said, "I agree whole-heartedly with Mr. Ross's faith in consumer movements, and on that note, urge an immediate launch of the boycott."

For more information about the Pepsico boycott, please call Friends of the Rainforest at (613) 236-5751, OPIRG-Carleton at (613) 788-2757, or CYNAPS at (604) 255-2787.

SUU KYI TO DELIVER VIDEO MESSAGE AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Canadian friends of Burma
February 22, 2011

Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi will deliver a video message at noon today February 22 at Carleton University at a special ceremony where she will receive an honorary doctorate degree in absentia. During the ceremony, Canada's former Foreign Minister Flora MacDonald will also give a key note address dedicated to Aung San Suu Kyi. The public and media are invited to attend.

"We are pleased that Carleton University has decided to give an honorary degree to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi because the campus has a proud history of supporting the Burma movement," said Tin Maung Htoo, executive director of Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB).

He noted that it was at the Carleton where Terry Cottam and his fellow Burma activists first launched the student-led Pepsico boycott in the 1990s. "The OPIRG-Carleton anti-Pepsi campaign quickly spread



2011 photo of Aung Saan Suu Kyi accepting an Honorary degree at Carleton.

around the world and led to millions finding out Burma and Aung San Suu Kyi,” added Tin Maung Htoo referring to the Carleton chapter of the student-run Ontario Public Interest Research Group that spearheaded the boycott drive which ultimately forced Pepsi to end their partnership with Burma’s military regime.

In recent years, Carleton University hosted several important figures from Burma’s opposition movement including Dr. Cynthia Maung, the head of Mao Taw Clinic on the Thai-Burma border, Aung Zaw, editor of the Irrawaddy magazine, and Dr. Sein Win, MP-elect in the annulled 1990 election and leader of Burma’s government in exile. “Carleton students, staff and administration have always welcomed members of Burma’s democratic opposition on campus and we very much appreciate their support,” adds Tin Maung Htoo.

Regarding the award, Carleton University President Roseann O'Reilly Runte sent a letter to Aung San Suu Kyi in which she stated, “Carleton

University wishes to recognize you as one of the most remarkable, self-sacrificing figures of our century. We consider you to be one of the most determined, courageous women of all time.”

The Canadian Friends of Burma wishes to thank Carleton University for conferring her with this award and also wishes to thank the Carleton teaching assistants and contract instructors at CUPE local 4600 for their strong support of the Burma cause.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT— OTTAWA

The IPSM Ottawa started as a loose collection of individuals who wanted to support the 2006 land reclamation at Kanonhstaton, near Caledonia and the Six Nations reserve. The Haudenau-saunee were asserting their rights to their territory as outlined in the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784, as well as protesting urban sprawl and environmental destruction. The IPSM raised funds, organized demonstrations and educational events in an effort to provide financial support, to put pressure on the government and governor-general, and to raise awareness about the issues that had led to the reclamation.

We have also been involved in supporting a number of other communities against the racism and violence of the colonial (canadian) government, as well as more local issues. We have raised funds for the Tyendinaga Mohawks, as well as the Ardoch Algonquin, and examples of more local work include supporting the Aboriginal community at Carleton University during Aboriginal Awareness Week and an initiative called "What I Learned in Class Today." The project was based around an anti-racist and anti-colonial film by Indigenous students at the Uni-

ORIENTATION SESSIONS
for the grassroots group: 

Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa

www.ipsmo.org



Want to get involved? .or. Learn more about us?

Two session options:

- Carleton U campus - Mon Sept 17, 3-5pm GSA boardroom Graduate Students Assoc 600 Unicentre building	- Centretown - Thurs Sept 20, 7-9pm Jack Purcell Comm.Ctr. 320 Jack Purcell Lane Off Elgin, near Gilmour
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versity of British Columbia that described the day to day and institutional racism that they experienced in class and at the University. Melissa Santoro Greyeyes-Brandt and others also created their own film project using the same idea that focused on racism at Carleton University. In the summer of 2008 we began supporting the Algonquins of Barriere Lake in their ongoing efforts to protect their lands, waters and territory, and to make the government respect the 1991 Triateral Agreement between the community, and the Provincial and Federal governments. Solidarity with Barriere Lake has been our longest and most consistent campaign, and has, in many ways defined the group as it exists today. It was also at this time that we revised our Basis of Unity:

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



2008 highway blockade just outside of the Barriere Lake community in northern Quebec.

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.

We have worked to support organizations like Families of Sister in Spirit, and to ending violence against indigenous women. As part of this campaign, we have published two booklets. We have also raised funds for the Shannon and Odjick families, who have both had a daughter go missing, and organized many educational events to raise awareness about the estimated 3000 missing and murdered indigenous women, in Canada and to put pressure on governments to take action to prevent more women, girls, trans and two-spirited people from going missing and being murdered and to ensure that the families get justice.

During 2010 we were also part of the campaign that opposed the g8/g20 summit meetings, and the winter olympics in Vancouver that were held on occupied indigenous territory and were used as a way for capitalist developers to grab land from poor communities and engage in highly profitable environmental destruction, aka "economic development." And we organized buses to go to Toronto to take part in the demonstration for Indigenous Sovereignty.

To sum up, we are a small collective of grassroots activists that work in a anti-hierarchical collective that is both anti-colonial and anti-capitalist. We have been active in Ottawa for almost 7 years now. We have 2 ongoing campaigns, and also organize in support of many communities and issues as situations arise, and when we are asked. We also work to ensure that other groups and individuals are remembering to listen to indigenous people, to take direction from them, and to stick around, as building movements for revolutionary change takes time and patience!

In solidarity,

The IPSM-Ottawa

REMEMBERING EXILE AND BEYOND

Thanks to the support of OPIRG Carleton and OPIRG-Ottawa, a temporary autonomous space known as Exile Infoshop grew out of the cracks of the Crapital known as Ottawa, situated on unceded Algonquin territory. In recognizing our complicity in colonialism as settlers on unceded Algonquin territory, Exile attempted to provide a space for working in solidarity with Indigenous struggles for self-determination and decolonization, and against capitalism. There had been a need for a gathering space in which communities could share resources, knowledge and skills for resistance. Exile Infoshop was formed by a small group of volunteers with the support of community groups, individuals, and the OPIRGs, with this mandate in mind. Exile Infoshop developed into a temporary autonomous space as its members and community supporters participated directly in its creation and maintenance through meetings, consensus decision making, fundraising, and book and merchandise sales to keep the space alive. It was temporary in the sense that it lasted a few years in multiple locations and forms, whether homeless or in the closet within the OPIRG-Ottawa office. Though temporary it provided a fertile space for cultivating creativity and critical social consciousness.

As a volunteer collective member, who arrived in the later years of its existence, I was fortunate enough to witness and learn from the growing pains of Exile Infoshop and the communities it had been a part of. As a member of Exile, I learned valuable lessons in anti-authoritarian practices such as consensus decision making processes which distribute power and choice horizontally according to guiding principles of anti-oppression. My time with Exile allowed me to share my experiences, knowledge and skills as a Filipino immigrant cis-woman with able-bodied privileges who had recently moved from Coast Salish territory (Vancouver BC) to Algonquin territory (Ottawa). As someone who identifies as a woman of colour, having the ability to make direct decisions that impact myself and the community I am a part

This section contains some written memories of volunteers along with photos from over the years.

Below: Exile Infoshop!



of, is essential to my decolonization process. Having my experiences validated by like minded people struggling with different forms of oppression has given me strength to continue to learn about the ways I am complicit in the oppression of others and challenge the privileges I carry. Access to resources and knowledge continues to be an important aspect of my decolonization process and it has been made possible through the support of OPIRG, Exile Infoshop, and many individuals involved in critical social consciousness raising.

