

2013-2014

The Year In Review at
QPIRG Concordia

** community * research * resistance **



The Annual Report of the
Quebec Public Interest Research Group
at Concordia

Table of Contents:

Message from the Board of Directors	3
Message from the QPIRG Concordia Staff	4
QPIRG Mandate and History	6
QPIRG Structure	
Board of Directors	8
Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee	8
Permanent Staff	8
Part-time Staff	9
QPIRG Board Committee Reports	
Policy Committee	10
Finance Committee	10
Programming and Working Groups Committee	10
Staff Liaison Committee	11
Accessibility Committee	11
Core Projects and Activities	
Alternative Library	12
Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)	12
Study In Action	13
<i>Convergence</i> Journal of Undergraduate & Community Research	14
<i>School Schmool</i> Alternative Agenda	15
Disorientation	15
Research Stipend	16
Programming and Working Groups Event Highlights	17
Discretionary Funding and Endorsements	18
Working Groups 2013-14	19
Financial Reports	
Draft Financial Statements 10/1/2013-08/31/2014	24
Audit Report ending August 31, 2013	26



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & CALL TO ANTI-COLONIAL RESISTANCE

QPIRG Concordia acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. The Kanien'kehá:ka are the keepers of the Eastern Door of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The island we call Montreal, called Tiotia:ke in the language of the Kanien'kehá:ka, has historically been a meeting place for other Indigenous nations, including the Algonquin peoples.

QPIRG Concordia believes it is not enough to just acknowledge the keepers of this land. We encourage everyone to get informed and educated, and to actively resist colonialism and neo-colonialism in the many forms it takes, and in the diversity of forms that resistance can take too. QPIRG Concordia, and its related projects and working groups, are one place to get informed. Some things we can highlight now is our Summer Research Stipend project by the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition (to be published later this year) and the upcoming "Fall Feast: An anti-colonial evening of food, film and resistance" to take place at the Native Friendship Center of Montreal on the evening of November 6.

We encourage everyone to get in touch with QPIRG Concordia about anti-colonial and decolonization efforts.

Message from the Board of Directors

This year started with an AGM where 12 board members were elected, 9 of whom were new. As a board, we did a board training here at the QPIRG-C office and a summer visioning over on the beautiful Loyola campus. As part of our work, board members participated in several different committees: Programming and Working Groups Committee; Finance Committee; Policy Development Committee; and the Staff Liaison Committee. There is also one standing committee, the Accessibility Committee, which board members have also been a part of.

The board worked to support the staff, the working groups, QPIRG's core projects, and improving the space in general. The board supported the work of the staff by being a part of board committees as well as participating in several hiring processes throughout the year in our capacity as an employer. We helped in the hiring of new part time staff members this year, all of whom were Concordia students.

There were many discussions around the office space, especially in regards to organizing a less cluttered space for the working groups to use and renewing the lease. We also discussed the legal implications of taking on new projects in the space, such as the possibility of hosting a needle exchange.

On a campus level, the board was active in discussions around QPIRG's role in Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia (FLAC), and we want to thank all of those in the Concordia community who were involved in the referendum rejecting the divisive per-faculty fee levy opt-outs.

Working groups are a huge part of QPIRG-C and we want to recognize all of the amazing things that they have done this year! We want to thank all the people involved in the working groups for making QPIRG the activist hub it is.

The major focuses of this year's programming were opposing the xenophobic and sexist proposed Quebec Charter of Values, responding to the proposed anti-sex work law, and voter suppression during the Quebec provincial election. Because of this focus, the board participated in projects such as endorsing and attending the Sex Worker Solidarity Dance-A-Thon and Ensemble Contre Le Charte Xenophobe and aiding staff in the organization of a rally when Bernard Drainville came to campus. We also supported the staff to put on its core projects throughout the year (Disorientation, School Schmool, the Alternative Library, the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE), Convergence and Study In Action) and we want to thank them again for all the hard work that went into organizing these projects.

Thank you so much to the staff this year: Noah, Jaggi, Christina, Jessica (bookkeeping), Amir (tech), Elena (Alternative Library), William (CURE), Lindsay (Outreach), Swetha (Poster Archive), Gwen (CURE) and Cera & Jay (School Schmool). Y'all work so hard all the time to make this organization what it is, we are so proud of what you do and we are so happy to have been able to work with y'all this past year.

In solidarity,
The 2013/2014 QPIRG Concordia Board of Directors

Message from the QPIRG Concordia Staff

The QPIRG Concordia core staff works collectively to maintain QPIRG and nurture its varied projects, groups and initiatives. We have a very busy office space, and we collaborate with QPIRG members, volunteers and allies to ensure that QPIRG is active and accessible to both our community and student membership in diverse ways. This Annual Report as a whole reflects that work, and this short introductory message simply shares some highlights as staff from the past year.

Overall, we felt it was a positive year for QPIRG Concordia. As always, QPIRG is a busy environment in which to work, but the QPIRG core staff enjoyed its role in supporting so much amazing on-campus and community organizing.

As we do each year, the core staff, under the direction of our Board of Directors, works hard to ensure QPIRG remains transparent and accountable to its members. This is reflected in our ongoing efforts to provide institutional and financial transparency and accessibility, third party audited financial statements, clear and coherent minutes and documentation, hassle-free opt-outs, an annual report, an updated website and timely e-mail communications, and a constitution and other key documents that are available on our website.

Day-to-day, we maintained QPIRG as a productive workplace for our very active working groups as well as a welcoming venue for students and community members. We have made significant space improvements, including a re-organization of the QPIRG office space.

QPIRG staff actively offered workshops on request, both on campus and for community organizations. We were called as staff to offer our support on facilitation, consensus, anti-oppression, and “know your rights,” as well as support the development and accountability mechanisms of other fee levy groups and campus organizations. We offered consistent support as well to our working groups, including several new projects.

This year, we again benefited from board members who provided clear direction to the organization. We had a successful board training weekend in the fall and an organizational visioning process in the summer. We also had supplemental trainings throughout the year. Together with our board members, we worked on finance, policy, programming & working groups and accessibility within board committees. Importantly, the board as a whole, and the staff liaison committee in particular, provided ongoing support to the staff, which we acknowledge and appreciate.

We want to acknowledge by name the contributions of everyone who served on the QPIRG Concordia Board of Directors this year: Ian, Otto, Karina, Shayla, LeeLee, Asher, Lael, Jess, Akki, Lindsay, Cassie, Bader, Thien and Keara. It was great working with you (and will be great to work with some of you again in the coming year). Thanks for your support and contributions.

A main focus of our time and energy as staff is dedicated to supporting QPIRG’s core projects: Disorientation, School Schmool, the Alternative Library, the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE), Convergence and Study In Action. We also supported an exciting Summer Research Stipend by the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition. Each of these projects have separate reports in this Annual Report.

We continue to liaise actively with QPIRG McGill, and GRIP UQÀM. We collaborate closely with QPIRG McGill on the School Schmool and Convergence publications as well as the Alternative Libraries database. Together all three PIRGs work on Study In Action and CURE (it’s exciting news that GRIP UQÀM is now joining CURE). We value our close relationships with our fellow PIRGs in Montreal, and working with our colleagues Kama, Kira, Mike and Catherine on a regular basis.

On campus, QPIRG Concordia continues to support Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia (FLAC). We want to highlight our involvement as an organization in defending and promoting the importance of fee levy groups on the Concordia campus, reflected in a decisive and successful referendum win among Concordia undergrads in rejecting the divisive per-faculty fee levy opt-outs.

Big thanks to all those Concordia students who worked so hard on supporting campus-based fee levy groups, especially all the active student members of the “Vote NO to per-faculty fee levy opt-outs” campaign. This was part of a broader “Support Concordia Community” effort and QPIRG continues to prioritize working in collaboration with our fee levy group allies in promoting a diverse and interesting Concordia community. We greatly value our fellow fee levy groups and other campus allies.

More generally, this year we are very satisfied with work put into the organization of QPIRG finances and our general financial well-being, the re-organization and de-cluttering of the QPIRG space, as well as our contributions to social struggles, particularly our active involvement in opposing the proposed racist, sexist and xenophobic Quebec Charter of Values. In response to some of our members being denied the right to vote in Quebec’s provincial election, QPIRG Concordia, in collaboration with the Concordia Student Union and QPIRG McGill organized an ad hoc awareness and support campaign against voter suppression.

