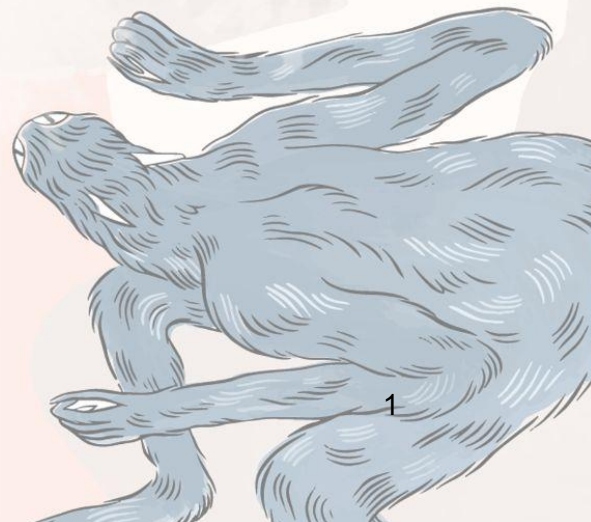




Year in Review At QPIRG Concordia

2021-2022

The Annual Report of the Quebec Public Interest Group of Concordia



YOUR CAMPUS-
COMMUNITY
LINK FOR
SOCIAL CHANGE

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement & Call to Anti-Colonial Resistance	3
Message from the Board of Directors	4
Message from the QPIRG Concordia Staff	6
QPIRG Mandate and History	9
QPIRG Mandate	9
QPIRG History	9
Board of Directors	10
Staff	12
Core Projects, Activities, and Supported Initiatives	13
Alternative Library	14
School Schmool Alternative Agenda	15
DisOrientation	16
Community Archive	21
Research stipends	22
Circle As A Site Of Healing Connection & Healing: Traditional Markings For Indigenous Harm Reduction Workers, Sex Workers	22
Pilot music therapy community service program at Service à la Famille Chinoise du Grand Montréal	24
Herbal Harm Reduction Zine	24
A dish with one spoon: Building nation to nation relationships through culture and healing	24
Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia	26
Working Groups	26
Working Group events and accomplishments	27
2021-22 Working Groups	32
Discretionary Funding and Endorsements	37
Financial Report	38
Draft Financial Statements	39

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 Anishnaabe 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 in the many forms it takes, and in the diversity of forms that resistance can take too. We view indigenous solidarity as an ongoing process as we continue to learn and seek out tangible ways to support anti-colonial action.

We would like to highlight a few current issues, resistance efforts and events:

Support the Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers) protect unmarked graves.

Land at the foot of Tekanonkak (Mount Royal, Montreal) is currently earmarked for the construction of McGill University's "New Vic" project on the site of the former Royal Victoria Hospital. However, McGill is on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) territory and evidence suggests that the site contains remains of a pre-colonial Iroquois villages, as well as the unmarked graves of Indigenous children who were experimented on as part of the CIA-funded MK ULTRA project.

In response to this persistent injustice, they are joined by a research committee investigating McGill's history of medical experimentation and its expropriation of Indigenous funds and the Kahnistensera are taking McGill, the Société Québécoise des Infrastructures, the Attorney General of Canada and the City of Montreal to court for an injunction to stop the construction project and

avoid the destruction of the gravesites.

The hearing is scheduled for October 26th, 2022, but McGill University announced that they will proceed with excavation work in the vicinity of the alleged graves before the hearing. If nothing is done, the graves and forensic evidence could be destroyed, causing irreparable harm and profound disrespect to Indigenous communities and the spirits of the children buried at the site. (edited text sourced from crowdfunding campaign) For more information and to donate to their campaign:

https://fundrazr.com/e23JRC?ref=ab_1v6LEcMDe7C1v6LEcMDe7C

-There are Settlement Reparations Facebook groups and various crowdfunding campaigns to give indigenous people the monetary and material support they need to survive on their own lands.

To sign up to give monthly reparations locally email settlementreparationsmtl@gmail.com

Message from the Board of Directors

In the 2021-2022 year, QPIRG Concordia brought on an almost entirely new Board of Directors, with Allan Matudio, Rickey Leach, Georgia Therriault, Dhvani Naik, Mark Filipowich, Ra Araya and Maggie Smith joining as new Board members, and Timothy Law returning for their second term.

Operations

The QPIRG Board met once a month, with meetings either taking place outdoors over the summer months, indoors at QPIRG Concordia or online over Zoom or Discord. In-person meetings were usually hybrid, with several members joining remotely. As with the hardships the organization faced with adjusting to Zoom meetings over the past two years, we encountered difficulties with hybrid meetings: technical issues sometimes made it difficult to communicate clearly with all meeting participants, and full engagement was often more difficult for remote participants. However, hybrid meetings also provided us with more flexibility and accessibility for board members who were unable to attend meetings in-person.

Board Trainings

QPIRG Concordia's Board Trainings took place within the first two months of the new Board's term (in line with the previous Board's recommendations). Trainings were

conducted on the following topics: QPIRG History and Structure; QPIRG Finances; Consensus Decision-Making, Minute-Taking and Facilitation; How to Be an Employer; and Indigenous Solidarity. Other trainings in Anti-Oppression Organizing and Conflict Resolution were planned, but the organization faced difficulties with finding a facilitator and the trainings were postponed.

Committees

The QPIRG Board and Staff assembled committees at the beginning of the year, with varying levels of activity. The Programming and Finance Committees met at least once during the year, but were relatively inactive.

The Policy Committee, which has been inactive for the past few years, began reviewing and, if needed, revising existing policy in order to ensure that the wording and objective is consistent with QPIRG's organizational values and mandate.

The Staff Liaison Committee consists of a team of board members,

each designated as the liaison for a particular staff member. The board members conduct check-ins with the staff about workload, accessibility, conflict and any other needs. This year, pairing staff to SLC members took much longer than it should have but we have all had a chance to check in at least once. We expect to meet with staff on a more regular basis now. The SLC has started brainstorming ways to improve the staff's task management. Overall staff dynamic has improved, and staff responsibilities have been clarified and are within their capacity.

Difficulties

As mentioned, navigating the ongoing pandemic and the hybrid in-person/remote dynamics that we have adapted as a result has been difficult for the Board in some respects. Meeting attendance was sometimes low, and some committees struggled to get started. We believe it is worth noting that there was less turnover and more consistent board engagement this year than the previous two years

since the pandemic began. This may have been because of the flexibility afforded to us by the hybrid meeting format. We also believe that the quick on-boarding and early training meant that all board members felt capable and well-trained from the

beginning, and we were able to more evenly distribute the workload.