To me, Exile was not just a space but an intentional community in which I could be a part of. Made up of volunteers with similar goals of social justice guided by anti-authoritarian principles, mutual aid, and direct action, Exile, as it had come to be known, attempted to pound open the cracks and seams left by capitalism. It became a gathering space for learning, developing skills and sharing critical social theories. Exile hosted Free Skools, discussions, book launches, film showings, and a lending library of radical literature including some of its own zine publications. Exile supported and was supported by a variety of social justice groups like the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Movement Ottawa, Common Cause, Books to Prisoners, Students Against Israeli Apartheid, Transition Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, Permaculture Ottawa, and so many more amazing groups and individuals seeking a better world beyond capitalist exploitation and ecological destruction. Exile was a space where alternatives to capitalism could be dreamed and realized in practical and theoretical ways that could support the here and now needs of the communities of Indigenous and settler peoples. Exile Infoshop provided resources for education and a space for workshops on Anarchism 101, anti-oppression, anti-racism, bike maintenance and repair, zine making, clowning, banner and puppet making, sewing, wild food foraging, direct action, and know your rights workshops.

Through the support of OPIRG-Carleton and OPIRG-Ottawa, Exile Infoshop expanded critical social theorizing beyond the scope of academia and into the streets, sidewalks, parks, workplaces, and within the home. Recognizing the need for challenging institutional hierarchies such as within the educational system, Exile Infoshop provided an alternative space for horizontal knowledge production through the Free Skool system of critical education. Grassroots community organizers facilitated workshops instead of following the standard “teacher/student” rigid structure of learning which denies and invalidates the lived experiences

of “students”, impeding critical thinking skills and placing them in a subordinate position to the teacher and the state. In addition to Free Skools, a lending library of radical social justice literature gave members access to many previously limited and inaccessible books, zines, music, and crafts, many of which locally produced. Often times, books that I could not find at the public libraries I was able to borrow from Exile Infoshop for free and without any fines for overdue books, as it recognized the need to support free education for all.

Exile sustained my thirst for knowledge which eventually lead me to Carleton University to study Human Rights and American Sign Language. Students and community members whom I met through Exile supported me and guided me in my first year at Carleton, even giving me a tour of campus through the tunnels, and finally leading me to OPIRG-Carleton. OPIRG-Carleton has been a tremendous support in community organizing around social justice issues both around the world and locally. Their lending library and photocopier has allowed me to access resources needed for me to establish Kawala, a Filipino (Tagalog) Youth, Student, & Worker Collective. Guided by anti-oppression principles and fueled by aspirations of decolonization and self-determination, Kawala works to educate, organize, and mobilize Filipino (Tagalog) diaspora around issues affecting us here on Turtle Island and back in the Philippines. It is still in its early stages of development but with the help of OPIRG I'm sure it will grow to help build on the movements for social justice.

Thanks OPIRG-Carleton & OPIRG-Ottawa
Love and solidarity,
Casper Nova

MEMORIES FROM RACHELLE SAUVE

My name is Rachelle Sauve. Now many years ago, I attended Carleton University as an undergraduate student taking a combined honors in Human Rights and Women's Studies. I am now writing to express my support for the continuation of Carleton student levy funding for OPIRG-Carleton and the Garden Spot.

In my first year at Carleton, I felt overwhelmed by the corporate and cultural environment surrounding me and felt lost and isolated until I stumbled upon the work and community growing at OPIRG-Carleton.

I went to anti-oppression and facilitation workshops and soon became involved with OPIRG groups dedicated to healthcare, environmental justice, and sweatshop abolition work. In the years that followed, I initiated working groups dedicated to gender justice, food sovereignty and anti-poverty work and participated



OPIRG Posters from
'92-'93.

in anti-racism, prisoner solidarity and decolonization working groups.

No longer a student, I returned to Carleton in 2002 to volunteer five days a week for over four years to help establish, nourish and sustain the Garden Spot.

Today, I am a cook, a caterer, a gardener, a food justice educator, an anti-poverty advocate and a grassroots community organizer. So much of what I am and what I do in my life-personally, professionally and politically-has been inspired and incited by the amazing opportunity, education and community that I had the blessing to experience through my involvement with OPIRG-Carleton and the Garden Spot. While my academic studies helped contextualize and expand my worldview, it is predominantly the many years of hands on, grassroots social, environmental and economic justice work that I did through OPIRG and the Garden Spot that have served to skill and to prepare me for my current professional life.

The human relationships and solidarity networks created during my 'Carleton days' now extend as I continue to ground my life in food sovereignty, anti-poverty and community building work-now living in Peterborough Ontario where I, among other things, have been serving free weekly meals and have been coordinating food justice education and action for over 7 years.

My work through OPIRG and the Garden Spot introduced and exercised the essential frameworks of intersectional anti-oppression, conflict resolution, consensus decision making, popular education, grassroots capacity building and advocacy work that are today the core of both my philosophy and praxis. More than any other thing-my time involved with OPIRG and the Garden Spot sparked an understanding and belief that interested individuals can initiate change-a lesson that has inspired a life of continuously starting innovative initiatives and self-funded and self-produced projects.

I work with marginalized communities and continue to learn from and be guided by those most affected by social, environmental and economic injustice. Much like it is argued that we need 'womyn safe spaces' and 'people of colour safe spaces' because most other spaces are dominated by the social structures of patriarchy and racism, I do argue that spaces such as OPIRG and the Garden Spot are essential safe havens, educational environments and community building spaces for those politically marginalized by dominant status quo beliefs. On campus and in this society, it is regularly accepted that those who accept war, prisons, poverty, current political leadership and the like are not necessarily affirming or advocating a political position, but are simply reflecting norms -while those who directly oppose war, prisons, poverty, current political leadership and the like are often framed as being too 'political'.

I believe that a vibrant and respectable educational environment should seek to stimulate debate, discussion and inquiry and should support a student bodies' involvement in critical issues of the day. Much as many students pay a levy to fund athletic facilities that they do not use, not every Carleton student makes use of or politically supports the work of OPIRG, its working groups and the Garden Spot. It can nonetheless be argued that a 'physically' healthy campus environment is one where every student has the opportunity to access athletic facilities and that a 'politically' healthy campus environment is one where every student has the opportunity to access political research, education and action environments to exercise their freedoms of conscience and expression.

I implore the student body of Carleton University to vote to continue with student levy funding for OPIRG-Carleton and the Garden Spot in order to capacitate continued student movement and learning towards social, environmental and economic justice.

REMEMBERING TERRY COTTAM 1958-1999

Len Bush, on behalf of OPIRG-Carleton

It is with heavy hearts that we say farewell to Terry. He was a fellow traveller on that long road towards a fairer and more sustainable world. Most of all we will miss the man that could inspire action and loyalty through his own passion and imper-turbable dedication. Terry was a wonderful person who was able to battle depression and his personal demons and still remain focused on the plight of others and the planet. We regret that more wasn't done to express our respect and care while he was with us! Terry's death reminds us, in the words of poet Bud Osborn, that:

when it comes down to it, down to where our lives are at stake, to where it counts, to the hardest places that we have to face, the only thing that we can give each other is WHO WE ARE, so that those who are like us can know that in who they are is real hope for all of us, so that those who are like us can know that in who they are is real hope for all of us excerpt from "How little we know", Hundred Block Rock.

FRIENDS MOURN 'PEACEFUL WARRIOR'

by Faisal Moosa, Charlatan Staff
Reprinted from the Charlatan 1999

The Ottawa activist community is feeling the loss of an individual who friends and family say selflessly dedicated his life to the betterment of others.

Terry Cottam's sudden death at his downtown apartment building Nov. 5 has called attention to his

worldwide influence of compassion and commitment.

Cottam, who ran many of his campaigns out of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) at Carleton University, was well known to many students and staff.

A memorial web site set up for Cottam illustrates the impact he had upon the world. Messages of sympathy are pouring in from people around the world, who have been affected and inspired by Cottam's work.