All year, we thrive on being able to support general QPIRG programming and co-sponsorships: workshops, book launches, walking tours, bike tours and more. For the staff, some highlights include the *Accessibility, Disability and Resisting Austerity* Panel (May 2014); the *Defending the Land, Indigenous Resistance to Extraction* event with Mel Bazil of the Unist’ot’en Action Camp (May 2014); and *The Truth Hurts* comedy night with Amer Rahman (September 2014).

None of our core staff work is done alone. We want to also highlight the contributions of all our part-time, work study and contract employees over the past year: Jessica (bookkeeping), Amir (tech), Elena (Alternative Library), William (CURE), Lindsay (Outreach), Swetha (Poster Archive), Gwen (CURE) and Cera & Jay (School Schmoool). We enjoyed working with you all.

Working at QPIRG is challenging, and a lot of hard work, but it remains stimulating and satisfying. It’s inspiring for us to meet so many amazing students and community members that in so many different ways make important contributions to social and environmental transformation. We are privileged to be able to contribute to social and environment justice in such a way.

Again, we are especially proud of the many new faces that continue to access QPIRG and QPIRG events in the past year, and the support we are able to provide to campus and community social justice initiatives. As staff, we thrive on working in collaboration with curious, engaged and dynamic volunteers, who access our space on a daily basis. We are looking forward to building on the past year’s accomplishments in the upcoming year.

In solidarity,

- Noah Eidelman, Finance & Fundraising Coordinator
- Jaggi Singh, Programming & Working Groups Coordinator
- Christina Xydous, Administrative and Volunteer Coordinator

October 9, 2014

QPIRG Mandate

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia is a resource centre for student and community research and organizing. We strive to raise awareness and support grassroots activism around diverse social and environmental issues. Our work is rooted in an anti-oppression analysis and practice. We seek to make campus-community links and inspire social change through engaging, inclusive and non-hierarchical approaches.

QPIRG Concordia is committed to being inclusive and accessible to all. We are actively opposed to all forms of discrimination and oppression. QPIRG is a volunteer-driven, student-funded, non-profit organization that is independent from the Concordia administration and student unions. Both students and community members are welcome to make use of our space and resources as well as participate in QPIRG projects.

QPIRG History

The Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at Concordia has been an important link between campus and the community on issues related to social and environmental justice and progressive social change. From their origins in Canada in the early 1980s, PIRGs have provided a forum and training ground for students and non-students alike to become critical and engaged community participants.



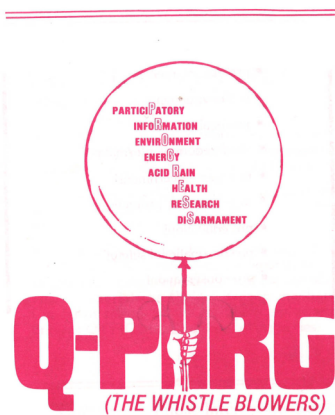
QPIRG at Concordia started in 1981 as a club funded by the student union. QPIRG's popularity grew until a student referendum in 1989 determined that QPIRG would be funded by a student fee levy. In 2010, Concordia graduate students voted in a referendum to become members of QPIRG Concordia as well. QPIRG Concordia is an autonomous group on the Concordia campus, with both student and community membership.

In the 1980s and '90s, QPIRG, like other campus-based social justice groups, was active in solidarity with human rights movements in Central America, campaigns for nuclear disarmament and global peace, opposition to apartheid in South Africa, feminist and anti-racist organizing, GLBT rights, consumer activism, and environmental justice.

Some of the projects and activity of QPIRG in the 1980s and '90s is reflected in the working groups and projects that grew out of QPIRG, including: Right to Move/La Voie Libre; the Popular Film Series (evolved into Cinema Politica); Urgence Manif; Sustainable Concordia; Blood Sisters; Un Juste Café; Santropol Roulant; the Concordia Recycling and Composting Committee; the Vegan Lunch Program (became the People's Potato); Project Take Root (evolved into the Frigo Vert); Action Rebut; ASEED (became Equiterre); and others.

In the late 1990s, QPIRG, like other PIRGs, was active in solidarity with international self-determination and liberation movements, from Latin America to the Middle East to South Asia. This period was also marked by increasing involvement and support with indigenous sovereignty efforts on Turtle Island.

QPIRG contributed to the growing global justice movement of this period, and was associated with demonstrations and popular education work around institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Our programming and working groups also increasingly reflected queer, prisoner solidarity, migrant justice, and trans struggles and self-organizing.



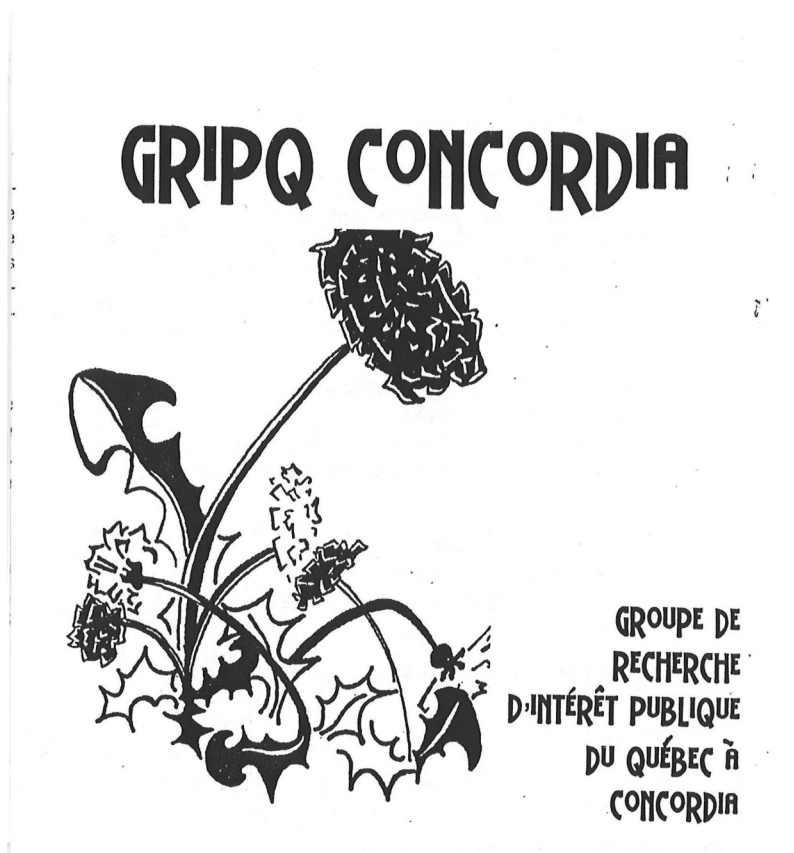
**Q-PIRG members
are pro's
dealing with
the issues...**

QPIRG Concordia has evolved from its original mandate and projects to include a wide range of community activism and research, rooted in an explicit grassroots, anti-oppression organizing framework and prioritizing consensus-based decision-making. This is reflected in QPIRG's current working groups, our core projects and publications, and our resource library as well as our support for campus and community groups through co-sponsorships, endorsements, and discretionary funding.

In the past five years, QPIRG has specifically developed a community-based social justice research model through core projects like Study in Action, the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE), and the Convergence Research Journal.

PIRGs were set up as consumer advocacy groups in the United States in the early 1970s, but PIRGs in Canada have operated on a different model. They involve and empower students and the majority of their funding comes directly from students, unlike the NGO model of PIRGs currently operating in the US. Most PIRGs in Canada operate on a consensus decision-making model, and are directed by a volunteer board of governors composed of students and other community members. The diversity among PIRGs reflects the diversity of each group's membership and volunteer board. PIRGs in Canada communicate with each other, especially PIRGs in geographical proximity, but they are ultimately autonomous organizations that are directly accountable to their campus and community memberships.

In essence, PIRGs complement the university experience by linking theory with practice while breaking down barriers and creating links between knowledge work on campus and in the community.



QPIRG Structure

Since 2007 all undergraduate students at Concordia become automatic members of QPIRG Concordia through the 0.31\$ per credit paid with regular school tuition. Since September 2010, all graduate students at Concordia also become automatic members through the 0.50\$ per student per semester paid with regular school tuition. Membership also consists of active volunteers and members of our working groups.

