



Regina Public Interest Research Group
Annual Report 2017-2018

Executive Director's Message

Welcome back everyone!

Another year has flown by, and with it a lot of changes in the RPIRG office. For starters, in the 2017-18 fiscal year, both permanent staff positions saw new hires. Both myself and Julian Wotherspoon (our Outreach and Events coordinator) have been working hard to get settled into our positions and work with our board to look at where RPIRG has come from and where we think it should be going in the future. As part of this, we engaged in a strategic planning process this spring which helped us revisit past goals and set new ones, while also enhancing our communication and outreach to students.

Throughout the past year as always, we continued to offer several programs and workshops, engage in research projects, speak up about important issues affecting students, and give out lots of funding to support student and community projects, events, conferences, trainings, and more. We look forward to our new plans for this year and are especially keen to hear from students about how we can better serve them. Please stop by our office anytime to say hi and learn more about what we do!

-Krystal Lewis

RPIRG STAFF 2017-2018

The RPIRG staff members take care of all the day-to-day operations of the organization. There are two permanent staff positions along with various seasonal and term positions.

Executive Director

Anna Dipple (to June 2017)
Krystal Lewis (June 2017-present)

Outreach and Events Coordinator

Emily Barber (to Nov 2017)
Julian Wotherspoon (Nov 2017-present)

Green Patch Coordinator

Leonel Elias

Generating Momentum Coordinator

Julian Wotherspoon

Community Action Project (CAP) Students

Kerry-Ann Sitcheron – Tool sharing initiative project

Erin Nielsen – Managed Alcohol Programs (MAPs) literature review with Carmichael Outreach

RPIRG BOARD 2017-2018

The RPIRG Board of Directors is composed of eight Student Members and makes all major decisions regarding finances, long-term goals, programming, staffing, and funding applications. The Board is elected in March every year, and Board appointments are for up to two years. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact us for more information!

Catherine Pamisaran
Jonny Davies
Claire McLellan
Ritva Gahimbare (Dec 2017-Apr 2018)
Lexie Obey

Jamie LaRose
Harvey Gibson
Levi Paul (May-Sept 2017)
Taya Triffo (May-Oct2017)

Who we are

The Regina Public Interest Research Group (RPIRG) is a student-run, student-funded non-profit organization dedicated to community-based research, education, action and awareness on issues of social and environmental justice. RPIRG exists to provide its members with the resources to be active citizens on the University of Regina campus and in the greater community.

RPIRG is committed to the following values in all of its work:

- consensus decision making
- autonomy/independence
- plurality and diversity
- social equality and anti-oppression
- participatory democracy and engaged citizenship
- non-partisanship
- environmental sustainability
- accountability and transparency
- public interest over private interest

Drop in and say 'hi', browse our library, check out our coming events, or vent about an issue you feel strongly about! Our office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:00.

Contact Us

e. info@rpirg.org

p. 306.337.2420

w. www.rpirg.org

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University of Regina,
Regina SK, S4S 0A2
Treaty 4 Territory

Working Groups 2017-2018

Regina Student Parent Association
UR STARS
Regina Blue Dot Movement

Fruit for Thought
Two-Spirit Group
SEARCH

Initiatives that RPIRG was involved in or supported in the 2017-18 fiscal year (not an exhaustive list)

Funded/sponsored/partnership projects or events:

- Briarpatch Magazine – writing in the margins contest
- REBELS youth cricket league w/ anti-bullying and racism training
- Deaf sexual health workshop
- African Night/Black History Month events
- Indigenous Students Association annual Round Dance
- Sustainable Solid Waste Management workshop
- Kate Sinclaire event and workshops on feminist porn and queer representation
- Angela Davis lecture
- Billy-Ray Belcourt and Gwen Benaway in Conversation
- Monthly Pop-up sexual health clinics
- UR STARS Treaty Ed Camp
- Energy Futures Forum Conference hosted by EWB
- Write for Rights hosted by Amnesty International Regina
- Prairie Beginnings newcomer family program wrap-up event
- Reconciliation in the Watershed workshop
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil
- Christi Belcourt and Isaac Murdoch art build for climate justice
- Working woke in the fight for equity w/ Tasheka Lavann
- Nalaxone training sessions
- Toolkit workshop series (our final year as partner)