On the horizon

In the coming year, we believe that the organization should prioritize on-boarding that includes training in

Anti-Oppression Organizing and Conflict Resolution, in addition to holding other trainings throughout the year as needed. We also believe that the Board should work together with the staff to organize a Visioning in order to organize priorities and ideas for the short- and long-term future of QPIRG Concordia.

Board Members

- Kate Hardin (Community Member)
- Timothy Law (Concordia Student, resigned August 2022)
- Allan Matudio (Community Member)
- Dhvani Naik (Concordia Student, resigned August 2022)
- Georgia Therriault (community member)
- Rickie Leach (community member)
- Ra Araya (Concordia student)
- Mark Filipowich (Concordia student)
- Maggie Smith (community member)
- Mischa Shadloo (community member, resigned January 2022)



Message from the QPIRG Concordia Staff

The QPIRG Concordia core staff work together to maintain QPIRG Concordia and our various projects, groups and initiatives. This year was a year of slowly transitioning into a world in which COVID-19 continues to be a reality, but with everything open again.

One of our main priorities as core staff is to nurture a welcoming, accessible office space for campus and community volunteers and allies. In terms of COVID-19, this means making it as safe as possible for people to be in our space, while also reckoning with the realities of certain infrastructural limitations, such as the fact that we have no windows that open. To help with this, we bought three new air purifiers for full coverage of the space, and continue to ask everyone who enters to mask. In our own programming at QPIRG-C, we have chosen to limit attendance to the extent that distancing can still be accomplished. A special Covid-19 committee, made up of board and staff, came up with a policy to oversee our space and QPIRG-C organized events.

We gained another full-time staff member in January 2022 which helped us to increase our capacity and lessen the burden on the two continuing staff to maintain core functions. It has also brought to light recurring pitfalls that require us to reckon with and resolve some of the ways in which unfair dynamics are unintentionally created, an ongoing task in an organization that is trying to function in an anti-oppressive, horizontal, and compassionately accountable way.

Happily, access to the space was no longer limited this year. Slowly, community members and working groups have started gathering at QPIRG-C on a regular basis again to meet, hold events, and use resources. Staff are now coming in two days a week - Tuesday and Wednesdays, with ongoing check-ins about if and when this might change. A lot of meetings with collaborators continue to take place online, board meetings have been hybrid to allow for greater flexibility for attendees, and staff meetings are in person once a week.

Our programming started to return in 2022, when the Programming committee reactivated in the winter semester. We organized a few workshops in the winter session, were quiet over the summer, and started out this new school year with our usual ASL classes and a series of events for DisOrientation. In the coming month, we will reconvene the Programming and Working Groups committee, taking forward with us lessons learned from the hiccups we faced during the winter term, changes that will include increased direction from the board, working groups, and community through feedback obtained from the latter two and visioning sessions based on that feedback with the former.

Over the last month, we published another edition of School Schmool in collaboration with QPIRG McGill, while earlier this year our Alternative Library gained a new online database for members to search for and reserve books with greater ease. Slow and steady improvements are being made on improving our Information Technology. For example, a new metal case to keep all our hardware safe was installed and our internal server is being updated and relaunched. Unfortunately, refurbished computers that were purchased for a significant

discount during the pandemic and were set up for members to use did not end up being of the quality that we need and desire, and will be replaced within a couple of months. We were pleased to have Chris Wiggs as our tech person this year, and will miss him as he returns to Toronto, ON.

Our core staff work and tasks are not done alone. We want to highlight the contributions of all our part-time, work study, grant based and contract employees over the past year, as well as our active volunteers: Noah (bookkeeping), Chris (tech and web development), Kelsey (Alternative Library), Taylor Douglas and Sophie)'Neill (School Schmool), Serene Mitchell (archiving), Rafaella (Dis-Orientation), Bisma (Outreach), Keith (Conflict Resolution researcher) and Maggie Smith (assistant administration).

Another priority of the core staff is to ensure that QPIRG remains transparent and accountable to its members. We provide institutional and financial transparency and accessibility, third-party audited financial statements, minutes and institutional documentation, fee levy opt-outs, an annual report, a regularly-updated website and social media, a constitution and other key documents. These are all accessible either publicly online, or upon request. QPIRG Concordia continues to support Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia (FLAC), and works hard to maintain transparency and accountability to all students on behalf of all fee levy groups.

Our work is overseen by a Board of Directors, and this year the board training and meetings were able to take place in person over the course of several weeks. We are grateful to the Board for their time and fidelity and are delighted that so many will be continuing to serve QPIRG-C in this capacity in the coming year! We would like to thank by name everyone who served on this year's Board of Directors:

Allan Matudio, Dhvani Naik, Kate Hardin, Georgia Therriault, Rahwa Araya, Rickie Leach, Maggie Smith, Mark Filipowich, and Timothy Law

QPIRG-C continues to be both a challenging and deeply rewarding place to work and be connected to. Each day can bring with it surprises and new experiences, and staff and volunteers are required to maintain a certain flexibility in their day to day.

Coming out of a world of lockdowns, a world that briefly slowed down and (improved) for some, while it became unlivable for others, we must ask ourselves what are the changes that we want to keep or adapt, and which ones do we want to fight.

It involves a lot of hard work and communication with hundreds of people, but it remains a stimulating and satisfying organization to work for. 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 trans- formation.

Again, we are especially proud of the many new faces that continue to work with us, in-person and remotely, 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. This past year has been difficult and we have lots of lessons to learn from, and we are looking forward to building and improving in the upcoming year. We are especially looking forward to seeing your faces and working with you again!

In solidarity,

Adrienne Pan, Administration and Communications Coordinator

Wade Walker, Finance & Organizational Planning Coordinator

Sharone Birapaka Daniel, Communications and Working Groups Coordinator



QPIRG Mandate and History

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); ProjectTake 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.

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 seven 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.

From 2007 until November 2016, all undergraduate students at Concordia paid 0.31\$ per credit, making them automatic members of QPIRG Concordia. However, since November 2016, with the successful referendum campaign that was run through the Concordia Student Union in the Fall semester of last year, QPIRG now receives 0.43\$ per credit from undergraduate students. This much-needed increase in our fee levy will allow us to better serve our membership – both students and community members – and we have already been able to increase funding to our discretionary fund and our research stipend program.