Board of Directors:

At QPIRG, the board plays an integral part within the organization. With regular meetings and active participation in all aspects of QPIRG, board members set the organization's agenda and direction, and support the staff. Members gain valuable experience and training in anti-oppression, how to be an employer, community organizing, and consensus building. A new board is elected during the fall semester at QPIRG's Annual General Meeting (AGM), although new members can join with consensus from the current board at any time there is a vacant seat. The Board of Directors consists of 12 seats – 6 seats are reserved for Concordia student members, and the other 6 are reserved for Community members who may or may not be Concordia students. This reflects our mandate to create campus-community links.

For the year 2013-2014, we were proud to have on our Board of Directors:

Ian Bradley-Perrin, Concordia Student

Otto Buxton, Community Member (appointed May 6, 2014)

Karina Chagnon, Concordia Student

Shayla Chilliak, Community Member

LeeLee Davis, Concordia Student (resigned February 3, 2014)

Asher Faerstein, Concordia Student (appointed April 15, 2014, resigned October 3 2014)

Lael Kim, Concordia Student (resigned July 25, 2014)

Jess Mac, Community Member

Akki Mackay, Community Member (resigned July 10, 2014)

Lindsay Nixon, Concordia Student (resigned January 17, 2014)

Cassie Smith, Community Member (resigned July 30, 2014)

Bader Takriti, Community Member (resigned September 29, 2014)

Thien Viet Quan, Concordia Student

Keara Yim, Concordia Student

Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee:

At the Annual General Meeting in October 2013, the following QPIRG members were elected to the Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee (CRCC): **Milena Gioia**, **Carolin Huang**, **Tanya Magni**, and **Kayle Towsley**. The CRCC follows a CRCC policy to address complaints involving QPIRG members that cannot be resolved by the board of directors. The CRCC can be emailed directly at crcc@qipirgconcordia.org, though for most matters it is best to email QPIRG at info@qipirgconcordia.org.

Staff:

For the year 2013-2014, QPIRG employed 3 permanent staff members, who collectively worked to facilitate the day-to-day operations and coordinate long-term planning and training of the Board.

Our permanent staff people in 2013-2014 were:

Noah Eidelman, *Finance and Fundraising Coordinator*

Jaggi Singh, *Programming and Working Groups Coordinator*

Christina Xydous, *Volunteer and Administrative Coordinator*

In the Winter semester of 2013-2014, we were glad to have **William Butcher** as our part-time Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) Coordinator and **Elena Stoodley** as a part-time coordinator of QPIRG's Alternative Library for the Winter semester. We also had **Gwen Muir** as our part-time Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) Coordinator and **Swetha Keerthi** as our part-time Poster Archive Coordinator in the Summer semester. Their positions are supported partially by Concordia's Financial Aid and Awards Office work-study program – a programme which allows groups like QPIRG to hire Concordia students.

In February 2014, we were fortunate to have a Young Canada Works grant which allowed us to hire **Lindsay Nixon** (also a Concordia student) as our part-time Outreach Coordinator for the Winter semester.

In May 2014, **Cera Yiu** joined the QPIRG team as our summer *School Schmool* coordinator, working on the *School Schmool* organizer in partnership with QPIRG McGill.

QPIRG was supported by an external bookkeeper, **Jessica Charest**, a member of the Concordia community. In addition, QPIRG systems received the support of our network administrator and computer technician, **Amir Al-Shourbaji**.

QPIRG Committee Reports:

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee, both through meetings, and through discussions at the board level, overviews QPIRG Concordia practices and guidelines, and when necessary, modifies and creates new policies.

This year, the Committee was given two policy priorities: updating our Grant-based Staff policy to provide grant-based staff with slightly more continuity from one term to the next, and finalizing a new Accessibility Policy which the committee worked on in collaboration with our Accessibility Committee. Other policies / guidelines / items the committee has on the drawing board are a policy on Policy-writing, updating the Conflict Resolution and Complaints Policy, and the elaboration of an anti-colonial / decolonization statement for the organization.

(Christina Xydous coordinated the Policy Committee, with contributions from Karina Chagnon, Lael Kim and Bader Takriti)

Finance Committee

This committee's mandate is to give direction to financial decisions, advise the board on financial matters, develop transparent and accessible financial practices, and maintain a more in-depth understanding of QPIRG's financial position than is possible at the general board level. Being a member of the finance committee helps to provide board representatives with an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the internal financial systems of QPIRG and its financial position; this in turn allows those members of the board to be better able to help keep the rest of the board up-to-date on QPIRG's finances.

The Financial Reports section of this Annual Report provides information about our Financial Statements as well as our Audited Statements.

(Noah Eidelman coordinated the Finance committee, with contributions from Ian Bradley-Perrin, Otto Buxton, Shayla Chilliak, Lindsay Nixon, Cassie Smith, and Thien Viet Quan)

Programming and Working Groups Committee

The Programming and Working Groups Committee has the joint responsibility for undertaking and supporting QPIRG programming initiatives, as well as supporting QPIRG's working groups.

Programming at QPIRG Concordia aims to provide a space to accommodate new students and community members who might be curious about social justice issues but not yet directly involved, as well as to deepen our understanding and skills as activists and organizers. This was accomplished in many ways.

QPIRG Concordia's staff organized semi-regular "Solidarity Not Charity: Activism 101" workshops. This was a crucial, open, welcoming space to learn more about social and environmental justice. We also continued a parallel "Community-based social justice research" workshop, which allowed QPIRG to create a space for discussions related to the various forms of community and campus research.

The Programming and Working Groups committee actively supports QPIRG's core projects, which are considered part of programming. This meant that we devoted September 2014 to helping organize Disorientation, and March 2014 to Study In Action. The committee also supported events organized with the Community-University Research Exchange (CURE) and the Alternative Library

We again undertook several other co-sponsorships, which involved active QPIRG involvement as organizers. One of our main commitments this year was to oppose the racist, sexist and xenophobic Quebec Charter of Values. This involved our participation in two demonstrations, a

community declaration, a protest at Concordia against Bernard Drainville as well as the Art Against the Charter effort. Related to this effort was an intervention against voter suppression during the Quebec election, in collaboration with the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and QPIRG McGill.

Some highlights from this year's programming are included in the next section.

Aside from QPIRG Programming, we supported the multifold organizing, events and projects undertaken by our 30 working groups, which are too numerous to list in this Annual Report. QPIRG Concordia's office space and related resources are an important and ongoing source of support of the diverse activities and organizing of our working groups.

(The Programming and Working Groups Committee in 2013-14 was coordinated by Jaggi Singh. The committee this year was comprised of: Jess Mac, Thien Viet Quan and Keara Yim.)

Staff Liaison Committee

The Staff Liaison Committee (SLC) plays a crucial role in maintaining good communications between staff and board. This work is a less visible but integral part of board contributions to QPIRG. Four board members sat on this committee throughout most of the year, with some changeover happening in the winter and summer terms following the resignation of one of its members.

The SLC took on tasks such as conducting check-ins with core and part-time staff, coordinating staff evaluations for core and grant-based staff, initiating staff appreciation efforts, and generally maintaining positive relations between employees and the employer.

(This year's Staff Liaison Committee was comprised of Otto Buxton, Shayla Chilliak, Leelee Davis, Akki Mackay, Cassie Smith, and Keara Yim; the committee is supported by the QPIRG Volunteer and Administrative Coordinator)

Accessibility Committee

The creation of our Accessibility Committee last year has been one of the ways QPIRG has tried to center accessibility and issues of access in the work that we do. Although accessibility has – and continues to be – a priority at QPIRG, and we are continually working to try and make our space and our work as accessible as possible, the idea of creating an accessibility committee to try and further certain accessibility-related ideas and goals came about at a summer board visioning in the summer of 2013. This past year, the committee continued to work on the goals and ideas that were started by the Accessibility Committee when it was first created, as well as to decide on new goals and projects to undertake.

In keeping with the priorities of the committee, attention is given to trying to ensure the committee itself operates in ways that make it as accessible as possible to the committee members (for example, breaks during meetings and sharing tasks, amongst other things).

One of the goals of the committee this year was to finish the Accessibility Policy that was initially drafted last year. In conjunction with the Policy Committee, our current Accessibility Policy was finished and approved by our Board of Directors. The information contained in this policy will soon be posted on our website in both English and French. The Accessibility Committee has also continued to work on compiling information about venues around Montreal with details about the accessibility (or inaccessibility) of those venues; the Committee plans to work with members of Accessibilize Montreal and RAPLIQ to potentially collaborate on work related to the inaccessibility of spaces in Montreal.