Sometimes referred to as a 'peaceful warrior,' the 41-year-old worked tirelessly to promote human rights and equality around the world, say friends.

"He was a man of sharp intellect and great generosity, ready to give his time and love to his beliefs," says Penny Sanger, a longtime friend.

"He challenged authority to think outside the box," says Jean-

Marc Hachey, a close friend and a former employer.

Cottam contributed often to local newspapers and to a book about working abroad. He had many letters published in the mainstream press.

"People know about these issues because of Terry and others like him," says Dillon.

A guaranteed presence at most protests and rallies in Ottawa, Cottam often neglected himself.

"Others took care of him while he took care of the world," Hachey says.

According to his mother, Kazimira J. Cottam, Cottam suffered from depression and was not keeping well near the end. He was working on his latest project regarding Y2K at the time of his passing.

Born in Montreal in 1958, Cottam lived in Toronto and Poland before settling with his family in Ottawa 25 years ago. Upon graduating from

high school, Cottam studied at Algonquin College and received a diploma in Computer Technology. He also lived in Indonesia and travelled in Thailand and Malaysia.

After his trip to South Asia, Cottam got involved with various groups in Canada to promote the causes of Burma and East Timor. Cottam also realized that he really enjoyed helping those in need.

"The more he tried, the more he found enjoyment in helping others," reminisces his sister, Kathy Dillon.

Cottam preferred to work part-time so that he could have more time to research and volunteer.

Even at an early age, Cottam showed signs of the activism that was to come. At 12, he wrote an anti-smoking poem that was a source of pride for his mother, who is also an activist. "He recited the poem with such gusto," she says. "I was very proud of him."

Known for his technical ability and strategic planning skills, the soft-spoken Cottam initiated many campaigns that reached the international level. These campaigns usually questioned the exploiters of power and at the same time inspired the marginalized.

"Most of his campaigns were successful and made a major impact on the world," adds a teary-eyed Hachey.

Cottam worked on issues such as the boycotts of Pepsi-Cola and Petro-Canada to raise awareness of their activities in Burma, the MAI-Not! Campaign against the Multilateral Accord on Investments, Election Rights, the Ottawa-wide barter and exchange system called LETS and Y2K community preparedness.

Even after his death, Cottam's message prevails. Instead of flowers, people who attended the funeral were asked to donate to the Canadian Friends of Burma and to volunteer time with a human rights or environmental organization. Just like he would have asked.

Those who wish to read and contribute to the memorial web site for Cottam can visit the site at:

www.paulgross.com/terrycottam

left: Photo from a plaque dedicated to Terry Cottam found just outside the OPIRG-Carleton office.

right: photo of Terry found on his memorial website.



FROM ANGEL NSENGA

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

*The free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wings
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.*

*But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing*

*The caged bird sings
with fearful trill
of the things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill for the caged bird
sings of freedom*

*The free bird thinks of another breeze
on the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright
lawn
and he names the sky his own.*

*But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing*

*The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.*

Maya Angelou

A personal thank you to OPIRG-Carleton for sponsoring P.S. I Love You with \$170: a candle light dinner which consisted of salad, kebobs, roasted vegetables, spiced rice, barbecue chicken, and roasted vegetable pasta.

The event featured: Cheza, Roots N Rhythm, Rita Carter, Sarah Musa, Em-

press Nyiringango, Balaam Santos, Patrick Kabeya, Ali Alikhan, Tracy Ampon-sah, EMAN the Warrior, and Farduusa Ducaale of Help Dahir.

P.S. I Love You was, in its inception, an attempt to transform the normative discourse concerning those of us who fall into the category of abject otherness. The epistemological violence we experience as a corollary of being an abject other denies us a space to voice our existence or to grieve for our fallen beloved beyond a narrative that forces us to contrive to prove the equal validity of our intellect and the civilization(s) of the land of our mother(s)/ancestor(s). This coupled with a perpetual fight against inferiority complexes and the lived trauma we endure as we speak with great mastery the only language a great sum of us know: a father colonial tongue that leaves us increasingly bereft of the food, culture, language, access to and understanding of the country which ourselves and/or our parents were birthed in. The difficulties of being apart of the Diaspora and existing as multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural persons renders a great deal of us, as a dear friend once said, spiritual nomads.

*Mother I need
mother I need
mother I need your blackness now
as the august earth needs rain.
I am*

*the sun and moon and forever hungry
the sharpened edge
where day and night shall meet
and not be
one.*

Audre Lorde

The topics of the event ranged from the Congo, to the civil war in El Salvador, the genocide in Gambela, the Rwandan genocide, Uganda, Ghana, the civil wars in Somalia, the revolutions in Iran, the violence towards Black South Afrikans, domestic violence, belonging, exile, love.. but all the poetry and music, centred around the celebration of life and the determination to mobilize and rebuild both as individuals and as citizens for our respective lands and/or for our ancestors.



P.S. I Love You was, in its conception, a space for music and words to orchestrate what music and words alone can do, by artists that put meaning to words or melodies to notes, that is: grieve without despairing, be indignant without inflaming, heal wounds without scarring.

REMEMBERING OPIRG STAFF- PERSON, FRED GLOGER

On a rabble forum that dates back to 2004 it is noted that “sadly, Fred passed away on September 7 while vacationing in Paris. He was only 43 and he died of natural causes. [when living in Ottawa,] Fred was an active member of the Federation of Ottawa Carleton Tenants Associations, serving on the board for 5 years, and as Chair for three years ... I first knew Fred more than 20 years ago when he was at OPIRG-Carleton. He put together the first Ottawa Tenants Guide which has evolved into the current Tenant Survival Manual.”

Fred worked for OPIRG-Carleton in the mid-eighties and helped build the organization’s solid base in research and social action, especially against poverty. His work, in what became the Tenant Survival Manual, could still be found until very recently in the CUSA agendas

given out for free every year. After Fred's death in 2004 amendments were made to the 1997 Tenant Protection Act which granted further protections to tenants. Thanks to his legacy, tenants of Ontario have greater protections. Thank you Fred!

The Rabble blog commemorating his passing continued:

Sadly, Fred passed away on September 7 while vacationing in Paris. He was only 43 and he died of natural causes. For those who did not know Fred, he was staff researcher for the Ontario NDP and has worked for the provincial party for about 15 years.

Prior to that he worked for MPs Michael Cassidy and Dan Heap in Ottawa. Fred was an active member then of the Federation of Ottawa Carleton Tenants Associations, serving on the Board for 5 years, and as Chair for three years (I was Executive Director, so we worked closely together).

I first knew Fred more than 20 years ago when he was at OPIRG-Carleton. He put together the first Ottawa Tenants Guide, which has evolved into the current Tenat Survival Manual.

There will be a memorial on Saturday September 18 at the Unitarian Church, 175 St. Clair West, starting at 2pm. There is a formal notice in today's Toronto Star.

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NOTES ETC. FROM A CONVERSATION WITH FORMER OPIRG-CARLETON BOARD MEMBER ALLAN DYKSTRA ON THE EVICT ADMIN CAMPAIGN

Compiled by Emma Slaney Gose

I originally emailed Allan asking him about a 2004 callout I had found while doing research for this project. The callout noted the potential eviction of OPIRG-Carleton over insurance issues. The following is the initial callout I had found and asked about.

"INSURANCE CORPORATIONS THREATENING POLITICAL FREEDOMS"

Friday, April 8, 2005

After a spotless 24 year liability insurance record, a Carleton University group faces eviction this Friday in what appears to be the first casualty of an insurance company assault on political organizations.

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) has been threatened with expulsion because major insurers refuse to offer coverage to organizations that engage in political activities.

One major broker wrote, "Due to the nature of [sic] Your organization association (political, environmental and human rights issues and the possibility of lobbying / protesting etc...) the underwriter is still unable to provide you with general liability insurance."