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 2021-2022, we were proud to have on our Board of Directors:

- Kate Hardin** (Concordia student)
- Timothy Law** (Concordia Student, resigned August 2022)
- Dhwani Naik** (Concordia Student, resigned August 2022)
- Ra Araya** (Concordia student)
- Mark Filipowich** (Concordia student)
- Allan Matudio** (Community Member)
- Georgia Therriault** (community member)
- Rickie Leach** (community member)
- Maggie Smith** (community member)
- Mischa Shadloo** (community member, resigned January 2022)

Staff

For the year 2021-2022, QPIRG employed a total of 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 2019-2020 were:

Adrienne Pan, Administration and Communications Coordinator

Wade Walker, Finance & Development Coordinator

Sharone Daniel, Communications and Working Groups Coordinator (beginning January, 2022).

In the Fall we had **Maggie Smith** working to help out full time staff as Administrative Support Coordinator. Fall & Winter and Summer semesters of 2021-2021, we were glad to have **Kelsey Blair** as a part-time coordinator of QPIRG's Alternative Library. This position is supported partially by Concordia's Financial Aid and Awards Office Work-Study Program – a program which allows groups like QPIRG to hire Concordia students.

In June 2022, **Taylor Douglas** joined the QPIRG team as our summer School Schmool co-coordinator, working on the School Schmool organizer in partnership with QPIRG McGill (and **Sophie O'Reilly**).

Through a grant from Canada Summer Jobs, we were also able to employ a part-time a DisOrientation coordinator (**Rafaella Alegre**), a social justice research and outreach coordinator, and a Conflict Resolution Policy Researcher (**Keith Fernandez**), **Serene Mitchell** as our part-time Grassroots Resistance Archive Coordinator and **Bisa Iqbal**, our Social Justice Outreach Coordinator in Summer 2022.

QPIRG was supported by an external bookkeeper, **Noah Eidelman**, a member of the Concordia community. In addition, QPIRG systems received the support of our network administrator and computer technician **Chris Wiggs**.



Core Projects, Activities, and Supported Initiatives

Alternative Library

Kels B. was the Alternative Librarian for the 2021/22 school year. Another year was spent in a global pandemic, so the physical space was still not accessible to the public. However, exciting changes have happened this past year! The library catalogue received a significant update. The previous cataloging system, PMB koumbit, has been swapped with a much more user-friendly cataloging system called Librarika. The new cataloging system enabled the QPIRG-Concordia Alternative Library to partner up with other alternative library systems in the city, including the Simone de Beauvoir Institute's library, on campus. Librarika has integrated barcoding software, enabling the library to move from an analog to a digital system. Barcodes can be generated for all cataloged material and for library membership users. A barcode scanner and barcode label printer were purchased. The library

will transition into the digital system throughout the 2022/23' year! Changes have been made to the physical space, as well. Furniture was removed or shifted to free up space for better mobility and to prepare for the slow transition out of the pandemic. Posters and a bean-bag chair were added to the room to help create a cozy atmosphere to sit and read.



The QPIRG Concordia Alternative Library is a free library that is committed to fulfilling the QPIRG Concordia mandate, which aims to promote social and environmental justice. Our library carries hundreds of books, magazines, zines and audio-visual items, mostly in English.

www.alternativelibraries.org

School Schmool Alternative Agenda

School Schmool, the agenda produced each summer as a joint project between QPIRG-McGill and QPIRG-Concordia, was successfully put out again this year. The 2021-2022 edition of School Schmool was coordinated by **Taylor Douglas and Sophie O'Reilly**.

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 the Concordia, McGill and Montreal communities ever since.

This year's theme was QUEER JOY. The term queer joy is a political metaphor with no fixed meaning - it instead is used to describe any identity subverting (or "queering") the norm.

Therefore radical identities are inherently queer, and queerness itself is a radical reimagining of the current paradigm to a world where care, empathy, and mutual aid is centred for the enjoyment of all marginalized identities. We invite you to pursue queerness as a starting point to understanding how the world could exist in different ways, and how you can contribute to liberation for all.

We continued to prioritize fairly compensating School Schmool contributors -- this year we gave honorariums for all the new content printed in the agenda, and we continued to reach out to BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and disabled contributors to prioritize these voices. We continued to print on recycled paper at work with the local printer Katasoho. We ended up getting less funds than we usually would from the Sustainability Action Fund this year, so we are still currently working on finding other sources of funding.

Due to the current health crisis, only 500 agendas were printed this year, much less than last year. Agendas have been distributed through foodbaskets, Le Frigo Vert, and L'Eugelionne (where they are also available online). We are working on distributing them at various independent bookstores and community locations around the city, whatever makes sense at this time.

(The 2021-2022 edition of School Schmool was coordinated by **Taylor Douglas and Sophie O'Reilly**).





DisOrientation

QPIRG's annual Dis/Orientation provides an alternative orientation for incoming and returning Concordia students, and the communities within the Greater 'Montreal' area, and is based in an intersectional social justice praxis. Dis/Orientation aims to situate Concordia, as an institution, within larger structures that contribute to social inequalities and provide participants with the skills, knowledge, and resources to engage in social justice activism on campus, and beyond. The 2022 event series ran throughout the third week of September, ending with a final weekend-long workshop from the 19th to the 24th.

Dis/Orientation events and hosted:

Beloved Economies Book Launch

Co-presented with the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation and the Socialist Economy Incubation Zone (SEIZE).

Based on extensive research with organizations and companies that are boldly breaking out of business as usual, Beloved Economies offers readers an imagination-expanding vision of what work could be. Authors Rimington and Cea explore possibilities for how we work, learning with more than sixty people from a wide array of enterprises. What these groups have in common is that they are generating forms of success that audaciously prioritize well-being, meaning, connection, and resilience—alongside conventional metrics like quality and financial success.

Beloved Economies offers readers seven specific practices as a springboard for changing how we work. As the book reveals, it's not only what we do, but how we do it that can be a powerful lever to move us into economies that all of us can love.

QPIRG Workshop Day

"Embracing Harm Reduction" facilitated by Sasha Simmons

The term "harm reduction" is most often used to describe efforts to reduce overdose deaths and other impacts of chronic substance use, and this is important, lifesaving work. But when we start to explore this set of principles, it becomes clear that there are also benefits to applying it more broadly in our lives and relationships. By learning to view substance use with pragmatism and compassion, we can bring more balance and safety to many areas of our lives. In this workshop, participants will learn about (*) The origins & principles of the modern harm reduction movement (*) Queer, Indigenous, & sex worker perspectives on harm reduction (*) Strategies & resources for staying safe[r] & supporting friends while using substances (*) How to apply harm reduction values to diverse situations in their own lives

"Writing for Mental Health" facilitated by Miriame Gabrielle

This workshop will consist of exercises leading the participants to the writing of a text that leads to a discussion about the power of art and how to use our creativity to explore and protect our mental health.