(The Accessibility Committee this year was comprised of Jess Mac and Thien Viet Quan, with contributions from Sarah Mangle and Raph Frigon; the committee was coordinated by Noah Eidelman)

Core Projects and Activities

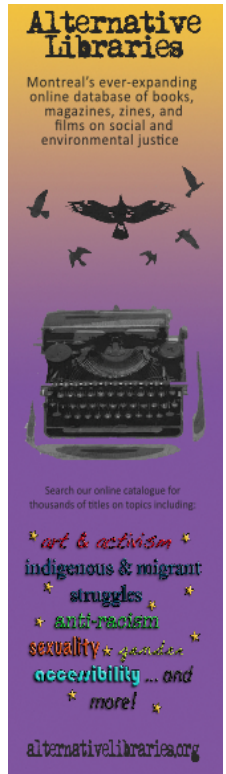
Alternative Library

Elena Stoodley began working as the Coordinator of the Alternative Library in January 2014 and is returning to this position for the current Fall term. Elena had the Library participating in a traveling *Book Mobile* and the *Encuentro library of performing rights*, signed up new members to the database, purchased a new bookshelf and reorganized the space, and continued working together with **Cleve Higgins** on finalizing the new Library website / database. Elena also carried out purchases of new resources to add to the Library's collection.

Several upcoming initiatives that we hope to undertake in the coming year include: launching the new Alternative Libraries online database; organizing an Open House; maintaining a continuously updated website; and getting a volunteers committee active once again after a quiet period.

We've also been fortunate in having **Swetha Keerthi** as our Poster Archive Coordinator over the summer and for this coming fall. Swetha has sorted and categorized a large volume of posters, updated the Poster Archive website and helped with general organizational filing. With the new arrival of poster storage drawers which we received from the Concordia Library thanks to **Vince Teetaert**, our poster archive will soon be far more accessible.

(The Alternative Library and Poster Archive benefited from the contributions of Cleve Higgins and Vince Teetaert. The Alternative Library was coordinated by Elena Stoodley and the Poster Archive was coordinated by Swetha Keerthi.)



Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)



CURE's mandate is to facilitate community-directed social justice research collaborations between Montreal university students and grassroots community groups who work on environmental and social justice issues. CURE highlights close to 100 community-driven research projects, and matches students with those projects.

In general, CURE outreached to new community groups, as well as faculty and students. We created updated materials to better outreach for the project, and have begun to make structural changes to the CURE website. We had a strong presence during recent orientation activities, including many announcements in classrooms. We also presented three "Community-based social justice" workshops during the year. Many Concordia students have reached out to us due to these concerted outreach efforts.

CURE is a joint project with QPIRG McGill, but in a very major development GRIP UQAM will be joining the project. QPIRG Concordia's CURE Committee will be serving as a very important mentor as UQAM incorporates into the project. In related news, the University of Toronto and York University are collaborating on a new Toronto Research Action Community Exchange (TRACX), which is modeled on CURE, and based on Toronto-area discussions and events attended by CURE Concordia.

As in past years, CURE projects and research were highlighted at both the Study In Action conference, as well as in the Convergence journal. This year was a mix of challenges and growth for CURE. It continues to be a major challenge to be able to have sufficient staff hours to meet the interest in CURE by students, professors and

community groups. This year CURE was at a disadvantage because we were unable to fill our fall work-study position. However, we did have a work-study student in the winter (William Butcher) and this past summer (Gwen Muir) and the project was able to thrive in many other ways.

A long-term solution to supporting CURE's growth at Concordia, already agreed by the QPIRG Board of Directors and the CURE Committee, is to seek an autonomous fee levy whenever possible, and this continues to remain priority. We will also seek a "subvention salariale" employee at the earliest possible opportunity to help meet the widespread interest in CURE.

(This year CURE at Concordia was coordinated by Concordia students William Butcher (January 2014-April 2014) and Gwen Muir (June-August 2014) with the active support of Jaggi Singh as Programming and Working Groups Coordinator.)

Study In Action: An Undergraduate Conference Linking Students with Community Activism



Study In Action is a core project of QPIRG Concordia and QPIRG McGill, and promotes community-based social justice research on campus and in the community. This past year, we were also joined by QPIRG UQAM who will be continuing on as a partner to the conference! The aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity for students and people outside the academic community to come together to work on and discuss approaches to social and environmental justice, while creating a forum to highlight undergraduate research.

The eight annual Study In Action Conference was held at Concordia University in Montreal on March 22 and 23, 2014, with an opening panel at UQAM's Sherbrooke campus on March 20, followed by workshops at McGill University and a panel at UQAM on March 21.

This year, the conference highlighted the idea of self-determination in every issue and topic broached at the conference.

Over the course of three days, there were:

- 1 opening panel
- A day of workshops at McGill University
- A panel discussion, film screening at UQAM
- A march and demonstration against Bill 60 (Charter of "Values") endorsed by the conference
- 2 full conference days of panels and workshops with over 30 speakers, including our Sunday closing panel

This year's opening panel focused on struggles of self-determination. The panelists were: Amanda Lickers (Onkwehon:we, Turtle Clan of the Onondowaga nation), Gabrielle Bouchard (Centre for Gender Advocacy), and Christina Xydous (QPIRG Concordia).

The conference consisted of the following presentations by undergraduate students and community groups:

- "Indigenous Feminist Resistance & Solidarity"
- "Migration Struggles"
- "Radical Perspectives on Environmental Justice"
- "Your Radio is a Bomb: The Explosive Power and Potential of Independent Media"
- "Gentrification and Security"
- "Direct Democracy and Self-Determination"

- “Canadian Mining in Latin America: Issues, Conflicts, and Social Responsibility
- “Race, Power and Intersectionality”
- “Canadian Colonialism and the Extractive State”
- “Indigenous Resistance and Decolonization”
- “How to Find Out What They Don’t Want You to Know: An Introduction to Access to Information Laws and Procedures”
- “Whose Body Is It Anyway? A Panel on Access, Sexuality, and Bodily Determination”

More information is available on the Study In Action website (www.qpirgconcordia.org/studyinaction) along with a full schedule of events, information on student and community group presenters, and details about presentations. The Study In Action organizing committee, with the support of QPIRG Concordia staff, has already begun planning for next year’s conference that will take place between March 21 and 22, 2015.

(The organizing committee for Study In Action was comprised of Maya Almeida-Dutilly, Noah Eidelman, Allison Jones, Danie Martin, Kama Maureemootoo, Kira Page, Robin Reid-Fraser, Emiliano Sanchez, Jaggi Singh and Catherine Sylvestre)

Convergence Journal of Undergraduate & Community Research

The fourth volume of Convergence was published in October 2013. The contents of the fourth edition can be found below (the full version can be read online at <http://convergencejournal.ca>). The fifth volume of Convergence is in progress and will be published later this year.

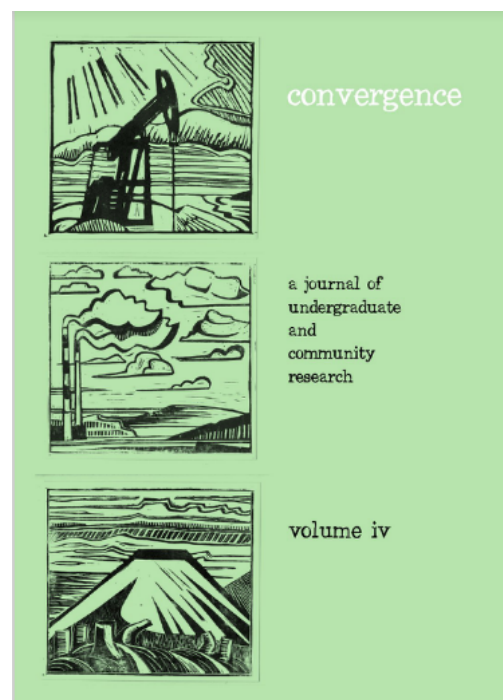
Contents

Articles

1. *unschooling et <<free school>>: l’éducation peut commencer* (by marike reid-gaudet)
2. *homeschooling in montreal: emerging questions from an interview-based project* (by allison jones)
3. *a deviant bride to be* (by l. hoffman)
4. *corps queer: la décolonisation des genres* (by cléo mathieu)
5. *line of force: critiques of nationalism at the intersection of migrant justice and indigenous sovereignty* (by keara yim)
6. *language and power!* (by aaron barcant)
7. *what is in a word?/à l’intérieur des mots: a portrait of community creative writing* (by myriam abdelhak)
8. *burnout in social movements: the roots, the experience, the lessons learned* (by allison jones)

Artwork

- i. *untitled* (by shannon willmot)
- ii. *submersion* (by geneviève giroux)
- iii. *en la calle* (by arianna garcia-fialdini)
- iv. *der geist der menschheit* (the soul/ spirit of humankind) (by sofia bach)
- v + vi. *hybrid spirit i & ii* (by megan kanerahtenha:wi white)



(The Convergence 2013 collective and editorial team was: Amber Gross, Brooke Nancekivell, Carolin Huang, Degane Sougal, Elliot Montpellier, Jaggi Singh, Kama Maureemootoo, Nicolas Quiazua, Sabrina Gurniak, and Sofia Bach)

School Schmool Alternative Agenda



School Schmool has come out again for another amazing school year and has made its way across Concordia and McGill campuses as well as various locations in Montreal.