Political organizations are warning against a pattern of discrimination exercised by insurers towards outspoken groups. Several other student organizations that engage in political activity such

as the Carleton University Students' Association, the Canadian Federation of Students, and the Alberta Public Interest Research Group, have also been targeted by hostile insurers.

"We've been contacting dozens of brokers, it's become increasingly clear that insurance companies are not willing to cover political organizations," says OPIRG coordinator Karen Hawley.

"This has become a fundamental matter of protecting political freedoms."

Allan immediately recognized this as the beginning of the evict admin campaign which had emerged as the administration threatened to evict student groups from long-held student spaces if they were unable to obtain costly liability insurance. OPIRG-Carleton worked hard to mobilize around the issue and as an OPIRG self-defence committee sprung up, Allan noted that alliances were being formed with other student groups finding themselves in the same position.

While OPIRG was ultimately able to secure insurance in time, the eviction threat had left a bitter taste in people's mouths. Allan noted that during this time Carleton was undergoing extensive renovations. Baker's lounge, a huge student space had been seized by the administration in order to create what is now known as the Atrium, or Galleria, at Carleton. The Carleton administration was desperate for space and had also attacked levy groups through debilitating and poorly planned online opt-outs.

Out of all these frustrations, the Evict Admin Campaign was born. What brought the whole situation to a head was when the Carleton University Students' Association was served it's own eviction notice. The following press releases and callouts provide some background on the issue:

"Urgent: Carleton University Serves Eviction Notice to CUSA"

President Van Loon and Vice-President Duncan Watt delivered an eviction notice to CUSA yesterday. The eviction notice gives CUSA just over three weeks to vacate the International Students Centre, Baker's Lounge, and the patio

component of Oliver's Pub and Patio. The eviction is intended to facilitate renovations to the University.

We need your help! Senior administration waited for classes to end before delivering the eviction notice precisely because they don't want students to raise their voices. Please email or phone President Van Loon, Vice-President Duncan Watt, and the Board of Governors to tell them that their treatment of students is unacceptable and they must end their bad faith attempts to override CUSA's legal right to these spaces!!!

CARLETON UNIVERSITY SERVES EVICTION NOTICE TO STUDENT GROUPS

OTTAWA: Not all students at Carleton University are looking forward to the summer. On the day after classes ended, Carleton President Richard Van Loon and Vice-President Duncan Watt delivered an eviction notice to the Carleton University Student's Association (CUSA).

The eviction notice gives students just over three weeks to vacate the In-



Protestor dragged away from the occupation of Oliver's Patio in 2006.

ternational Students Centre, Baker's Lounge, and the patio component of Oliver's Pub and Patio. According to Watt, the eviction is intended to facilitate renovations to the University Centre.

"We have a legal license for these spaces, and we will pursue every possible avenue to stop this eviction," says Carole Saab, CUSA President. "The University is choosing to serve us with an eviction notice rather than negotiate a fair agreement. It is appalling, and quite frankly, shameful."

According to Phil Robinson, President of the Graduate Student's Association, the treatment being vetted upon CUSA isn't unusual. "Students pay for and provide most services on-campus, yet senior administration continues to treat us as an inconvenience. This eviction notice is indicative of the contemptuous way we've been treated all year."

The students cite a long list of problems, including the University's attempts to evict the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) last fall, efforts to encourage students to opt-out of fees for student groups, threats to unilaterally reduce the size of the undergraduate pub, and senior administration's pursuit of higher tuition fees.

Students currently pay over \$600,000 in rent to the University, which is even more than the \$550,000 pay-out President Van Loon will receive following his retirement in July. Students are determined to protect their space and have developed a number of plans to block the evictions."

From this, the Evict Admin campaign, which had been growing throughout the academic year, exploded into the Student Space Campaign, now adopted by CUSA. In protest to the annexing of student space, hundreds of student's participated in the effort to occupy Oliver's Patio, even as the semester was ending.

On a rabble blog dated to April 21, 2005 it is noted that "Those of you arriving at Carleton's campus this morning will notice that approximately a third of Oliver's patio (which has



OPIRG-Carleton Tabling in Baker's Lounge in the early 2000s.

been in place for over 20 years) has been destroyed, ripped up on the orders of University administration, in violation of CUSA's lease, under protest of student groups. Student leaders were physically dragged from the patio by Ottawa police to make way for the illegal work.

Over a hundred students have occupied the remaining sections of the patio, and invite you to join them at 10 am for a press conference on the continuing attack by Carleton administration on student space on campus. The occupation is open to all -please drop by to show your support for student controlled space on campus.

Oliver's patio is just the start -CUSA has also been served eviction notices for the International Students Centre and Baker Lounge. Earlier this academic year, administration attempted to evict OPIRG from its space on campus. Administration also unilaterally attempted to cut Oliver's in half, again in violation of CUSA's legal lease.

Carleton University -#1 in evicting student groups."

They also share this:

A few fun facts: the admin had served notice to CUSA last week that they were moving up plans to tear down the patio from May, to April 18th (Mon-

day). After several days of negotiation, admin agreed to enter into arbitration with the students association over the space issues, and to hold off on tearing down the patio until Thursday the 21st.

- the students' associations and the administration were in mediation yesterday, the first of two scheduled days. While the contents of the mediation are confidential, talks broke down at 8 pm.
- It doesn't appear there were plans to tear down the patio today (wouldn't that have looked good during mediation??). Construction workers on site today said that their crew head received a call at 9:30 pm last night, and that they were offered double time to come in for 330 am this morning to do the work.

Admin is openly lying to students, the public and concerned alumni. They are claiming that CUSA is not being evicted, that these are "temporary" issues during construction. But they're building a bookstore over the current patio space! They've admitted they want to take half of Oliver's! And Baker Lounge, currently student leased and operated, and used by over 150 student groups for public events and tabling, as well as the location of CUSA council meetings, is being cut in half until December 2005, in spite of a legal lease. And, once it is reopened, it



**OPIRG-Carleton
Volunteers
and Board Members.**

will not be under CUSA control -rather, all bookings will be through the Dean of Students (hmmmm....I wonder how they'll feel about booking the "save student space" rally, or the Solidarity with Palestinian Human Rights apartheid wall, or such events??)

As well, admin is claiming that the International Students Centre is not being evicted -space has been allocated for its relocation. However, the space allocated for its relocation is currently leased to CUSA, who subleases to another tenant. Apparently, CUSA is to evict their tenant in order to accommodate their own eviction."

The Student Space struggle unfortunately dissolved into a legal struggle and then further negotiations between the administration and CUSA. The efforts did however find their origins in organizing efforts around saving OPIRG-Carleton.

STUDENT AND LABOUR RESISTANCE TO ADMINISTRATION POWER AT CARLETON, 2004-2007

by Doug Nesbitt

A version of the article originally published in the *Leveller*, Vol 3, Issue 0, September 2010.

Student struggles at Carleton have a long and largely forgotten history. Early in the 21st century, in the twilight of Richard Van Loon's presidency and through the blink-or-you'll-miss-it tenure of David Atkinson, student space was taken over and labour rights were targeted by a university administration keen to establish complete control of the campus political agenda. The current university environment is a product of those struggles.

Evict Admin!

On backpacks, in bathroom stalls, and countless classroom doors you could

find the snickered slogan "Evict Admin" in 2004. And it all began when the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG)-Carleton was broken into. Its computers were stolen and, as a consequence, OPIRG-Carleton lost its insurance plan. Some months later a letter came from Carleton's Vice-President of Finance and Administration, Duncan Watt. Without insurance, it read, OPIRG-Carleton was to be evicted from its office in the Unicentre.

With a healthy mix of anger, righteousness, and irreverence, the "Evict Admin" campaign was born. Recovering from the depressing hangover of the Iraq antiwar movement, Carleton students rallied around the campaign to defend student space, forcing an extension of the deadline, and ultimately saving OPIRG-Carleton. Shortly thereafter, the new networks of activism spilled over into organizing a 15,000-strong welcoming committee for George W. Bush on November 30.