Open Decks Kickoff!

With Syana Barbara

Practicing and/or learning how to use CDJs at DJTAL for the kickoff event.

Queer Laughs: A Comedy Show

Hosted by Audrey-Anne Dugas

Featuring:

Zahra Downing

Fay Miss

Nora Vision

Elspeth Wright

Vogue + Runway Classes

With Dynasty 007 and Mother Miyoko Siriano

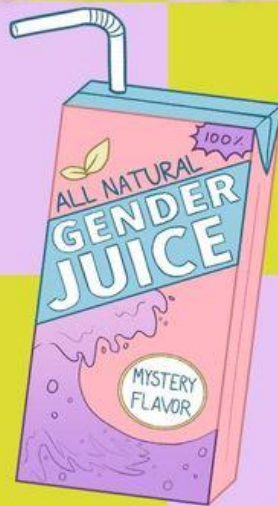
CRZN 13: THE RETURN Dance Party & Mini Ball

CRZN is a queer Latinx centered party, brought to you by Latinx organizers and playing mostly reggaeton, trap in Spanish, cumbia, guaracha, baile funk, jersey club, vogue beats, vogueton, and other Latin genres.

CRZN (co·ra·zón) [kora|sõn] means "heart" in Spanish.

DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS

QUEER
A COMEDY



LAUGHS:
SHOW

ft.
fay miss
zahra downing
elspeth wright
nora vision

hosted by
audrey-anne
dugas

SEPTEMBER 22ND
@ CHAMPS BAR
6:30PM



fundraising for:



free admission

DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS WORKSHOPS:

the reality
of sex
workers in
mtl.

BY REZO
4PM

embracing
harm
reduction.

BY SASHA
SIMMONS
6PM

mental
health
& collage.

BY MIRIAME
GABRIELLE A.
8PM



SEPTEMBER 21ST
@ QPIRG CONCORDIA

free admission



DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS

VOGUEING AND RUNWAY CLASSES:

OVERALL MOTHER
MIYOKO SIRIANO
&
DYNASTY 007

SEPTEMBER 23RD
@URBAN ELEMENT ZONE
8PM-10PM



free admission

DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS BOOK LAUNCH:

Beloved
Economies

SEPTEMBER 20TH
@ CSU LOUNGE
6PM-8PM

S H + F T
S H I F T
centre for
social transformation
CONCORDIA



free admission

free
copy
for
the
first
100
people

with authors
Jess Rimington Joanna Cea
and guest panelists
Stephanie Guico Faiz Abhuani

DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS
BASICS OF MIXXING

 DJTAL

SEPTEMBER 19TH
BXB CULTURAL CENTRE
5PM-10PM



 open
decks
kickoff!

free admission

DIS/ORIENTATION PRESENTS
VOGUING AND RUNWAY CLASSES:

SEPTEMBER 23RD
@URBAN ELEMENT ZONE
8PM-10PM

OVERALL MOTHER
MIYOKO SIRIANO
\$
DYNASTY 007



free admission

Community Archive

The QPIRG archive includes hundreds of posters made by activists for organizational activities, events, and programming. The purpose is to preserve these ephemeral symbols of grassroots resistance. This archive has been maintained by various volunteers and coordinators over the years and exists in both physical and digital forms.

Serene Mitchell was hired in summer 2022 to continue work on the archive. Over the course of the summer she was able to get the physical archive much better organized and clearly labeled, which will allow for anyone accessing the archive to find specific materials much more easily. She also completed work on improving accessibility and ease of use for the archive website. Going forward, we plan on continuing work on having the full contents of the archive scanned and uploaded to the website. We also hope to raise awareness of the existence of the archive so that any researchers who may find it useful will know they can access it.



Research stipends

This year (2022) QPIRG Concordia picked a total of 4 projects for our stipend:



Circle As A Site Of Healing Connection & Healing: Traditional Markings For Indigenous Harm Reduction Workers, Sex Workers

Anna Caoutte of the Black Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance Mtl



Indigenous traditional tattooing revival and practices are well alive in so-called Canada. Many individuals and communities are gathering to take care of each other, connecting and healing while doing tattoo ceremonies. Here in so-called Montreal, many outreach and community workers regularly express the need for more connection, cultural activities and access to traditional teachings and workshops. As we work to take care of our communities, the importance of self and collective care is central!

So we created this gathering to support the ongoing building of our community of frontline workers, while learning teachings related to traditional markings and receiving the gift of tattoo by artist Mel Lefebvre. This gathering brought community workers together for a whole day to connect with each other as well as with our bodies while participating in this ceremony. We talked, shared songs, feasted and got tattooed!



Pilot music therapy community service program at Service à la Famille Chinoise du Grand Montréal

Anqi Sun

The project is a music therapy community service program at Service à la Famille Chinoise du Grand Montréal (SFCGM) that offers free music therapy service to under-privileged individuals in the Chinese community in Montreal to help with their health and well-being. Services include group and individual music therapy sessions for Chinese immigrants in need (especially people who deal with mental health difficulties caused by the isolation and racism from the pandemic, elderly in the community, domestic abuse victims/survivors, and new immigrants especially children and teenagers struggling to settle down in a new environment and culture) and workshops on music therapy and how to use music for self-care. The grant recipient Anqi Sun is a first generation Chinese Canadian and MA candidate in Music Therapy at Concordia University. She is also a singer-songwriter and content creator who hopes to use music to heal and connect people and help build community in creative ways.

Herbal Harm Reduction Zine

Hunter Hubitt-Cooke

The creation and distribution of a booklet that teaches herbal medicine for harm reduction. The objectives are to improve the health and lives of people who use drugs (PWUD) and to provide much needed education. It will inform PWUD; health practitioners, students, and public; educate on and advocate for harm reduction; decrease stigmatization and discrimination towards PWUD; and build capacity of individuals and groups working towards the wellbeing, justice, and dignity of PWUD. The booklet will include resources and contacts to support these goals.

A dish with one spoon: Building nation to nation relationships through culture and healing

Emilio Wawatie

My project “A dish with one spoon” this summer had many learning curves and obstacles that taught me several things when approaching land-based work, especially when trying to work in cross-collaboration with my communities. My initial goal was to clear up and clean my kokom’s (Grandmother) camp of old fallen cabins and to set up a teaching lodge with the help of people from my community. While working to collaborate with community members and band workers, I quickly experienced the setbacks associated with some of the various social issues that my communities struggle with.