Conferences and training that members were funded to attend:

- Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (Washington, DC)
- Value of Biogas West Conference 2018 (Abbotsford, BC)
- National Fair Trade Conference (Vancouver, BC)
- First responder to sexual assault and abuse training (Regina, SK)
- Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Regina, SK)
- Somali Student Association National Conference (Seattle, WA)
- Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Annual Conference (Albuquerque, NM)
- Fierste Canada Pride 2018 (Calgary, AB)
- WUSC-CECI International Forum (Ottawa, ON)
- Beautiful Trouble training (Saskatoon, SK)

Other actions or initiatives that RPIRG supported or endorsed (financially or otherwise):

- Colonialism No More community group – Canada Day educational flyers
- Endorsed the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Solidarity Accord
- Signed on to Our Turn national action plan, working to improve sexual assault policies at the UofR
- Spoke in support of students at SMAC rally against post-secondary cuts
- Endorsed Justice for Colten open letter from Indigenous faculty and allies
- Justice for Our Stolen Children Camp
- Endorsed the Access Without Fear/Sanctuary City motion brought forward to Regina city council; published letter in Leaderpost
- Sent an open letter to UofR admin registering concern with Gad Saad public lecture
- Endorsed Kisiskawican open letter
- Endorsed October Declaration and attended 'Rally to Reverse the Cuts' (re: provincial budget cuts)
- Justice for Tina Fontaine event



Community Action Projects (CAPs)

In the last year, we once again partnered with the Faculty of Arts Community Research Unit (CRU), along with community members and organizations to put together 2 research projects.

Community Tool Library Initiative – Feasibility Study (spring/summer 2017)

The goal of this project was to compare look at tool sharing projects in other cities – comparing membership structure, types of tools, and other infrastructure – and make recommendations as to how a similar project could be implemented in Regina. A tool share is a concept not unlike a car share/co-op program, whereby a membership-based organization collects, stores, and maintains a library of tools that its members can access. This is ideal for people who for example do not have room to store tools, or cannot afford them, or may only need access to some specific tools on an occasional basis, among other reasons.

Partners in the project included:

- Naomi Beingessner – Community Research Unit
- David Vanderberg – Research Committee
- Kerry-Ann Sitcheron – Action Researcher

Harm Reduction Interventions for Chronic and Severe Alcohol use Among Populations Experiencing Homelessness – Literature Review (Jan-Sept 2018)

The goal of this project was to look at best practices for implementing managed alcohol programs (MAPs) to enhance harm reduction services that serve populations experiencing homelessness in Regina. This project was proposed by Carmichael Outreach, who wanted to look at ways to improve and better advocate for services for their clients.

Partners in the project included:

Lynn Gidluck – Community Research Unit
Nicolas Olson – Carmichael Outreach
Rochelle Berenyi – Carmichael Outreach
Cora Sellers – Carmichael Outreach
Gabriela Novotna – Associate Professor – Social Work, University of Regina
Erin Nielsen – Action Researcher



The MAPs research team at their public presentation of report findings

The Green Patch Garden – Spring/Summer 2018

The RPIRG Green Patch is celebrating its 7th season this summer! This summer we renewed our relationships with several professors, departments, and community organizations in order to enhance the educational reach of the project. Our garden coordinator Taya organized a lot of new events and initiatives to get people more engaged in the garden - this included movie and cooking nights, involvement in the New Dance Horizons Secret Gardens Tour, food preservation workshops, giving away fresh garden salads, and more.

Once again Taya and her team grew a bunch of free produce for students, community members, and for donation to our community partner Carmichael Outreach.