The agenda dates back to 1994, beginning as a bi-annual publication that brought together group profiles, articles, and practical resources of use to all students, especially those interested in environmental and social justice issues. It was resurrected as an agenda and resource book in the summer of 2006, and has been connecting together the Concordia, McGill and Montreal communities ever since.

The agenda this year was created with certain principles in mind – specifically, the idea that it is crucial to build connections in our communities and in solidarity with struggles around the world, as well as not wanting activism and struggle to be isolated within the academy. Although *School Schmool* is by its nature aimed at students, it is also meant to be resource guide for the wider community, and to serve as an impetus for students to join movements and organizations that exist in Montreal outside of the university setting.

The agenda was created with the understanding that radical movements should always centre marginalized people, and not in a tokenizing way – their voices and active participation of critical for the legitimacy of any movement or organization claiming to be radical or in favour of social justice. This also means that information should be accessible to the people it pertains to, and so this year's *School Schmool* Coordinators worked hard to try to keep incomprehensible jargon out of the agenda.

The 2014-2015 edition of *School Schmool* has three sections. *The Issues* features articles on a broad spectrum of topics that pertain to fighting marginalization and understanding how we can combat systems of power. Following the *Issues* section there is a small resource guide which provides key phone numbers and websites to projects and services mentioned in the articles, including resources for people of colour and Indigenous people and accessibility services. If you would like to get involved in organizing around these topics, *The Groups* section outlines radical organizations that you can contact and get involved with. Finally, to keep track of your busy schedule and important dates, there is *The Agenda* section of *School Schmool* – this year all hand-drawn!

(The 2014-2015 edition of School Schmool was coordinated by Cera Yiu and Jay Manicom)

Disorientation

This year's alternative orientation program, **DISorientation**, took place from September 22nd-26th. DisOrientation is a week of events which focus on a wide range of the topics and issues at the heart of QPIRG's social and environmental justice mandate, and offers new and returning students, as well as community members, an introduction to social and environmental issues as well as a window into the types of events, resources, and volunteer opportunities they can access throughout the rest of the year.

The schedule featured a number of events including workshops, a film screening, a walking tour, an outdoor tabling fair, a comedy show, and a bike tour. The events were all popular and the feedback from the week was very positive. More than two hundred people participated throughout the five days of programming, which took place on the downtown Concordia campus.

The workshops given as part of Disorientation this year were:

- * Solidarity Not Charity: Activism in Montreal
- * Community-Based Social Justice Research
- * Consent Workshop (presented by the Centre for Gender Advocacy)
- * Why Accessibilize Montreal? (presented by members of Accessibilize Montreal!)
- * Cultural Appropriation (presented by Clifton Nicholas)

Other highlights from this year's Disorientation included:

- * a tabling fair at which a number of fee-levy groups on campus came together to highlight the numerous activities they do and issues they organize around
- * a radical walking tour of Concordia's downtown campus, during which past and current social justice struggles at Concordia were highlighted
- * a bike tour of parts of downtown and Montreal's Southwest neighbourhood which focused on gentrification (and anti-gentrification), past and current social justice struggles, and some of the community organizations in St-Henri, Little Burgundy, and Pointe-St-Charles.



This year's DisOrientation also featured a comedy night with Aamer Rahman, a comedian whose work covers issues of race, politics, immigration, the War on Terror, and Batman. The event was held in the H-110 auditorium of Concordia's Hall Building and was very well-attended. This comedy night also featured performances by Kama La Mackerel and The Narcycyst. The event was presented with support from the Concordia Student Union (CSU), Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR-Concordia), and QPIRG McGill.

The week of DisOrientation events ended with a panel organized by one of QPIRG's working groups – the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition. The panel was the opening event of a weekend-long conference entitled “waniskâtân nîtisânitîk: Indigenous Feminist and Two-Spirit Resistance on Turtle Island,” and featured speakers Jessica Danforth, Erin Konsmo, and Naomi Sayers; the panel was moderated by Chelsea Vowell.

QPIRG Concordia Summer Research Stipend

This year QPIRG Concordia was able to provide a research stipend to the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition, described below:

The Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition is putting together a document addressing decolonization and solidarity aimed at community organizations and activists.

Interviews and essays by Indigenous organizers will cover different perspectives on decolonization practices like Two-Spirit resistance; Indigenous feminist resistance; prison abolition; language reclamation, resurgence, and education; resistance to foster care and contemporary social work practice; disability and the medicalization of Indigenous bodies; Indigenous sex offenders and intergenerational trauma; and Harm Reduction. A second portion will be written by members of the IW2SHRC collective. This section would include articles about introductory aspects of decolonization practice and creating reciprocity with the Indigenous peoples on whose land you are residing. Examples of topics which will be covered include: Land Acknowledgement Protocol; Names of Indigenous Territories and Nations; Creating Reciprocity with Urban Indigenous Peoples; Standard Reciprocity Protocol; The Use of the Term “Settler”; The Politics of Insurrection: What Does Solidarity Mean as a White “Race Traitor”; and Black Nativism on Turtle Island. The resulting text will be a useful addition to discussions on decolonization and Indigenous solidarity for non-Natives.



QPIRG Concordia Programming and Working Groups Event Highlights (2013-2014)

(Note: this is not a comprehensive list of events, initiatives and projects organized, co-sponsored, endorsed or supported by QPIRG Concordia, just some selected highlights.)

- Demonstration & March: *Ensemble contre la charte xenophobe*
- Justice for the Victims of Police Killing Coalition Annual Vigil (October 22, 2013)
- *Harper Mutiny!* Demonstration against Stephen Harper and the Conservative government
- *Undoing Border Imperialism*: Book Launch and Panel Discussion
- *Here to Stay: Sharing Our Struggles Against Gentrification and Displacement* (Montreal)
- Community Statement: *Ensemble contre la Charte xenophobe*
- Protest against Bernard Drainville at Concordia University
- "what the fuck am i doing here?" an anti-folk opera about anarchists and the 2012 quebec student strike
- Israeli Apartheid Week (March 2014)
- International Women's Day Protest (March 8, 2014)
- International Day Against Police Brutality (March 15, 2014)
- Study In Action: Undergraduate and Community Research Conference
- *Struggles of Self-Determination*: Opening Panel of Study In Action
- Art Against the Charter Exhibition
- March Against colonialism, racism and the proposed Quebec "Charter of Values" (Bill 60)
- Teach-in: Anti-racist, feminist, anti-capitalist perspectives against the Charter
- "No Fracking Way!" Film Screening and Discussion
- McGill and Concordia Student Unions and Public Interest Research Groups Denounce Voter Suppression and Intimidation in Quebec Elections
- Teach-In: Indigenous Resistance to Tar-sands Pipelines (Line 9/Energy East)
- Protest: Quebec-wide protest against austerity measures
- Panel: Anti-capitalist solidarity with sex workers
- Film premiere by Reclaim Turtle Island
- Anti-Capitalist May Day International Worker's Day Demonstration (May 1, 2014)
- Panel Discussion: *Accessibility, Disability and Resisting Austerity*
- *Defending the Land*: Indigenous Resistance to Extraction (with Mel Bazil)
- Montreal Anarchist Bookfair (May 24-25, 2014)
- *C'est la guerre ?! : Policing Gay Safety, Gentrification, and the Politics of Violence*
- PERVERS/CITÉ – (August 2014)
- Queer Between the Covers, Montreal's annual queer bookfair
- Vigil in solidarity with Ferguson uprising and victims of police violence
- QPIRG Concordia Community Bike Tour
- DisOrientation 2014 (September 22-26)
- Comedy Night: *THE TRUTH HURTS*, with Aamer Rahman
- Opening Panel of waniskâtân nîtisânitik: Indigenous Feminist and Two-Spirit Resistance on Turtle Island, with Jessica Danforth, Erin Konsmo and Naomi Sayers

and much much much more!