My project was originally inspired to revitalize my kokom’s camp and to bring back life to the atmosphere, a space where we can teach, practice and live Anishnabe culture. For several weeks leading up to my time in the bush I coordinated to have workers, means of transportation and what I needed to get the job done each step of the way. As much as I had planned things out, once I began the project things slowly fell through left and right.

Most, if not all the people that I had asked and that had agreed to come work for me had either bailed or hadn't followed through. Once this began to unfold, I reached out to the community summer employment coordinator in Barrier Lake to seek collaboration with youth to help me do the grunt work of tearing down the big log cabin. One of the obstacles I faced from having steady workers is the alcoholism that seems to amplify during the summer.

The next step was to begin the process of disposing of the old lumber, in which I had arranged for a large trailer to be brought to the camp to be loaded and emptied in several trips. I waited several days for the trailer to arrive, and waited several days before I could have it unloaded and brought back for another. Although I had help from one worker for a few days, I realized that I would not be able to clear the whole cabin while I was up there. I would have burned most, if not all of the wood, but I didn't think it was safe to make such a big fire during that time of the year. I was not going to take the risk of causing an uncontrolled forest fire.

During my time at my kokom's camp I began to notice the state of her health and how much it has declined due to her dementia and multiple sclerosis. While working alone filling up the trailer, my kokom began to try and salvage rotten and damaged boards to fix her porch in the front of her cabin. She began to overwork herself and almost hurt herself several times, which began even harder to do work alone.

While waiting for the driver for the trailer to haul lumber, I spent days working on my kokom's cabin patching and repairing things. One of the issues I worked on the most was to try and solve the water pump issue, in which I helped replace and put in new pipes. After several tries over the span of a few days it became clear that it was not going to work, and that a whole new piping system had to be installed; but my kokom didn't want that. Due to the pump and pipes bursting all the time, the water build up has damaged the flooring in the back room and has made the floor rot.

Amidst the chaos, much of what I wanted to do to revive the spirit of teaching at my kokom's camp would not be something I could change without dependable support, whether from family, community or externally. As it became apparent that the teaching lodges would not be going up this summer, I shifted my focus from the camp to the bush to harvest materials I needed for crafts for this fall. I went out to harvest birch bark, black ash and cedar for mini canoes, baskets and rattles to practice working on in Montreal this fall.

I've come to learn a few things before I try to embark on another land-based project, one of them is to finish getting my drivers licence to mobilize myself. I realized how much of a barrier not having my full drivers licence is, although I may have the knowledge and territorial resources to navigate the land; not being able to get myself up and out there on my own terms dictates my work in a negative way. Having a great team is another factor that enables a better success rate, especially people that are certified, licensed and experienced in cultural activities. I also believe that for future projects, I will be looking into clearing my own landing in family territory to start anew in a space I can call my home out on the land.

Despite the many obstacles and hard realizations, I've been planning solutions for the long term for future land-based projects that I want to pursue during my graduate studies in Concordia's INDI program. Kitchi mikwetc for your support. *(written by Emilio Wawatie)*

Fee Levy Advocacy at Concordia

QPIRG Concordia continues to actively participate and contribute to Fee-Levy Advocacy at Concordia (FLAC) that brings together more than 15 campus-based fee-levy groups.

Opt-outs continue to be processed online, due to 2021 conservative CSU campaigning. Initially, this greatly increased the number of students who opt-out, however, this year numbers did not continue to increase.

Working Groups

As we return to a world that has changed immeasurably while remaining much the same, we find that here at QPIRG-C it is time for us to take stock of our programming, to look at the programs that we have run in the past and ask ourselves which ones can and should continue, which ones are no longer relevant or need updating, which ones are vital but beyond our current capacity, and what new programming we perhaps need to shift to or add on.

As mentioned earlier, in 2022 our Programming Committee was reactivated and we were able to put together a few workshops such as “Matter of Caste: Contemporary Dalit Realities (South Asia and Diaspora)” and a short series on “Working w/ Difficult Emotions: Breath, Movement, and Narrative based exercises. As well, ASL classes and DisOrientation took place, the former in both the winter and fall (currently ongoing) and the latter last month!

We had aimed to do more programming, and it was in the process of trying to construct them that we realized that we were falling into similar pitfalls as in the past. This year we are going to focus on rebuilding programming after undertaking more collective visioning sessions, together with our board, using feedback we have gathered from Working Groups and community members.

Working Group events and accomplishments

Black Healing Fund celebrated the milestone of raising and distributing an incredible \$118,000 to low-income Black folks in the Tio'tia:ke / Montreal area, as discretionary funding and resources that contribute to mental health and wellness.

The **Montreal Anarchist Book Fair** held the bookfair in person for the first time in 3 years! The event took place August 6-7 at the CEDA and CCGV buildings, and featured two full days of activities (including workshops, vendors, online content, food, etc.) It was the first time we offered vendors the option of tabling outdoors, which was done to make the bookfair as accessible and covid-safe as possible. We also welcomed two new members to the collective.

RECON members continued to work on drafting and editing a book, were involved in organizing August 10 Prisoners Justice Day, and resumed meetings inside the Federal Training Center in Spring 2022 after being mostly closed to visitors because of COVID.

La Mandragore re-launched our entire events calendar since September. We held the space open once a week and held film projections, book circles, discussions on political zines and pamphlets, writing workshops and more. We also worked on our internal structure to get it to be more and more solid for the entry of future members.

Convergence des Luttes Anticapitaliste organized an anticapitalist contingent at the September 24th, 2021 climate demo, a protest in support of the Wet'suwet'en on November 27th, 2021, a series of popular education seminars on the Wet'suwet'en struggle called "A pour Wedin Kwa", a MayDay anticapitalist protest, and summer film projections called "Cinema on the Fence" at the DIRA library. CLAC also wrote an information brochure on the Wet'suwet'en struggle and a brochure linking capitalism to the climate crisis and outlining solutions to escape it, and is also doing some to revalorize older publications that are still relevant today

Game Workers Unite did translation work for CWA (Communications Workers of America), had social gatherings and Union Busting awareness training, and provided support for workers looking to unionize. Some of our members succeeded in unionizing their workplace!

La Grange grew, tended to, harvested and transformed plants from our perennial and annual garden into herbal medicine baskets that were distributed to our local participants. We were able to donate extra plant medicine to indigenous street workers. We redistributed over \$1000 in funds to land back and other solidarity projects such as Migrant Rights Network, Unist'ot'en Camp and Ukraine Herbal Solidarity.