Those two campaigns in the fall of 2004, involving long hours of tabling, leafleting, and heated arguments bordering on spontaneous mass meetings, were organized in Baker's Lounge, a student-controlled space on the fourth floor of the Unicentre. These days, Baker's Lounge has been largely annexed by the Atrium, the administration-controlled space that replaced the always-cramped walkway connecting the Unicentre with Tory. Little did Carleton students know as they shouted "Bush out of Baghdad! Bush out of Ottawa!" in Baker's Lounge that November, it would be the twilight of an era.

In early 2005, as several hundred students occupied Rideau and Sussex on the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, it became known that the administration had its sights set on more student space, including Baker's Lounge and the International Students' Centre. The administration also wanted to move its dungeon-like bookstore on the bottom floor of Southam Hall to a more profitable location, namely Oliver's Pub, whose large, popular outdoor patio opened up towards the O-Train.

With no interest in negotiations, the landlord set about to evict the student union tenants. Over a hundred students packed the April 2005 Board of Gover-



KIER GILMOUR, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Clockwise from top left: Chrystel Vultier, Kelly Fritsch, Karen Hawley, Jeff Monaghan, Gordie Wonoff and Dan Sawyer are members of OPIRG-Carleton, part of a North American-wide network active in environmental issues and social justice.



Above: Photo from the *Ottawa Citizen* of OPIRG-Carleton members.
Right: Photos of board retreats at Brown's Lake submitted by Karen Hawley, former OPIRG-Carleton staff.

nors meeting. Carleton President Richard Van Loon and Vice-President of Finance Duncan Watt violated board procedures to prevent student representatives from speaking. The students disrupted the meeting in response, forcing its immediate dissolution.

Van Loon was on his way out with a half million dollars in retirement, but he couldn't leave without a parting gift. As April exams neared their end and most students went home to find work, bull-

dozers were set upon Oliver's patio. Students quickly occupied the patio remnants and for ten days, a 24-hour occupation held firm. The police were sent in and arrested fourteen students (charges were never laid), ending the occupation. Carleton student unions responded with a lawsuit against the university for violating contracts over rent and questions of residual property rights.

The student space that wasn't

As Oliver's was sliced apart to make room for the new bookstore (which was now threatened by the establishment of Haven Books), and Baker's Lounge was transformed into the Atrium on the promise of expanding "student space," Richard Van Loon's successor, David Atkinson, arrived. Van Loon's poisonous attitude towards students and their or-

ganizations allowed Atkinson to play the “nice guy.”

Atkinson’s conciliatory approach earned him friends in some places, including the Charlatan, which ran an editorial opposing the student unions’ lawsuit. But the honeymoon had a broader effect, resulting in the withdrawal of the student unions’ lawsuit in exchange for a promise from the administration, documented in a memorandum of understanding, to support a student-owned building on campus as a permanent resolution to the student space question. In retrospect, Carleton’s student unions let go when they should have squeezed.

As the inevitable election period rolled around in early 2006, a referendum question about funding the new student building was posed to Carleton students. However, the referendum campaign was a mess. The funding formula, which was tied to the Consumer Price Index, seemed unnecessarily complicated, and the plans for the student building were not drawn up in a highly publicized, participatory manner. The referendum was defeated 1630 to 1052.

The administration promptly pulled its support for a student-owned building. Atkinson explained rather unconvincingly, “We have enough on our agenda right now,” while other administrators suggested that students had rejected a student-owned building, neatly conflating the referendum question on a funding formula with support for a student-owned building. Carleton students were left without a student building, their biggest pub sliced in half and closed for construction, and the administration in firm control of the new Atrium.

The labour question

With student space dramatically reduced for a bookstore, Starbucks, and cell phone displays, the “labour question” moved to the top of the administration’s agenda.

Shortly after the referendum, the faculty, represented by the Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA), and the teaching assistants (TAs) and contract faculty, represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 4600, made the opening

overtures for negotiations as contracts were set to expire. After dragging their heels through the summer, the administration promptly filed for conciliation in the week before the new fall semester.

Raising the stakes by pushing any serious negotiations into the dead of winter, the administration demanded concessions from full-time faculty and teaching assistants. CUASA secured an incredible 96% strike vote and contract instructors and TAs followed with an equally impressive 85% strike vote in response to concessions demanded on “tuition increase protection.” TAs were determined to protect this mechanism, which prevented tuition fee increases from outpacing wage increases. The concerns were all the more relevant given Dalton McGuinty’s speech at Carleton in September 2006 announcing an end to his promised tuition fee freeze.

The administration settled with the faculty shortly before the strike deadline. As some TAs observed, the administration hoped to isolate the TAs from the faculty and push for a strike over the winter exam period. This strategy, only made possible through an unwillingness to negotiate during the summer, was designed to pit undergrads against TAs during exams, in the worst possible picket line weather, and over the holidays.

However, Atkinson blinked. We’ll likely never know the exact details, but various accounts describe the university president intervening only hours before the strike deadline, resulting in the administration’s capitulation and the preservation of tuition increase protection. Days later Atkinson resigned for undisclosed reasons. As a Board of Governors’ statement explained, his departure after some 20 months was “in the best interests of the university.”

Less than a year after Atkinson’s “resignation,” the university’s further unwillingness to negotiate, instigated a support staff strike in September 2007. And in early 2009, amidst the tense Ottawa transit strike, tuition increase protection for CUPE 4600 was gutted, resulting in pay cuts. Those undisclosed “best interests” have become increasingly clear, as well as odious.



“I first heard about OPIRG-Carleton in 2002 when I read *No Logo* by Naomi Klein. I can say that reading about OPIRG-Carleton in *No Logo* influenced my decision to study at Carleton and to participate in the diverse and important organizing that was going on at OPIRG during my four years at the university.”

OPIRG AND THE CONSERVATIVE ATTACK



This section contains an article on the history of conservative attacks and mobilizing against PIRGS across Ontario. It has been reprinted here, along with the corresponding artwork, courtesy of the Briarpatch Magazine.

DEFUNDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST: CONSERVATIVE STRATEGY AND THE FIGHT FOR THE PIRGS

Reprinted from the Briarpatch
September 1, 2012

By Clare O'Connor, Kalin Stacey,

In the fall of 2011, conservative students at Queen's University in Kingston launched a campaign to defund their campus' Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). In anticipation of a mandatory 2012 student referendum to renew the Kingston PIRG's \$4 undergraduate levy, detractors started a Facebook page encouraging students to opt out of the levy. They adopted the recurrent "NoPIRG" campaign name, targeted PIRG staff and volunteers with defamatory rumours, and criticized the organization for funding initiatives that "don't reflect the

values of the entire community" – as though values are ever unanimously endorsed on a post-secondary campus. The strategy worked. On February 1, 62 per cent of Queen's students voted to revoke the 20-year-old levy.

With its remaining \$4.36 graduate student levy and some financial equalization revenue from the Ontario PIRG provincial network, the Kingston PIRG will maintain operations for one year and campaign to reinstate the lost funding stream in 2013. Nevertheless, the Kingston loss is the most severe student-led blow against the PIRG network in its almost 40-year history. It also marks a significant victory for a rising group of right-wing populists with roots in the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association (OPCCA).

The OPCCA gained notoriety among PIRG supporters in 2009 when it hosted internal, full-day strategy workshops on several campuses to discuss how best to take over student unions and, in one particular session, how to "challenge and defeat the PIRGs." A clever infiltrator uploaded an audio recording of one workshop to WikiLeaks, and student media picked up

the story. Student union representatives and PIRG supporters were understandably irked by OPCCA's sober tactical deliberations about establishing smoke-and-mirror front organizations and building tactical alliances on controversial issues – "If Norman Finkelstein comes to campus ... get [the Jewish students' association] involved ... if it's a radical feminist who's very pro-choice, [your allies are] going to be the pro-life people on campus" – and, above all, targeting PIRG funding streams with careful populist messaging about alleged misuse of students' money. Winning defunding referenda and "getting [PIRGs] off the fee statement," explained one OPCCA facilitator, "should be the ultimate objective."