Discretionary Funding and Endorsements:

In addition to working group budgets, every fiscal year QPIRG creates a discretionary fund that is open to student and community initiatives that promote social justice in a variety of formats, from conferences and guest speakers, to demonstrations and radical art projects. This discretionary fund is accessed by making an application to the Board of Directors. The standard application form is accessible on the website (qipirgconcordia.org). Groups whose initiatives fall within the parameters of QPIRG's mandate generally receive between \$50 and \$250 per application and, if a group has more than one initiative throughout the year, it can re-apply for funding as new ideas take root. From October 2013 to September 2014, the Board of Directors made discretionary decisions usually once per month, allocating roughly \$250 per session.

In addition to discretionary funding, groups will sometime ask for QPIRG's endorsement of their event or project, meaning that they are seeking political support and help with promotion through our networks, rather than financial support. Below is a list of all the groups who received discretionary support or endorsements from QPIRG in the past year:

- **500 Years of Resistance**, purchase and distro of 15 copies
- **AGIR**, skill-building retreat
- **Aide aux trans** (endorsement)
- **Anti-Colonial Street Art** (endorsement)
- **À Qui La Ville** (endorsement), website
- **ATD Quart Monde** (endorsement)
- **Awan Family Picket** (endorsement)
- **Anakbayan**, tsunami fundraiser
- **Benefit for imprisoned Mik'mac warriors in Elsipogtog** (endorsement)
- **Briarpatch** (endorsement)
- **CKUT Homelessness Marathon**
- **CKUT & So Move**, letter of support
- **COBP**, legal appeals
- **Comité des femmes de diverses origines**, educational discussion series
- **Congress of Black Writers** (co-sponsorship)
- **Collective de Immigrantxs Espanolxs en Montreal** (endorsement)
- **Cree Classroom Grant**
- **Dany Villanueva committee** (endorsement)
- **DIRA**, anarchist agenda
- **Ecole** (endorsement)
- **Faggity Ass Friday** (endorsement)
- **Ferguson Solidarity Vigil** (endorsement)
- **Head & Hands** (endorsement)
- **Insoumise**, poster printing
- **Int'l Day of Solidarity with Chalkidiki** (endorsement)
- **Justice for Deepan** (endorsement)
- **Justice for Ivonne** (letter of support) + Mothers Against Border Fundraiser
- **May Day Dance Party**, demo
- **Mohammad Mahjoub** (endorsement)
- **Montreal Dyke March** (endorsement)
- **Régie du lentement** (endorsement)
- **Ruins** (endorsement)
- **Science on coupe** (endorsement)
- **Sex Worker Solidarity Dance-a-thon**
- **Solidarity Across Borders**, anti-prison demo, La Taquiza, Kanehsatake Pow Wow
- **SouthWest Solidarity Network**, neighbourhood support
- **SPVM Hors du Village**, photocopies
- **Status For All**, Anti-Deportation Days
- **Ste-Emily Skillshare**, sexual health conference
- **Women of Colour Poetry Collective** (endorsement)

Working Groups 2013-2014:

Working Groups are the heart of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at Concordia in Montreal. They are small groups of volunteers who organize around a specific issue, idea, project, or campaign. Groups usually organize around ongoing or long-term issues, though some focus on a particular time-sensitive theme or topic. QPIRG supports Working Groups with use of our space and resources, staff guidance, as well as an annual budget. Internally, we distinguish between Solidarity Groups, who are supported by QPIRG Concordia but do not receive a budget, and Working Groups who receive a budget.



The following were working groups at QPIRG Concordia during the 2013-14 year:

Accessibilize Montreal!

Accessibilize Montreal! aims to make Montreal a more accessible place in every way: from the mindsets and interactions between Montrealers to the infrastructure that surrounds us. By holding workshops like *What is Accessibility*, and *Accessibilizing Language*, we challenge mainstream perceptions of disability, and through advocacy and direct action we protest transit and systemic discrimination.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Anti-Colonial Solidarity Collective (ACSC)

The Anti-Colonial Solidarity Committee works in direct solidarity with Indigenous organizers and communities fighting for land, freedom and self-determination, from an anti-colonial and anti-capitalist perspective. We have organized efforts in opposition to the 2010 Olympics, supporting Indigenous-led efforts in particular. We have also been active in support of other Indigenous self-determination efforts, including direct solidarity work with communities in Kanehsatake, Akwesasne, Tyendinaga, Kahnawake, Six Nations, Grassy Narrows, and Nitassinan.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$900

Assemblée Populaire et Autonome de Montréal (APAM)

L'Assemblée populaire autonome de Montréal vise à se réapproprier des enjeux qui affectent l'ensemble de nos communautés. Faire entendre notre voix, participer d'égal à égal au processus de décision et mettre en œuvre des moyens concrets de revendiquer ainsi que de participer directement au progrès social; c'est cette volonté qui nous a poussés à créer cet espace public.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Centre Social Autogéré de Pointe-Saint-Charles (CSA)

Le Centre social autogéré a réussi à se réapproprier le Bâtiment 7, un ancien bâtiment industriel de Pointe-Saint-Charles, après plusieurs années de lutte populaire. Avec d'autres acteurs réunis au sein du Collectif 7 à nous, il vise à rénover, aménager et occuper le Bâtiment 7 au cours des prochaines années, afin d'en faire un lieu d'activités sociales, culturelles et politiques autogérées.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$800

Certain Days Freedom for Political Prisoners Calendar Collective

The Certain Days Political Prisoner Calendar Committee works to support, educate about and fundraise for political prisoners through the production of a yearly calendar. The calendar is a project produced by organizers in Montreal and Toronto, with the support of 3 political prisoners in upstate New York. We work with an anti-imperialist, anti-racist, feminist, queer and trans positive perspective to help free our movement's political prisoners.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$300

CIEM (Colectivo de Inmigrantes Españoles en Montreal/Collectif d'Immigrants Espagnoles à Montreal)

We are a group of immigrants from Spain and Spanish descended individuals & friends in Montreal who raise awareness against the current worldwide neoliberal establishment and its pro-austerity policies. We also collaborate with migrant justice groups in Montreal aiming to improving their status and rights.
2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Collectif opposé à la brutalité policière (COBP)

Le Collectif Opposé à la Brutalité Policière (COBP) est un groupe autonome qui regroupe des personnes victimes, témoins et/ou concernés par la brutalité policière et tout abus perpétré par la police. Le COBP a pour but non seulement de dénoncer les harcèlements, violences, intimidation, arrestations et abus de pouvoirs policiers et d'informer les gens sur leurs droits face à la police, mais aussi de soutenir les victimes en les aidant par exemple à porter plainte en déontologie et à faire face à des accusations abusives.

2013-2014 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250.

Convergence des luttes anticapitalistes / Anti-Capitalist Convergence (CLAC)

La Convergence des luttes anticapitalistes – Montréal est un espace de convergence et de coordination pour le milieu anticapitaliste radical de la région de Montréal. La CLAC a le mandat de porter publiquement le discours anticapitaliste par l'organisation de diverses campagnes et manifestations, dont la mobilisation anticapitaliste du 1er mai à chaque année. La CLAC se conforme à un mode de fonctionnement antiautoritaire et adhère aux principes de l'Action Mondiale des Peuples. La CLAC est un espace explicitement anticapitaliste, antipatriarcal, antiautoritaire et anticolonialiste.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1600

Cordillera People Support Group

We are in the process of exploring the interests, needs, and experiences of indigenous Filipinos in the community and their general and specific issues close to them. Our objective is to gather information on issues of their concerns and share experiences between each other. Later on, we can develop participatory action based research and unite on what actions we can take that are needed to change our common issues.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Dignidad Migrante

Dignidad Migrante is a group of immigrant workers and allies that fight against the exploitation of workers. We fight for the right of migrants to equal access to basic services regardless of their immigration status. We are anti-capitalist, and enthusiastic about working with communities that share our struggle for migrant dignity.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1100

L'école-libre radicale de Mtl Rad school

The Rad School provides a space for children to pursue their own interests, explore at their own pace and participate in a democratic community. They are encouraged to learn what they are passionate about, to explore, question, discover and grow! This working group is focused on making student centered learning available to everyone, freedom in education for all!

