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

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Date: October 8th, 2025, 6:30 P.M

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

Other Attendees
Tayef Ahmed, Executive Director; Jana Rutten, Admin Assistant; Michelle Hood, Outreach and Events Coordinator; Hannah Tait, GATE Centre; Titilayo Omolola, McoS

Regrets
Nazib Mahmud

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 7:17 pm by Rashad Haque.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Mohammad Akib Hossain declared conflict of interest on an *funding application* submitted by URMUN. Akib to be recused from the decision.

4. APPROVAL OF ADGENDA

Moved by Mohammad Akib Hossain *and Seconded by* Eftakhar.

That the agenda for the RPIRG Board of Directors meeting on October 8th, 2025 be approved, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Ahad Ali Buttar *and Second by* Nadia Islam.

That the minutes from August 28 be approved, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

6. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

a) Innovation Challenge

Hannah Tait provided a presentation on the upcoming Innovation Challenge hosted by the GATE Centre. Hannah is seeking $3000 for large grant from RPIRG. The innovation challenge taking place on November 21-22 at the University of Regina. The Innovation Challenge is a 24 hour event where teams of students will be tasked with building a solution to a social/ environmental challenge. They will be connected to non-profits, academics, professionals and a range of people working in the space to help shape participants ideas. They will be mentored by prominent social justice and creative minds of Saskatchewan. Solutions built by students may be a policy, social enterprise, app, community program or any other way to solve the problem presented to them. The goal is to connect students to real problems and empower them to build real solutions.

b) MCoS 50th Multicultural Gala

Titilayo Omolola from MCoS provided a presentation on the upcoming Multicultural Gala happening on November 22nd at the Conexus Art Centre. MCos requested RPIRG to be a sponsor for the event.

Matters for Decision

7. FUNDING APPLICATIONS — LARGE COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS

A total of seven (7) funding applications were submitted by the appropriate deadline of October 1, 2025. One application has been deferred to the next round with the consent of the applicant. The Board and the Executive Director have reviewed the applications in accordance with the Grant Funding Policy and Assessment Matrix, with consideration of the supplementary information. The following decisions were made regarding these applications:

Applicant	Purpose	Category	Decision/ Approval Amount
Hannah Tait	Gate Centre/ Hill Levene Innovation Challenge	Event/Project	Granted $3,000
Kairo Holness	Enactus Pitch Competition	Event	Granted $1,200
Madison Sagert	Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology	Conference/ Training	Granted $600
Caitlyn Le	UofR Pre-Law Student Association external events	Event/Project	Granted $900
Liepa Banionyte[1]	Namum Conference	Conference/ Training	Granted $2,000
Brahmjeet Gainda	Enactus Newruva Compost	Project	Granted $975

[1] Applied for a group of 8 students

Moved by Mohammad Akib Hossain *and Second by* Esi Mensimah Ekwam.

That the funding applications for the Large Grant for the period ending October 1, 2025 be approved, as collectively decided

Carried Unanimously

8. FUNDING APPLICATIONS — RACIAL JUSTICE LARGE COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT

A total of three funding applications was submitted by the appropriate deadline of October 1, 2025. One application was incomplete, and the applicant had not re-submitted a new application upon request by the appropriate deadline. Another application was moved to the regular Large Grant category as it was not eligible for the Racial Justice category. The Board and the Executive Director have reviewed the application in accordance with our Grant Funding Policy and Application Assessment Matrix, with consideration of the supplementary information. The following decision was made regarding this application:

Applicant	Purpose	Category	Decision/ Approval Amount
Tash Bigeau[2]	mamawi-itohtewak Reconciliation and Screening Event	Event/Project	Granted $900

Moved by Eftakhar *and Second by* Rashad Haque.

That the funding applications for Racial Justice Large Grant for the period ending October 1, 2025 be approved, as collectively decided.

Carried Unanimously

[2] On behalf of a working group work towards reconciliation at the Luther College

9. APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TWO STANDING COMMITTEES

The Executive Director had prepared *Terms of Reference* for both standing Committees. The documents outline roles and responsibilities of each committee. The Board had a chance to review these documents.

Moved by Rashad Haque and Seconded by Eftakhar

That the terms of reference for Finance, Audit, and Risk & Governance and HR Committee be approved, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

10. FORMATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE

As required per RPIRG Board of Directors Bylaw, RPIRG has to have two standing committees to assist the Board to fulfil its mission. The two committees are:

- Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee; and
- Governance and Human Resources Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to:

- Financial and accounting reporting and policies;
- Risk management;
- Internal control structures and audit functions; and
- Compliance with legislation and contractual agreements.

The purpose of the Governance and Human Resource Committee is to:

- Ensure that RPIRG develops and implements an effective approach to governance which enables the programs and affairs of the organization to be carried out, directed and managed in an efficient and ethical manner; and
- Assist the Board in fulfilling its obligations relating to the human resource and compensation matters of the Executive Director and to establish a plan of continuity and development of the Executive Director.

Each committee will at least need two directors to join and can have a maximum of 4 Directors. The recommendation is that 8 Board members are divided into two committees based on skills, competencies, and interests. The following members were nominated to be appointed to each respective committee for a term until either restriking the committee or term of the member ends as a director— whichever comes first.

Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee	Governance and HR Committee
Esi Mensimah Ekwam Mohammad Akib Hossain Chanchal Mitruka Ahad Ali Buttar	Nadia Islam Rashad Haque Nazib Mahmud Eftakhar

Moved by Rashad Haque and seconded by Nadia Islam.

That the nominated members be appointed to two respective standing committees effective immediately and the committees be governed in accordance with the Terms of Reference, as well other application RPIRG policies and bylaws.

Carried Unanimously

11. SPONSORSHIP REQUEST— MCOS 50TH YEAR MULTICULTURAL ANNIVERSARY GALA

The Board has decided to be a primary sponsor for the Gala and agreed to provide $5,000. The MCoS will provide us with 8 complimentary tickets, an opportunity showcase our work among the attendees, and an opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of RPIRG.

Moved by Chanchal Mitruka, *Seconded by* Rashad Haque.

That the Board approved $5,000 sponsorship to MCoS for 50th Year Anniversary Multicultural Gala.

Carried Unanimously

Matters for Discussion

12. RPIRG NEW PROPOSED POLICIES

The Board was not prepared to approve any policies in that meeting.The Board had a discussion to move the policies to the next meeting for approval. The Board has been asked to review the policies and provide any feedback and changes by November 01, 2025 through Boardable. The policies were created by our governance consultant Ivy+Dean Consulting in 2024.

Information Only

13. RPIRG STAFF RETREAT AND BOARD MEETING ON NOV 12

Please note that our next Board Meeting will be happening during the Staff Retreat and Professional Development session during the fall reading break. The meeting will take place online. It will be taking place at 6:30 pm Saskatchewan time.

14. UPCOMING EVENT: EYEWITNESS REPORT ON GAZA

This event is taking place on October 22nd at 7pm at the Knox Met United Church on 2340 Victoria Ave. It is a talk by Dr. Deirdre Nunan a Saskatchewan orthopaedic surgeon who works in an international humanitarian aid context and was in Gaza for 2 years. Admission is free and no registration is required.

Nadia, Chanchal and Rashad have agreed volunteered for this event.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

No other additional business was discussed.

16. IN-CAMERA SESSION

There was no in-camera session in that meeting.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Jana Rutten

Respectfully Submitted by
Jana Rutten, Admin and Outreach Assistant