The anonymous WikiLeaks activist criticized the workshop series as conspiratorial, and several campus newspapers reiterated this charge. In particular, progressive student activists decried the participation of Conservative politicians like Kitchener-Waterloo MP Peter Braid (who delivered the keynote at the OPCCA workshop that was posted on WikiLeaks), alleging that the PC party was attempting to "interfere with student governance and undermine non-

profit organizations.” NDP MP Niki Ashton implied something similar when she asked the House of Commons: “Does the government condone the overthrowing of democracy on campuses by the Conservative Party?” For the former Ontario chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, Shelley Melanson, the workshops amounted to political party involvement that “violates student election policies.” This characterization stuck. In an important article about the struggles the PIRG at McGill faced with similar attacks in 2011, the McGill Daily reiterated warnings of an “anti-PIRG campus conservative conspiracy.”

To be sure, the WikiLeaks recording confirms that OPCCA organizers intend “to bring people into the party” (though they have since downplayed both their links to the PC party and the peculiarity of a federal politician taking time to speak to a dozen rookie undergrads). However, while allegations of conspiracy might have provocative tactical value for PIRG supporters in the short term, they’re ultimately distracting. To whom are we appealing when we dub the conservative strategy suspicious or unfair? Moreover, to what norms of fairness under Canadian democracy do we hope to appeal?

As PIRGs enter what will likely be a period of escalated attacks, it’s worthwhile

to reorient to the basic truths underlying conservative platitudes. OPCCA executive committee representatives aren’t hiding anything when they recount how “the training sessions brought together groups of small ‘c’ conservatives in an effort to encourage involvement on campus.” They’re not conspiring; they’re organizing. Their anti-PIRG ambition is part of an explicit strategy to bring grassroots legitimacy to the conservative movement and to train their youth members. The problem is not that the OPCCA has defied “democratic” standards; the problem is that their plan is working. And PIRG supporters should prepare for the fight.

The “Blueprint”

In 2002, Queen’s undergraduate and then-OPCCA president Adam Daifallah accidentally disclosed the existence of the controversial Millennium Leadership Fund (MLF). Founded in 2000 with donations from senior members of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives under former premier Mike Harris, the MLF “helps defray costs for conservative university students in their bids for election” to student government. In an unintentionally public email, Daifallah congratulated MLF recipients for their victories at the University of Windsor, the University Western Ontario, and the

University of Waterloo. The recipients included then-OPCCA vice-president Ryan O’Connor, who facilitated the leaked 2009 anti-PIRG workshop. Despite denunciations by student representatives, the MLF was never formally investigated or disallowed. In 2003, it was used to help the conservative Progress Not Politics (PNP) slate take over York University’s undergraduate student union.

Under its populist banner, PNP brought together conservative activists and members of the now-defunct Young Zionist Partnership. Once in office, PNP hired OPCCA’s O’Connor as a policy analyst and cut funding to what they called “specialty groups,” including the Black Students’ Association; Aboriginal Students’ Association; and Trans, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Allies at York. They also eliminated the vice-president of equity and services executive position, organized pro-war campus events, endorsed the Conservatives’ “income-contingent loan repayment” strategy, and postponed elections for two semesters to keep themselves in office.

But their victory was fleeting. Compounded by campus anti-war and labour mobilizations, and a widely publicized lawsuit against York’s sitting president who had unilaterally expelled a Palestine solidarity student activist, PNP’s recklessness galvanized the campus Left. Students voted out PNP at their first opportunity, and conservatives haven’t managed a comeback.

Since then, OPCCA has reoriented to more sympathetic campuses like Waterloo and Queen’s and taken sharper aim at the PIRGs – an institutional opponent that, according to vocal OPCCA member Aaron Lee-Wudrick, “at least in theory, can be defeated.” During the WikiLeaks workshop, Lee-Wudrick and O’Connor described their anti-PIRG manoeuvres at the University of Waterloo in 2002 and 2005 when they nearly forced a referendum on the PIRG’s levy. The referendum, which they “orchestrated behind closed doors,” was cancelled due to multiple campaign infractions. Nevertheless, the experience was instructive and inspired others to launch anti-PIRG campaigns at Simon Fraser, Dalhousie, Carleton, McGill, the University of Toronto, and Queen’s.

Because of a growing infrastructure devised to train the next generation of conservative youth, OPCCA strategy has improved over the last decade. Having come



The poster above is from a referendum campaign aimed at keeping removing OPIRG-Ottawa’s funding.

far since his MLF blunder, Daifallah is one of this infrastructure's biggest proponents. Now writing for the *National Post* and working for Hatley Strategy Advisors (a Montreal-based consulting firm he co-founded in 2009), he's an up-and-coming pundit. In 2005, he and the former president of the now-defunct PC Youth Federation, Tasha Kheiriddin, co-authored *Rescuing Canada's Right: Blueprint for a Conservative Revolution*, a strategy bestseller that – despite the titular oxymoron – was enthusiastically endorsed by Mike Harris, Mark Steyn, and Preston Manning.

Blueprint outlines an ambitious strategy to build an extra-parliamentary “ideological infrastructure” to “professionalize” conservative politics in Canada. Although Stephen Harper's 2006 federal victory made much of the *Blueprint*'s sentiment outdated, the book remains useful since, as one critic explained, it is “remarkably frank about the goals of the new ‘conservatism,’ and it is almost disconcertingly honest about its tactics.” In detail, the authors recommend emulating the U.S. conservative movement by “rebalancing the media,” confronting the “blight on academia,” and “seeding a thousand think-tanks to develop ... policy and counter the propaganda of the left.”

Kheiriddin and Daifallah also insist that youth are “the heart of the conservative revolution” and urge for the proliferation of conservative campus organizations using the U.S. strategy – “evangelize and convert! ... get ‘em while they're young” – to which they attribute the explosion in such groups from 400 in 1999 to 1,100 in 2005.

In 2008, the *Edmonton Journal* noted a “resurgence” of conservative campus clubs in Canada. Now with a clarified network of mentors, OPCCA has regular access to strategy advice. And their teachers earn their stripes. One such mentor, Richard Ciano, co-founded the consulting firm Campaign Research, which designed 39 conservative campaigns during the last federal election (and was one of the alleged key culprits in the robocall scandal). The firm, which now employs Lee-Wudrick, also devised the successful campaign strategy for Toronto mayor Rob Ford – right down to his populist catchphrase, “stop the gravy train.” For these successes, and less than two weeks after OPIRG-Kingston lost



its levy, Ciano was elected party president of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives. For their part, OPCCA endorsed Ciano's bid, noting they were “happy to see a candidate with a comprehensive youth development plan.”

Self-Defence

PIRG volunteers tend to pay little attention to trends within political parties. Indeed, as Daifallah and Kheiriddin explain, the information age generation is largely “disengaged from the partisan political process.” This phenomenon finds practical expression in the PIRGs, which serve as a magnet for students discouraged by the culture of party politics and looking for alternatives that might undermine systemic oppression and ecological destruction.

The initial U.S. PIRG chapters emerged in parallel with the non-profit and NGO sectors. Consumer advocate and presidential candidate Ralph Nader proposed the model in 1970 to facilitate a shift from mass-movement-based activism to professional, expertise-driven interventions. Arguing that inequality had become more insidious and mass movements less promising, Nader proposed that “the new problems require more expertise, lengthy and often arduous research, and tedious interviews with minor bureaucrats.”