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$600

Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition (IWTSHRC)

We are a non-hierarchical Indigenous collective running under a Indigenous feminist framework. The collective provides free harm reductive resources, referrals and services to Aboriginal women and Two-Spirit peoples in Montreal via mail and email correspondence. Resources include a clean needle service, pregnancy tests, gloves, dental dams and condoms. We also provide resources and referrals around issues like sexual health, legal rights, food insecurity, homelessness, sex work, criminalization, addiction and other issues which affect Indigenous peoples.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Justice for the Victims of Police Killings

Our Coalition brings together directly affected families and friends of the victims of police killings, as well as their allies. Our main goals and purpose as a coalition are to remember the victims who lost their lives due to police violence, impunity and abuse; and to support their families and friends in any way we can. The Coalition follows from years of struggle and support for the families and friends of police killing victims.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$600

Life After Life

Life After Life is a collective led by formerly incarcerated girls, women, and trans people dedicated to challenging post-conviction barriers to community re-entry. We specifically encourage LAL members to become advocates who can interrupt the “revolving door” of recidivism and the intersecting cycles of interpersonal, sexual assault, and state violence.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$500

Mad Pride Collective

We're a fabulous collective by and for folks identifying as mad, sad, crazy, hyper-emotional, mentally ill/different, psychiatric survivors/consumers and/or questioning. We meet regularly for mad hangouts and support groups, we have a mental health distro and we participate in /give workshops on radical mental health.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$500

Montreal Anarchist Bookfair Collective

The Montreal Anarchist Bookfair — and month-long Festival of Anarchy (May 2015) — bring together anarchist ideas and practice, through words, images, music, theatre and day-to-day struggles for justice, dignity and collective liberation. The Bookfair and Festival are as much for people who don't necessarily consider themselves anarchists, but are curious about anarchism, as they are spaces for anarchists to meet, network and share in a spirit of respect and solidarity. All are welcome.

Solidarity Group; no budget from QPIRG Concordia.

Montreal Childcare Collective

The Childcare Collective offers strategic childcare in response to the fact that childcare is frequently overlooked and underappreciated. We aim to assist parents, caregivers, youth and children, including but not limited to low-income communities, non-status and immigrant communities, communities of colour, and queer and trans communities.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$400

Open Door Books Montreal

We are part of an informal network of Books to Prisoners programs throughout North America. ODB seeks to support and work in solidarity with imprisoned communities. We believe that prisons and the (in)justice system act as institutions of social control and oppression, further targeting marginalized communities as a result of patriarchy, racism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ableism and an ongoing history of colonization.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1600

Prisoner Correspondence Project

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is a collectively-run initiative based out of Montreal, Quebec. It coordinates a direct-correspondence program for gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual and queer inmates in Canada and the United States, linking these inmates with people a part of these same communities outside of prison.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1650

Project Accompagnement Solidarité Colombie (PASC)

The PASC is a collective based in Quebec which works to create a direct solidarity network with Colombian communities and organizations that struggle for life, dignity and autonomy. Aside from international accompaniment, our solidarity work involves contributing to anti-capitalist and other social struggles that target economic imperialism throughout the Americas.

Solidarity Group; no budget from QPIRG Concordia.

Oouleur Collective

We are a volunteer-run, not-for-profit group comprised of Two-Spirited and LGBTTQ Indigenous and racialized people/people of colour in Montreal. Its mission is to create dialogue around issues that affect their community through artistic, social, cultural, and political events and activities.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Queer Between The Covers

Queer Between the Covers is a volunteer collective that promotes and provides access to queer materials in Montreal. We organize an annual queer book fair, which attracts hundreds of people, and assembles both local and out-of-town authors, zinesters, independent bookstores, publishers, and community groups. The collective also runs a queer book/zine distro and organizes smaller queer-lit events.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1000

Re-Con

We are a prisoner-initiated re-integration program created in 1999, made up of people serving a life sentence at the Federal Training Center in Laval, formerly incarcerated members now serving their sentence on parole, and outside volunteers. Our main goal to establish links between prisoners and the community after a long period of incarceration and isolation.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1600

Sidetracks

We are a superstar screen-printing team of volunteers whose mandate is to make screen-printing accessible to projects and organizations working for social change. Sidetracks was born out of the Ste-Emilie Skillshare and works to uphold its mandate.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Solidarity Across Borders

Solidarity Across Borders is a migrant justice network We organize together to support individuals and families who are confronting an unjust immigration and refugee system. We mobilize to end deportations and detentions and for the abolition of double punishment of migrants with criminal records. We demand Status for All! and are building a "Solidarity City" campaign.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1500

Soundteam

Équipe Sonore/Soundteam provides sound services for Montreal area community groups that cannot afford to pay professional rates. We build, maintain and operate P.A. systems for community events, rallies, conferences and performances. We also strive to disseminate and democratize the technical knowledge of audio production systems. Our purpose is to support people's grassroots initiatives and act in the interests of communities and their struggles for economic and political justice.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$1100

Southwest Queer Youth Drop In

The Southwest Queer Youth Drop In is a group of people who hold a drop in for queer/questioning and trans* youth and their allies once a month. The drop in is a place for youth to meet other queers, have fun, and to get different resources from the volunteers if they need them.

Solidarity Group; no budget from QPIRG Concordia.

Ste Emilie Skillshare

Based in Montreal's South-West, the Ste-Emilie Skillshare is a politicized community art space run by a collective of trans people, queers and people of colour. We are artists and activists, working together within an anti-oppression framework and moving towards social transformation. As historically marginalized people, sharing our art and skills are revolutionary acts as the art we produce can be used as a tool for political change. We run a community art space that houses a screen-printing studio, a black and white photography darkroom, sewing stations and a gallery space. We host workshops and events throughout the year and we are always looking to collaborate and for new volunteers. Ste-Émilie is welcome to all!

Solidarity Group; no budget from QPIRG Concordia.

Women of Diverse Origins (8th March Committee)

We are an alliance of grassroots women's organizations representing the diversity of cultural communities in Montreal. Since 2002, we have organized an International Women's Day march and event that reflects our militant stand and our awareness about the world context and the role of our own struggles and actions. We seek to share our experiences, widen our understanding, and broaden women's solidarity both locally and globally.

2013-14 budget from QPIRG Concordia: \$250

Draft Financial Statements - Unaudited

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT:

October 2013 – AUGUST 2014

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FISCAL YEAR END IS AUGUST 2014

REVENUES:

Concordia Student Fees	224,565	
Interest Revenue	0	
Programming Revenue	528	
Miscellaneous Income and Donations	164	
Alternative Resource Publication	1,832	
Study In Action 2013	960	
Employment Grants	14,319	
TOTAL REVENUES:		<u>242,368</u>

EXPENSES:

Working Groups		<u>17,236</u>
-----------------------	--	---------------

Projects

Orientation, Programming and Accessibility	3,447	
External Discretionary Fund	2,555	
Community-University Research Exchange (CURE)	219	
Alternative Resource Library	511	
Volunteer Training and Support (Board)	1,354	
Summer Stipend Program	1,275	
Advertising and Promotions	270	
Study In Action	2,252	
Publications	5,959	
Internal Initiatives (Misc.)	0	
Total Projects		<u>17,842</u>

Permanent Staff Expenses

Salaries	83,610	
Mandatory Employment Costs	10,365	
Staff Well-Being Fund & CSU Health Plan	3,561	
Vacation Pay	134	
Total Permanent Staff Expenses		<u>97,670</u>

Grant Staff Expenses

22,860

Administrative & Operational Expenses

Board Elections	612	
Employer and Staff Expenses	639	
Campaigns and Referendum	0	
Bookkeeping and Audit Expenses	6,531	
Computer Technical Support	3,410	
Photocopies & Office Supplies	6,183	

Communications Expenses	2,686	
Rent and Electricity	33,972	
Space Improvement and Maintenance	90	
Legal & Professional Fees	230	
Administrative Fees	777	
Insurance	1,165	
Refund Fees	8	
Petty Cash Short/Over	-11	
Suspense	252	
Total Administrative & Operational Expenses		<u>56,544</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:		<u>212,152</u>
NET PROFIT/LOSS		<u><u>30,216</u></u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)

AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

Summary

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	3-4
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Operations	5
Changes in net asset	6
Financial position	7
Cash flows	8
Notes to the financial statements	9-13

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of
QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA) which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2013, and the statements of changes in net asset, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA) as at August 31, 2013, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Comparative information

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements which describes that QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA) adopted Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations on September 1, 2012 with a transition date of September 1, 2011. These standards were applied retrospectively by management to the comparative information in these financial statements, including the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2012 and September 1, 2011, and the statements of operations, net asset and cash flows for the year ended August 31, 2012 and related disclosures. We were not engaged to report on the restated comparative information, and as such, it is unaudited.