Food Against Facism have been continuing with weekly food serving every Saturday at the corner of Milton and Parc, predominantly feeding houseless indigenous folks, as well as occasionally catering for Solidarity Across Borders actions.

South Asian Diaspora Action Collective (SADAC) held numerous events in the 2021-22 year including:
TUE, AUG 30 - India's Descent Into Fascism, and Far-right Hindu supremacists networks in the US & Canada
SUN, AUG 14 - India @ 75: Reclaim Democracy and Equality! Resist Hindu Ethnonationalist Fascism
MON, AUG 8 - Panel - Antifascist Salon: Feminist & Anticolonial Resistance - Common Notions
THU, JUN 30 - Protest - Democracy Erased in India: No exaggeration
SAT, MAR 5 - The Covid-19 Pandemic in South Asia: Grassroots Initiatives and Perspectives

Équipe Sonore/Soundteam's primary function is to provide technical assistance to Montreal grassroots political groups. In 2021-2022, we coordinated equipment and operated sound for a wide variety of events comprising a range of technical demands. Highlights included:

September 28: Rassemblement contre la loi 21

October 12 & January 25: TWWN-Grind'her

December 31-January 1: SAB Liberation Party

January 19: South Asian Women's Community Centre: Storytelling is a Love Language

February 14: No More Genocide: Annual Memorial Vigil for MMIWG2S

Circles completed the comedy annual recap Chécké 2021 and aired it on youtube on February 1st, 2022 to start black history month. It took us from September 2021 to February 1st to complete the project. We wrote, directed, filmed, edited 11 comedy skits which resulted in a 30 minutes show. In French and a bit of creole. We had 16 actors and a team of 6 people coordinating the production. You can watch it here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSTco7FyXiY&t=1s&ab_channel=Circlz

Project Lichen made 2 radio shows about CSA, and we organized our first nature retreat on august 27th-29th

Building Community was busy this year. Here are some highlights

Near the end of 2021, we created a new community centre at 3516 Parc as a meeting place and organising space for tenants and citizen projects, and to offer affordable office space to community groups (include tenant organising group ACORN Montreal) and cooperative businesses.

Mobilize tenants around the future of the old Royal Victoria Hospital through:

- conducting a demand study about community usage of the site
- organising a family friendly march along Pine Avenue to advocate for the future of these sites.
- We committed to showing solidarity with the Mohawk Mothers' Royal Victoria campaign, and followed through by organizing rallies, publishing declarations of support, and promoting actions organized by the Mohawk Mothers.

We lend regular support to the Montreal Autonomous Tenants' Union, recently established to build tenant power against exploitative landlords and improve living conditions. We organise reading groups, educational events, co-host meetings, support the organisation of actions such as against the major neighbourhood landlord COGIR.

Our mutual aid initiatives included, among other things, callouts for requested donations and manual help (for example, some people in the neighbourhood needed help shoveling driveways), a clothing swap, and our vegetable gardens.

BIHRA - Black and Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance are so proud to say that, over the last year, we have been able to more-or-less maintain our weekly distribution schedule with the Cedar Tea Project, despite inconsistent access to funding and low personal capacity for collective members at times. Through our weekly outreach walks, we have formed relationships with a network of housing-insecure people in southwest Montreal and continue to adapt our offerings according to requests from the community (food, clothes, toiletries, harm reduction gear, etc). We also regularly invite outreach workers from other projects and peer workers from the community we serve to join us on our walks, to promote skill-sharing and capacity building. We were grateful to receive support from different funding sources this year, most notably a large grant for emergency COVID relief distributed to us by the Montreal Indigenous Community Network.

Our other main project for the summer was the medicine garden in collaboration with the Club Populaire des consommateurs de Pointe-Saint-Charles greenhouse, which is located at Bâtiment 7. They have generously donated space in their greenhouse and garden for us to grow tobacco, sage, and sweetgrass to distribute to Indigenous people in Montreal. For the second year, we nurtured the seedlings and then distributed them for people to care for at their own homes, as well as caring for plants at the garden for later distribution once they had been harvested and dried. We also hosted a sweetgrass workshop in conjunction with the garden project and hope to have another on tobacco harvest protocols this fall.

Open Door Books (ODB) continued to grow its volunteer base, and we now have 7 active volunteers. Most members meet up every two weeks to pack boxes. We also now have a volunteer who is dedicated to responding to our CORRLINKS messages. CORRLINKS is a web application that U.S. prisoners use to contact the outside to request books and other information. ODB created the account years (probably more than a decade?) ago, but our account has been defunct for more than 5 years due to a lack of volunteer capacity. We have also grown our network of local bookshops that donate new advanced-reading copies of books to us and have continued to send boxes to Canadian prisons on a regular basis.

The **Prisoners Correspondence Project** engaged in the following events/activities: a Fall 2021 newsletter mailout, Canadian newsletter mailout, Transcription volunteer event, Collaborated on Toronto Queer Film Festival screening, Reopened volunteer drop-in hours (thanks QPIRG :), Tabled at Suoni per il popolo, Participated in an abolitionist retreat, Volunteer orientation, Collaborated on Vancouver Queer Film Festival screening, Tabled at Anarchist Book Fair + still doing our normal operations somehow :))

Artemisia Mutual Aid Collective managed to coordinate several donations over the course of the winter and summer, including to: Giwaabamin's Free Clinic Headquarters, a Toronto-based free clinic focusing on providing herbal street medicine run by Cathy Tsong Deh Kwe, an Ojibwe herbalist who has centered community-based healthcare and particularly street patrol work in the city for many years, including throughout the pandemic; as well as to an event that took place this summer, Garden of Gender Euphoria, a weekend retreat for trans, nonbinary and gender creative folk looking to connect with each other and deepen their understanding of herbal medicine; and finally, to The Cedar Tea Project, an outreach initiative that uses Indigenous harm reduction approaches with a weekly distribution of medicine in Montréal.

Direct support needs continue to be high, with rent, food, medication and other urgent survival needs for at least 25 families a month. They saw the return of more in person activities while still being conscientious about COVID, which includes a return to more frequent Mutual Aid Nights

SideTracks Collective have had a great year (or at least half year) since covid restrictions and internal levels of comfort permitted starting to give workshops and activities again. We have had a mentee (apprentice) during the year through an employment program and have done a lot of community activities, for example : a series of introduction to screenprinting for CEDA to produce Tshirts for actions opposing evictions; we printed posters for Pandemic at the disco - a Hiv AIDS conference; tshirts for the prisoners justice day; tabled the anarchist bookfair and the Queer and Trans makers market and many other things.