The U.S. PIRGs are organized as Nader envisioned, with chapters established near state capitals to enable legislative intervention. They employ “professionals – lawyers, economists, scientists, engineers” who research, advocate, and lobby. PIRGs in Canada adopted a more decentralized approach focusing on stu-

dent leadership and campus life. Instead of supporting an office of professionals, they hire one or two staff to facilitate student-led research and activism.

Neither model has been spared from conservative backlash. Starting in the early 1980s, Republican politicians and conservative think-tanks launched legal challenges against the PIRGs, as did the College Republican National Committee, which distributed an “anti-PIRG packet” suggesting ways “to disrupt PIRG activities and ... get other campus groups to oppose PIRG.” In Canada, three PIRGs were defunded in their early years.

Anti-PIRG campaigners latch on to the most controversial PIRG activity of the era. In the 1980s, hot topics included the anti-nuclear and ecology movements. Over the last decade, Palestine solidarity activism has provoked the most sabre-rattling. These shifting targets indicate that conservatives don’t attack PIRGs because of specific initiatives. Rather, as O’Connor explained in the WikiLeaked workshop, they use controversial issues to attack the PIRG: “You’ve got to grab on to something that’s salient in the eyes of the campus community.” Conservatives don’t discriminate between PIRG chapters. They perceive the entire network as an opponent, and no PIRG position (or disavowal thereof) can convince them otherwise. “You don’t need to tell me,” explained O’Connor. “I do understand what you do. And I oppose you.”

Some PIRG supporters fear that adopting controversial positions will provoke attack. Especially after a defunding effort, PIRGs tend to endure a chilling effect during which volunteers and staff can be seduced by “neutrality” and engage in self-censorship. This was one outcome of the 2005 OPCCA attack on the Waterloo PIRG. Abiding by similar logic, other PIRGs have tried to avoid political conflict by presenting themselves as apolitical or non-partisan. Here, partisanship means more than allegiance to a political party, and refers to the basic practice of allowing your politics to inform your decisions. These reflexes are understandable, but dangerous. Recent events at the Laurier Students’ Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG), based at Waterloo’s Wilfrid Laurier University, are a case in point.

LSPIRG secured its fee and status in 2006 and is the youngest PIRG in Ontario. However, its founders weren’t interested in joining the provincial network. Former LSPIRG member Anthony Piscitelli told Laurier’s student newspaper: “We wanted to create a place that was really non-partisan.” Nevertheless, the group became a conservative target. With some exceptions, LSPIRG volunteers and staff upheld the founders’ claim to non-partisanship, and, as a result, conservative students (including card-carrying members of the Laurier Campus Conservatives, an OPCCA member group) were able to leverage this claim to justify their increased involvement in the organization. And in the spring of 2012, conservatives won seven of the eight seats on the organization’s annually elected board of directors. “If it’s possible,” said Lee-Wudrick during the WikiLeaked workshop, “to take over the [OPIRG] board of directors ... you’d be a hero to the conservative movement.”

LSPIRG’s efforts to distance itself from political confrontation made it more, not less, vulnerable. When PIRGs elsewhere have engaged in political confrontation, they’ve more consistently held their ground. At McGill University in Montreal, administrators attempted to undermine the PIRG’s funding stream by unilaterally introducing an online opt-out system. In response, QPIRG-McGill supporters have won two consecutive student referenda with “exceptionally high” voter turnout, demanding that the online system be reversed. They’ve used the attack to garner popular support, making use of decidedly un-neutral tactics, including occupying administrative offices with ally groups. Most recently, in April 2012, despite persistent suppression by the administration and a student-led anti-PIRG campaign, QPIRG won the mandatory referendum to renew its levy.

Similarly, PIRG activists at the University of Toronto (another of Canada’s oldest and more conservative schools) thwarted two consecutive defunding attacks from a right-wing Graduate Students’ Union (GSU) executive committee in 2011-12. Without understating support for its working group Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA) – the most contentious issue cited in the attacks – OPIRG-Toronto ultimately won two-thirds of the votes from a GSU council that was, until then, predominantly oblivious to the PIRG’s mandate and activities.

Notably, by highlighting that SAIA’s main project, Israeli Apartheid Week, has survived close scrutiny and ideological suppression since its 2004 inception, and that Israel advocates have failed to find any legal basis for their recurrent allegations of hate speech, PIRG supporters easily assumed the side of rational, compassionate deliberation.

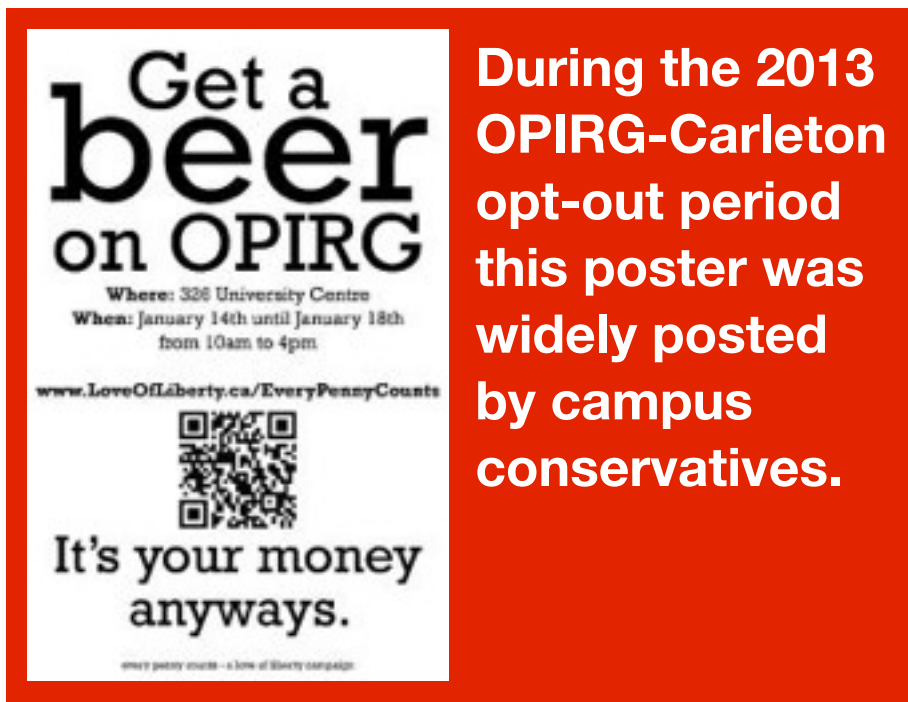
Rebutting the charge that its work “does not reflect a consensus of the student body” and refusing to be reduced to the disgruntled activist stereotype, OPIRG-Toronto used the attacks to publicize its initiatives and, at least for now, win. Indeed, after witnessing the anti-PIRG camp in action, graduate students elected a progressive GSU executive committee in the spring.

PIRG supporters are often hesitant to strategize about conservative attacks for fear of giving their detractors ammunition. But if anti-PIRG students have access to a growing infrastructure of populist strategic support and are emboldened by their recent victories at Queen’s and Laurier, and if PIRGs are likely to lose by playing “neutral” and likely to win by fighting, it’s riskier for them to lay low.

Winning

What will the new conservative board of directors do with LSPIRG’s levy and mandate? According to Blueprint, volunteer groups are important to building a “critical mass of conservative counter-culture.” Whether it is to “take a page from the labour movement” with popular education that helps participants “question power and privilege in society ... [and] be self-critical and reflective,” or to advocate “free market means to alleviate poverty” and “free market environmentalism,” Daifallah and Kheiriddin envision a youth-driven volunteer strategy to “disabuse the notion that the right is uncaring” and make it “cool to be conservative.”