APSV Chartered Professional Accountants inc.

APSV Chartered Professional Accountants inc.¹

Montreal, January 14, 2014

¹ By Caroline Pombert, CPA auditor, CA

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)**OPERATIONS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	\$	\$
REVENUES		
Students fees	229,655	227,762
Grants - Summer employment	20,935	26,750
Interest and other revenues	2,290	4,736
	<u>252,880</u>	<u>259,248</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and fringe benefits	117,187	122,726
Working groups and projects costs (note 4)	46,956	47,240
Rent	44,038	35,478
Taxes and permits	10,537	6,067
Professional fees	8,429	7,846
Equipment rental	5,058	5,043
Retreats and meetings	3,319	3,898
Office expenses	2,863	7,014
Telecommunications	2,787	2,526
Electricity	1,267	2,020
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,055	1,283
Advertising and promotion	1,041	1,593
Insurance	960	978
Interest and bank charges	630	3,200
Bad debts	185	-
	<u>246,312</u>	<u>246,912</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>6,568</u>	<u>12,336</u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)

CHANGES IN NET ASSET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013

	2013			2012
	Invested in fixed assets	Internally restricted (note 7)	Unrestricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,678	7,430	51,497	62,605
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(1,055)	-	7,623	6,568
Net restriction of the year	-	2,911	(2,911)	-
Acquisition of fixed assets	221	-	(221)	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	2,844	10,341	55,988	69,173

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013

	2013	2012	September 1, 2011
	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	73,153	58,206	57,899
Reserved cash - external projects	4,164	5,623	12,955
Grants receivable	1,447	16,745	10,493
Accounts receivable	3,255	5,357	8,834
Prepaid expenses	244	241	222
	82,263	86,172	90,403
RENT DEPOSITS	3,240	3,240	3,240
FIXED ASSETS (note 5)	2,844	3,678	4,103
	88,347	93,090	97,746
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	15,010	24,862	26,990
Deferred revenues	-	-	7,532
Accounts payable - external projects	4,164	5,623	12,955
	19,174	30,485	47,477
 NET ASSET			
INVESTED IN NET ASSETS	2,844	3,678	4,103
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (note 7)	10,341	7,430	-
UNRESTRICTED	55,988	51,497	46,166
	69,173	62,605	50,269
	88,347	93,090	97,746

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)

CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2013

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	6,568	12,336
Non-cash item		
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,055	1,283
	<u>7,623</u>	<u>13,619</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Grants receivable	15,298	(6,252)
Accounts receivable	2,102	3,477
Prepaid expenses	(3)	(19)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(9,852)	(2,128)
Deferred revenues	-	(7,532)
Accounts payable -external projects	(1,459)	(7,332)
	<u>6,086</u>	<u>(19,786)</u>
Cash flows from (used in) operating activities	<u>13,709</u>	<u>(6,167)</u>
 INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investment in fixed assets and cash flows used in investing activities	<u>(221)</u>	<u>(858)</u>
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS INCREASE (DECREASE)	13,488	(7,025)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>63,829</u>	<u>70,854</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u><u>77,317</u></u>	<u><u>63,829</u></u>
 Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and reserved cash - external projects.		
Cash	73,153	58,206
Reserved cash - external projects	4,164	5,623
	<u>77,317</u>	<u>63,829</u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

1- GOVERNING STATUTES AND PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA) is a not-for-profit organization and was incorporated under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act on May 5, 1992.

It is exempted of income taxes.

The objectives of the organization are the following:

- to contribute to social progress in Quebec and to encourage students to act as responsible citizens;
- to promote amongst other things, social justice, a healthy environment, participatory democracy, and governmental and corporate responsibility;
- to carry out projects related to research, education and social action;
- to promote active participation of more people in the democratic functioning of the organization;
- to develop, encourage, and coordinate the Quebec PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) movement;
- to receive donations, bequests, and other monetary contributions of similar nature, in securities or real estate, and to administer these donations and contributions; to organize membership campaigns with the goal of fundraising for the financial needs of the organization;
- to not undertake activities except for activities that are not-for-profit and without the intention of monetary gain for the organization's members;
- to use all profits or other organizational surpluses to facilitate the accomplishment of these objects;
- to do all that is pertinent and necessary for the promotion and achievement of these objectives.

2- IMPACT OF THE CHANGE IN THE BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These financial statements are the first financial statements prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The first-time adoption of the new basis of accounting did not have any impact on the organization's statement of operations for the year ended August 31, 2012 nor on its net asset at the date of the transition, i.e. September 1, 2011.

3- ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions that the organization may undertake in the future. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

3- ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Revenue recognition

Contributions

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Under this method, contributions restricted for future period expenses are deferred and are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Students fees

Membership are recognized as revenue proportionately over the period they are effective.

Contributed supplies and services

The organization recognizes contributed supplies and services when the fair value of these contributions can be reasonably estimated and if it would have had to otherwise acquire these supplies and services for its normal operations. In such cases, the contributed supplies and services are valued at fair value.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost and are depreciated on a declining balance basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rates :

	<u>Rates</u>
Computer equipment	30%
Furniture and fixtures	20%

Financial instruments

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. They are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost consist of cash, reserved cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost consist of accounts payable.

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

4- WORKING GROUPS AND PROJECTS COSTS

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	\$	\$
Workstudy	10,963	13,241
Alternative Resource Publication	5,041	259
Study in Action	4,703	6,336
External Disc Fund	3,473	5,004
Central Programming	2,503	3,095
Prisoner Correspondence Project	1,899	1,820
Open Door Books	1,785	1,122
Montreal Sound Team	1,595	635
Resource Library	1,476	610
Ste Emilie Skill Share	1,414	555
Re-con	1,395	534
Solidarity Accross Borders	1,300	1,194
Anti-Colonial Solidarity Collective	1,100	593
People's Commission Network	988	997
Q-team	925	908
Autonomous Social center	900	129
Co-sponsorships	873	-
CLAC	572	235
Summer Stipend-Anti-Gentrification	559	-
Alternative Orientation	497	1,619
Justice for Victims of Police	472	148
C.U.R.E	325	1,028
Childcare Collective	324	-
Mad Pride Montreal	300	-
Association Liberté Expression	300	-
Calendar Commitee	278	753
M.U.R.	274	-
Dignidad Migrante	255	578
Summer Stipend-SAB Guide	200	-
Accessibility	180	1,084
Termite Collective	58	-
Rad school	42	-
Convergence	22	1,895
Right to the City	3	-
Summer Research Stipend	-	1,500
Collective Against Police Brutality	-	824
Tapthirst	-	147
Anarchist Tech Support	-	8
Montreal Childcare Network	-	5
Free Education Montreal	-	(242)
Pros and Cons	(38)	626
	<u>46,956</u>	<u>47,240</u>

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

5- FIXED ASSETS

	2013		2012	
	Cost	Accumu- lated depreciation	Net book value	Net book Value
Computer equipment	\$ 45,193	\$ 43,110	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,976
Furniture and fixtures	4,396	3,635	761	702
	<u>49,589</u>	<u>46,745</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>3,678</u>

6- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2013	2012
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 10,116	\$ 18,667
Salaries and vacation	134	-
Government remittances	4,760	6,195
	<u>15,010</u>	<u>24,862</u>

7- RESTRICTED NET ASSET

The board of directors decided to allocate a total amount of \$ 10,341 for working groups in 2013-2014. Those net assets cannot be used for another purpose unless duly authorized by the board of directors.

8- COMMITMENTS

The organization has entered in October 2009 into a long-term lease agreement which call for lease yearly payments of \$ 30,240 for the rental of office space expiring in September 2014. The total rent is adjusted annually based on price consumer index as per Statistic Canada.

The organization also entered into a lease for equipment rental which call for monthly payments of \$ 399, expiring in December 2016.

Minimum lease payments for the next years are as follows :

	\$
2014	48,862
2015	7,800
2016	4,067
2017	1,694

QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CONCORDIA)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2013

9- FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The financial instruments that potentially expose the organization to credit risk are accounts and grants receivable. Grants receivable are analyzed on an ongoing basis to ensure their renewals. Credit risk on term deposits is not significant since they are held in wellknown financial institutions.

10- COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The presentation of certain accounts of previous year has been changed to conform with the presentation adopted for current year.