A challenge is still our location and we are more proactively looking into moving into a more adapted and appropriate space for our activities and mandate.

We are also actively recruiting new members as some members sadly left the city. We are also looking into registering as an OBNL.

Solidarity Across Borders (SAB) marked the first anniversary of the passing of SAB member Coco Graziani on June 14, 2022 . Over the past year, a fund has been set up in her honour, in collaboration with her family. Money donated to the Coco Fund goes to directly support migrants in need through food deliveries and other forms of mutual aid (we consider it part of the Mutual Aid Fund and not our regular budget).

Other activities included:

- Anti-Detention Committee has been very active this past year
- Month Against Detention in August included a series of pop-ed events and mobilisations against the migrant prison and immigration detention
- Expanded Status For All campaign which began at the end of this budget year and will continue into next year. Video created by SAB members for the campaign in collaboration with the Migrant Rights Network:
<https://youtu.be/LamGHyiPbrA>
- Yearly Status for All March was a success this past July
- Individual support campaigns fighting deportation, detention:
 - Fight to stop the deportation of longtime SAB member Mamadou Konaté
 - Lucy Granados, who was deported in 2018 despite a historic mobilization, was ultimately granted PR and was finally able to return from Guatemala this year!
 - Among others...
- Increased collaboration with other migrant justice groups across Canada through membership in the Migrant Rights Network
- Continued collaboration with local partners, such as the Immigrant Workers' Center and Soignons la justice sociale

2021-22 Working Groups

Artemisia Mutual Aid Collective

The Artemisia Mutual Aid Collective is an alliance of community herbalists, medicine makers, gardeners, and activists living and working on the unceded lands of the Kanien'keha:ka and Omamiwininiwag Nations (Montréal and western Québec). Our goal is to provide support in the form of herbal medicine, knowledge sharing, and herbal consultations to communities and individuals made vulnerable by systemic oppression.

artemisia.mutualaid@gmail.com

www.instagram.com/artemisia.mutualaid/

Beyond Equity

Beyond Equity is an initiative that has arisen in response to forms of racialized and other intersecting violences that persist in radical, socially conscious spaces in light of efforts for diversity and inclusion. Our aim as a collective is to develop resources for addressing tokenism, create networks of care and community care strategies, alongside collecting testimonies across our communities.

gobeyondequity@gmail.com

www.beyondequity.net

Facebook.com/GoBeyondEquity

instagram.com/Go_Beyond_Equity

Black Healing Fund

Black Healing Fund is a growing, volunteer-run initiative that exists to provide low-income Black folks in the Tio'tia:ke / Montreal area with discretionary funding and resources that contribute to mental health and wellness.

blackhealingfund@gmail.com

<https://linktr.ee/black.healing.fund>

www.instagram.com/black_healing_fund

Black and Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance (BIHRA)

BIHRA is a grassroots collective that organizes around issues of health & harm reduction for Indigenous & Black people in Tio'tia:ke, with a special focus on the needs and experiences of drug users, incarcerated people, sex workers, and 2SLGBTQIA. Through peer-to-peer outreach,

advocacy, and mutual aid, we work to build kinship, empowerment, and holistic well-being in our communities.

bi.harmredux@gmail.com

blackindigenoussharmredux.org

Building Community

Building Community is a citizens' education project of the Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee (CCMP). We seek to encourage community development through popular education and social action rooted in ecological and democratic principles. Throughout the year, we host workshops, guided tours, screenings, and lectures on the social economy, climate change, cooperative housing, and more, and support campaigns on a variety of community issues including protecting green spaces and building social housing.

514-561-4656

ccmp.miltonparc@gmail.com

Ccmp-mpcc.com

<https://www.facebook.com/ComiteCitoyenMP>

Caring for Social Justice

Le collectif Soignons la justice sociale vise un accès aux soins de santé digne pour tou-ttes. Par la mobilisation, l'éducation populaire et la diffusion d'informations, entre autres, nous militons pour un système de soins fondé sur une vision solidaire et communautaire de la santé ancrée dans une perspective de justice sociale.

Soignonslajusticesociale.ca

instagram.com/soignonslajusticesociale

<https://www.facebook.com/soignonslajusticesociale>

soignonslajusticesociale@riseup.net

<https://twitter.com/CollectifSJS>

The Certain Days Political Prisoner Calendar Committee

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, Toronto and New York City, with the support of 3 political prisoners in New York State. We work with an

anti-imperialist, anti-racist, feminist, queer- and trans-liberationist perspective to help free our movement's political prisoners.

514-848-7585

info@certaindays.org

www.certaindays.org

<https://www.facebook.com/certaindays>

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.

Childcarecollective.wordpress.com

childcarecollective@riseup.net

Circles

Circles is a discussion group for black people to discuss among themselves about issues that they face inside of their communities but don't find enough spaces to address these issues deeply. The conversations will be filmed in order to use it as an education tool. Conversations will be filmed and recorded with the consent of the participants. These discussions have the intent to build community outside of moments of reactions due to antiblackness incidents happening in Montreal and Quebec.

Collectif Monsoon

Collectif Monsoon's vision is to create and build a community meeting space for LGBTQIA2S+ women and non-binary people in Montreal. There has been a lack of dedicated permanent spaces for queer women and GNC folks for far too long. We aim to change that by working towards curating a safe, uplifting and thriving sustainable community hub.

4388698918

averyburrow@gmail.com

www.instagram.com/blush.party/

Collectif Opposé à la Brutalité Policière

Le Collectif Opposé à la Brutalité Policière (COBP) est un collectif 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 autres recours à faire face à des accusations abusives.

514-395-9691

cobp@riseup.net

www.cobp.resist.ca

Convergence des luttes anticapitalistes (CLAC)

The Convergence des luttes anticapitalistes (CLAC) is a coordination space for the radical anticapitalist community in Montreal. The CLAC's mandate is to distributed anticapitalist information through the organization of campaigns and protests, including the annual anticapitalist MayDay protest. The CLAC is explicitly an anticapitalist, antipatriarchal, anti authoritarian and anticolonialist space.

info@clac-montreal.net

www.clac-montreal.net

twitter.com/CLACMontreal

Équipe Sonore / 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 distribute and share 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.

equipesonore@riseup.net

<http://equipesonore.wordpress.com>

Food Against Fascism

Food Against Fascism is a food security project run by a collective of antiracists and antifascists. We distribute home cooked, healthy meals to people in need, as well as offer solidarity servings to like-minded organizations and collectives. If you want to volunteer with us, or if you want us to cook for your event, contact

foodagainstfascism@gmail.com.

foodagainstfascism@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bouffecontrelefascisme

Game Workers Unite Montreal

GWU Montréal is the Montréal chapter of Game Workers Unite, an international grassroots movement and organization that seeks to connect pro-union activists, exploited workers, and allies in the name of building a unionized game industry. We aim to achieve better working conditions, recognition, and mutual support for Montréal's game workers.

