MINUTES

REGINA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP
221 RIDDELL CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Date: August 28th, 2025, 6:00 P.M
Location: 227 Riddell Centre and via Zoom

In Attendance (Directors)
Nadia Islam; Eftakhar; Nazib Mahmund; Mohammad Akib Hossain; Ahad Ali Buttar; Rashad Haque; Chanchal Mitruka; Esi Mensimah Ekwam

Other Attendees
Tayef Ahmed, Executive Director; Jana Rutten, Admin Assistant

Regrets
None

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1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RPIRG is based in Treaty 4 territory and the homeland of the Métis people. The Nêhiyaw/Cree, Nakawē/Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota, Dakota and Métis/Michif Peoples continue to be in kinship and practice reciprocity with this land that has sustained them for countless generations. As staff and board members of RPIRG, we recognize the interconnection between each other, the land, and all other beings, and our responsibility to tend to these relationships — a process captured in the Nêhiyaw concept of Wâhkôhtowin. For us, this responsibility involves honouring the spirit and intent of the treaty, actively working to dismantle and repair the harms of colonialism and white supremacy and coming together collectively to build a better world for future generations.

2. CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by Eftakhar.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Nazib Mahmud declared conflict on an *In-Camera* item. Nazib to be excused from the discussion.

4. APPROVAL OF ADGENDA

Moved by Eftakhar *and Seconded by* Ahad Ali Buttar.

That the agenda for the RPIRG Board of Directors meeting on August 28th, 2025 be approved, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

5. APPROVAL OF FLYING MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Ahad Ali Buttar *and Second by* Nazib Mahmund.

That the flying minutes (the resolutions in lieu of meeting) from July 2025 be approved, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

6. Welcome and Introduction

I. Introduction of Board Nominees

The Board members introduced themselves to the nominees. The Board had a chance to ask the nominees questions related to their skills and experience, as well as their interest to serve on the Board.

Matters for Decision

7. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Director, T. Ahmed, recommends appointing three nominees to the RPIRG Board for an interim term to fill vacancies on the Board. The new directors would serve an interim term until April 30, 2025 or until their successors are elected.

T. Ahmed provides details information regarding the nomination and selection process.

Moved by Eftakhar and Second by Mohammad Akib

That Rashad Haque, Chanchal Mitruka and Esi Mensimah Ekwam be appointed as interim board directors for a term ending on April 30, 2025.

Carried Unanimously

8. RPIRG OFFICE RENOVATION

The Executive Director is asking for $20,000 from our savings account (tentative budget) to be set aside for future space renovations. The size and location of the current RPIRG office does not fit the size of our organization and makes it harder to do outreach and create a community space. RPIRG had been utilizing URSU front desk for all its customer service work and using URSU Boardroom for all its meetings. With the sudden closing of URSU, RPIRG would now have to be in talks with the University to try to get a new space. If a new location is secured, the Board would receive a plan and a detailed budget associated for final approval.

Moved by Esi and Seconded by Akib.

That the Board set aside $20,000 from our savings for future office renovation/ location changes.

Carried Unanimously

Matters for Discussion

9. RPIRG FUNDING/ URSU

The Executive Director provided an update that RPIRG had not received its Winter 2025 fees. RPIRG receives its student fees from the University of Regina Students' Union (URSU), via a levy fee collected by the Students' Union each fall and winter semester. Due to the dispute between University of Regina—who ultimately collects fees directly from students—and URSU, the University has withheld URSU'S Fees for Winter 2025. The University has concluded that it has lost confidence in URSU's ability to financially manage the organization and responsibly pay its creditors over its concerns derived from the *going concern* hence material uncertainty from its 2023-24 audited financial statements. URSU submitted an court application on April 23, 2025, after the University notified URSU that it had cancelled its *Fee Collection and Sharing* agreement effective August 31, 2025, on April 02, 2025. URSU submitted two injunction applications: (1) a prohibitory injunction to restrain the University from breaching the existing fee agreement between the parties while it remains in force, and (2) a mandatory injunction to compel the University to continue to collect student fees on URSU's behalf and transfer them to URSU after the University's termination of the agreement becomes effective. The court ruled against URSU and noted that *Payment Protocol* proposed by the University is sufficient to continue URSU's operations, including paying withheld fees to organizations such as RPIRG.

10. DIS-ORIENTATION WEEK

Dis-Orientation Week — or **Dis-O Week** — is RPIRG's annual alternative to the typical campus orientation. Instead of just showing you where the library is, we dive into the conversations, skills, and movements that matter. It's a week of workshops, panels, and discussions that challenge the status quo, explore social and environmental justice, and connect students with local changemakers.

This year we are hosting 8 events from September 15-19. The staff encouraged the Board to volunteer to some of the events.

11. STUDENT SERVICE SUPPORT

RPIRG Board discussed gaps around student services while URSU is no longer on campus. It explored some ideas around taking care of some services within our capacity where University has conflict of interest such as Student Advocate. The RPIRG staff will engage with the University leadership to discuss the current challenge around student services and final viable path in absence of the Students' Union.

Information Only

12. RPIRG POLICIES

The Board was given a copy of our policies for feedback. The draft policies are tabled for approval during October 08, 2025 Board Meeting.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

No other additional business was discussed.

14. IN-CAMERA SESSION

The Board meeting moved in camera session at 6:07 p.m.

The Board meeting exited from in-camera session at 7:43 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jana Rutten, Admin and Outreach Assistant