Conservative youth have accordingly adjusted their self-concept. Since adopting the notion of a “conservative revolution,” they’ve experimented with language and images intended to undermine conservative stereotypes. Practically speaking, this has meant drawing on stereotypes associated with the Left. A 2008 PC ad campaign encouraged students to “freak out your profs” by telling them “you believe in



During the 2013 OPIRG-Carleton opt-out period this poster was widely posted by campus conservatives.

bucking the establishment, thinking with your own mind, and yes – ‘questioning authority.’ In other words: Tell them you’re a Conservative.” Despite their known deceptive practices (“you will be surprised at what people will sign ... if you put it in benign terms,” explained Lee-Wudrick in 2009), the anti-PIRG group at Queen’s ultimately adopted the name QSAFE: Queen’s Students for Accountability, Fairness and Equity – concepts PIRG volunteers associate with their own work.

The Right has recognized the political salience of leftist concepts, and has appropriated them successfully. These efforts coincide with the broader process by which capitalism and the state have adopted the features of the cultural Left, mainly by absorbing the watchwords of 1960s revolutionary movements and retrofitting them to serve the logic of liberal managerialism. At most universities, this process finds expression in anti-harassment policies, the existence of equity or anti-racism offices, and codes of conduct that prohibit discrimination. Of course, this managerial logic hasn’t eradicated the systemic oppression that gives rise to the now-prohibited behaviour; but it has transformed the requirements of political strategy. For conservatives on university campuses, this means orienting to and repurposing the language associated with newly ubiquitous liberal concepts.

In contrast, PIRGs and other progressive campus groups struggle to not succumb to a kind of “quality control” mentality. Faced with egregious violations of campus policy, progressive and radical students will appeal to university administrators and demand disciplinary measures, restoration of policy compliance, and, occasionally, preventative initiatives. For example, at York University, a reputed hub of radicalism, feminists struggle to respond to repeated sexual assaults on campus, falling back on demands for greater security and more efficient and vigilant administrative alerts. When someone graffitied white supremacist slurs on the office door of York University’s Black Students’ Association in 2009, student activists’ anger at university administrators for failing to condemn the racist act narrowed further to demands that they “do a better job of protecting this space.” Of course such appeals, which do have tactical value, aren’t the extent of activist strategy. However, when activists rely so frequently on the logic of demand, they become more likely to overlook its analytic restrictions and, by extension, miss opportunities to push further. The challenge of revolutionary politics is to build a base capable of not only appealing to constituted power but of displacing it. Be this as it may, quality control has its seductions, in part because it’s difficult to envision an alternative and in part because the current dynamic affords activ-

ists comfortable spaces, like the PIRGs, within which to experiment.

But relying on the university’s shallow acceptance of progressive principles becomes a liability when faced with organized conservative attacks. Constituted power will not likely defend the PIRGs, and appeals for protection from an adjudicating power can distract activists from the work of base building. Furthermore, a political strategy organized around the preservation of what some might perceive to be a subcultural scene can undermine PIRG claims to act in the public interest and therefore appear hypocritical to those who would otherwise offer their support.

Under conditions where capitalism, the state, and populist politicians have respectively appropriated the language of social movements to sell commodities, manage dissent, and win elections, the best course of action for the PIRGs is to become the political force the Right alleges them to be. Instead of repudiating the Right – whether through deflections or by appealing to “democratic” standards – this means building a base of power capable of actualizing the ideals that conservative opponents have cynically appropriated. Without emulating their populism, PIRGs can learn from conservatives’ successful emphasis on tactical deliberation, training, and infrastructure.

After all, sometimes the most radical outcomes require measures that don’t correspond with the images and attitudes associated with radical subculture. And in the context of Harper’s cross-sectoral attacks on social justice organizations – the Canadian Arab Federation, KAIROS, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, labour unions – we can’t rely on abstract demands for fair conduct. This is politics. Politics is fighting. And if we fight, we can win.

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2013 REFERENDUM TO ELIMINATE OPIRG

In 2013, OPIRG-Carleton faced a referendum question to eliminate the undergraduate student levy of \$3.42 per term for full-time students and \$1.37 per credit for part-time students.

While PIRGs across Ontario and Canada usually experience some opposition from Conservative students on their respective campuses, the situation leading up to the 2013 referendum at Carleton was particularly unique and warrants further scrutiny and documentation:

2012-2013 Timeline

Right-wing students run as a slate —A Better Carleton (ABC)— in the Carleton Undergraduate Students' Association (CUSA) executive elections and win all six seats, marking the beginning of a sharp turn to the right in Carleton student politics.

ABC caucus controls student council and begins concerted attack on progressive organizations including the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), and the CUSA/GSA-run student service centres.

CUSA unilaterally withdraws from joint not-for-profit student health care contract with GSA and signs up with for-profit provider.

Over the course of the next year, ABC

replaces four progressive service centre coordinators it deems political enemies.

Glenn Burley attends Conservative student panel at annual Preston Manning Conference and reports in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Our Schools/Our Selves quarterly that a Carleton student identified as Bruce said that, “from 2009 to present his close-knit group of Conservative students had slowly won position after position, eventually putting them in control of all six student-held seats in CUSA, giving them what he called, ‘full control to battle the CFS.’”

In breach of contract, ABC VP Finance Michael De Luca withholds undergraduate levy cheque from OPIRG-Carleton, forcing OPIRG to use legal means to obtain the student fees.

ABC's VP Finance threatens multiple student spaces sub-leased by CUSA in the University Centre, including CKCU, the Charlatan, and OPIRG-Carleton.

ABC's VP Finance puts forward an omnibus referendum question to eliminate the OPIRG-Carleton and World Food Programme levies, to implement a \$21.00 levy for a new student building, and to legitimize the new health care contract by voting for a \$20.00 reduction in the annual fee.

At the February 5th CUSA Constitution & Policy (C&P) committee meeting, where students democratically vote to make recommendations to CUSA council on proposed referendum questions, students voted to split up the omnibus question into four separate questions and to remove the OPIRG question altogether.

CUSA council ignores the C&P committee recommendations and at a March 2nd meeting votes to include a referendum question to eliminate the OPIRG levy. The question – “Are you in favour of retaining the annual \$6.84 fee for the Ontario Public Interest Research Group?” – was approved without consultation or consent from OPIRG, as required in the CUSA-OPIRG fee agreement.

OPIRG enters into legal negotiations with CUSA after council approves referendum question and election process in violation of the CUSA-OPIRG fee agreement and CUSA's Consolidated

Electoral Code (CEC), including holding elections online with a shortened campaigning period.

OPIRG negotiates to ensure a fair question and fair election process, including a paper ballot system, five campaigning days, and to repopulate the Electoral and Constitutional boards, who oversee election appeals. Before entering into negotiations, both boards were stacked with anti-OPIRG students. The referendum question was revised as follows:

“OPIRG-Carleton (the Ontario Public Interest Research Group – Carleton) is a student-run, not-for-profit organization operating on the Carleton University campus which receives a levy from Carleton students. This levy is refundable upon request of any student. Are you in favour of eliminating the OPIRG-Carleton levy of \$3.42 per term from every full-time undergraduate student and \$1.37 per credit, per term for part-time undergraduate students?”

During the nomination and campaign periods leading up to the vote, Chief Electoral Officer Sunny Cohen bullied and actively investigated the No Committee for the OPIRG question in an attempt to issue electoral violations. On the fourth day of campaigning, five violations were given on allegations including “disrupting the operations of the Elections Office” and for OPIRG's regular programming including promoting the AGM.

The CEO's interpretation of the Electoral Code allowed the Elections Office to confiscate half of the No Committee's campaign materials, including 1,200 handbills and seven posters, as well as to cancel 10 percent of “No” votes cast.

Regardless, on April 3rd and 4th, nearly 2,000 students casted ballots; by the end of the first voting day, more students cast ballots than in the entire 2012 referendum election.

The results: 563 in favour, 14 spoiled, and a whopping 1,385 voting NO to eliminate OPIRG's levy, representing 71% of the vote.

The 2013 CUSA referendum election proved OPIRG-Carleton maintains a strong mandate and overwhelming support for its social justice, environmental and progressive programming.



OPIRG-Carleton

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.

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