We would like to extend a big thank you once again to all of our funding and programming partners for their support:

- Facilities Management and Wascona Centre - funding and maintenance partners
- Our many dedicated volunteers for all of their help running the garden
- Housing Services - workshop partner
- Heather Dietz - her and her Bio 100 class start many of our seeds each year
- UR Pride - Cat, Jacq, and youth group members
- Tanya Dahms and Ahmad Aljendi - Plant Health Care Model (PHCM) research project
- Robin and Sean – Secret Gardens Tour
- Bryan – UR Ambassadors assistance with garden and PHCM project prep
- The many professors who brought their classes for tours or volunteering
- Betty at Regina Open Door Society and Diana at YMCA exchange for group visits and volunteer work
- Niel Petrich and the URSU team for helping to promote the Green Patch and events
- Lisa and Val at Carmichael Outreach – for help with coordinating food donations
- Tyler at the Owl – partnered to use some of our fresh herbs and produce



Apathy into Action

In January 2018, we held the 11th annual Apathy into Action social justice conference. The conference took place over two days – we held several issue sessions all day on Friday, and 3 half-day training sessions on Saturday.

Sessions topics:

Unclear Future: Living with Uranium – Author talk with Bernadette Wagner

Colonialism no More – Prescott Demas and Michelle Stewart

Fat Feminism – Mia Bell

Being a Radical Trans Accomplice – Cat Haines from UR Pride

Panel: Faith and Social Justice – Presented by Common Weal Community Arts

Mapping Line 3 – Barbara Lavallee and Chasity Delorme

Media Training – Ivan Muzychka – Presented by Next Up Saskatchewan

Crude Power screening and student talk – Kathryn Zawatsky and Jenelle Blakley

This year we also had Janelle Pewapsconias from Neeched Up Games join us on Friday night to run a life sized Indigenous knowledge board game.



Generating Momentum 2018

This summer marked the 9th Generating Momentum: Activist Leadership Training camp that RPIRG has run in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC). Generating Momentum is a 4-day camp focused on giving youth the knowledge and skills they need to make change in their communities. This year our camp took place at Arlington Beach Camp, and we had between 40-50 participants join us throughout the weekend.

This year we had sessions on topics such as:

- Anti-oppression training
- Campaign Planning
- Connecting Migrant and Indigenous struggles
- Trauma awareness
- Safe self-advocacy and how to create accessible environments
- Verbatim theatre
- Messing with the Media



Regina Public Interest Research Group Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

As At April 30, 2018

	Note	2018	2017
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash		\$ 154,790	\$ 127,823
Short term investments	4.	11,065	10,983
Accounts receivable		1,870	-
Prepaid expenses		714	450
Total Current Assets		168,439	139,256
Capital assets	6.	2,559	2,470
Total Assets		\$ 170,998	\$ 141,726
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7.	\$ 12,481	\$ 2,170
Net Assets			
Unappropriated net assets		155,958	137,086
Equity in capital assets		2,559	2,470
Total Net Assets		158,517	139,556
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$ 170,998	\$ 141,726

Regina Public Interest Research Group Inc.

Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended April 30, 2018

	2017	2016
Revenues		
Student fees	\$ 162,068	\$ 162,074
Registration fees and reimbursements	10,647	7,955
Event sponsorships	44,297	37,787
Interest	82	93
Total revenue	217,094	207,909
Expenditures		
Advertising, promotion and website	3,122	2,719
Employee benefits	15,327	8,770
Board and volunteer meetings and development	7,470	1,383
Amortization	675	768
Insurance	1,167	1,337
Interest and bank charges	338	294
Office and general	4,498	1,633
Professional fees	2,517	1,781
Salaries and wages	89,674	86,408
Conferences and events	12,977	17,520
Project funding	32,925	27,320
Reference materials	296	294
Generating momentum	28,110	28,381
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 17,998	\$ 29,301