GWUMontreal@gmail.com

www.GWUMTL.com

www.twitter.com/GWU_Montreal

South Asian Diaspora Action Collective (SADAC)

SADAC (South Asian Diaspora Action Collective) is a grassroots group based in Tio'tia:ke (Montreal) who act in solidarity with the struggles of various oppressed groups, activists, movements and peoples in the sub-continent and here in our communities. Our work is rooted in the fight for a secular South Asia, free of poverty, casteism, the suppression of indigenous people's rights, and other social injustices. We also aim to combat the spread and rise of far-right, fascist ideology in South-Asia and here in Canada, and connect the fight against Hindutva ideology with the fight against fascism in Canada and globally. We are engaged with the South-Asian diasporic community in Montreal on various issues including housing, labour, migrant and other related issues.

indiacivilwatch.mtl@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/IndiaCivilWatchMontreal/

Kapatid Mentorship Program (KaMP)

Our mission is to provide alternative and culturally responsive education to the youth in Greater Montreal Area and our vision is to empower and inspire Filipino-Canadian youth to be fully participatory in social transformation in the Greater Montreal Area and in the homeland, the Philippines.

kamp.abmtl@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/kampmontreal

www.instagram.com/kapatidmentorshipprogram

La Grange Farm Collective

La Grange Farm Collective is a group of Montreal and Laval residents who like to play in the dirt. Working on, restoring, and maintaining a piece of land located near Terrebonne in Laval (accessible via STM), the group aims to create a space where people can come together to share DIY farming

skills and the joys of beyond organic, local food and medicine.

lagrangefarmprojectmtl@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/La-Grange-Farm-1478465339056267/

La Mandragore, bibliothèque féministe queer

La Mandragore est une bibliothèque féministe queer située à Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Avec plus de 300 titres queer et féministes qui ne reproduisent pas les stéréotypes sexistes et qui proposent des alternatives aux constructions binaires du genre. Nous organisons des ateliers et des événements gratuits dans une perspective anticoloniale, antiraciste et anticapitaliste.

bibliofeministequeer@riseup.net

www.lamandragore.xyz

www.facebook.com/bibliothequelamandragore

www.instagram.com/bibliotheque_mandragore

Montreal Anarchist Bookfair Collective

The Montreal Anarchist Bookfair, brings together anarchist ideas and practice, through words, images, music, theatre, and day-to-day struggles for justice, dignity, and collective liberation. The Bookfair is 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!

info@salonanarchiste.ca

www.anarchistbookfair.ca

www.facebook.com/SalonduLivreAnarchisteMontrealAnarchistBookfair

www.twitter.com/AnarchyBookfair

Open Door Books

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

514 848 7585

bookstoprisoners@gmail.com

Opendoorbooks.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/odbmontreal

Pride Therapy Network

The Pride Therapy Network of Montreal is a collective of independent mental health practitioners who strive to offer culturally informed and accessible services to LGBTQ2IA+ communities. Members of our network are committed to working from anti-oppressive, holistic and intersectional approaches that affirm LGBTQ2IA+ lived experiences, relationships and identities.
info@montrealpridetherapynetwork.com
www.pridetherapynetworkmontreal.com
www.facebook.com/PrideTherapyNetworkMontreal
www.instagram.com/pride_therapy_network_montreal

Prisoner Correspondence Project

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is a solidarity project for gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgender, gendervariant, two-spirit, intersex, bisexual and queer prisoners in Canada and the United States, linking them with people a part of these same communities outside of prison.
info@prisonerconcordanceproject.com
www.prisonerconcordanceproject.com
www.facebook.com/prisonerconcordanceproject

Projet Lichen Project

Research, advocacy and support for queer & trans survivors of CSA (childhood sexual abuse).
Recherche, sensibilisation et soutien pour survivant.es queer & trans d'ASE (abus sexuels dans l'enfance)
4383908169
projet.lichen.project@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/projetlichenproject

Queer Between the Covers

Since 2008, the Queer Between the Covers collective has been organizing the Queer Book & Zine Fair in Tio'tia:ke (so-called Montreal) and making queer literature more accessible in the area.
queerbetweenthecovers@gmail.com
Queerbetweenthecovers.org
www.facebook.com/QBTC.Montreal
www.instagram.com/queerbetweenthecovers

Queer Survival Project / Projet de survie queer

Le Queer Survival Project offre des sorties de survie en forêt destinées aux personnes non-hommes cis qui n'ont pas d'accès à la nature. À travers des ateliers d'interprétation, de reconnaissance

géographique, de mécanique, de cueillette et plus, les participant·e·s sont invité·e·s à explorer leurs liens intimes et collectifs avec la nature dans une perspective anticapitaliste, décoloniale et horizontale.

Re-Con

Re-Con is a prisoner-initiated re-integration program created in 1999. The group is made up of people serving a life sentence at one of two federal prisons in Laval, formerly incarcerated members now serving their sentence on parole, and outside volunteers. It is Re-Con's main goal to establish links between prisoners and the community after a long period of incarceration and isolation. We aim to diminish the effects of institutionalization through personal development workshops and by introducing our incarcerated members to community resources which may help re-integration into society upon release from prison.
recon.ftc@gmail.com

Sidetracks Screenprinting Collective

Sidetracks is a collective of activists and artists working within an anti-oppression framework toward social and economic transformation. We share skills and resources to create art in the spirit of self-representation and revolution while making screenprinting accessible to groups working towards social change and transformation – namely those working within an anti-racist & 2sLGBTQIA+ inclusive framework – and offering an affordable space for emerging artists to develop their artistic practice.
sidetrackscollective@gmail.com
www.sidetrackscollective.com
www.facebook.com/sidetrackscollective

Solidarity Across Borders

Solidarity Across Borders is a migrant justice network based in Montreal, active since 2003. We are comprised of migrants and supporters, and we organize together to support individuals and families who are confronting an unjust immigration and refugee system. We engage in popular education, support work, as well as political mobilizations, including demonstrations, pickets, delegations, and direct actions.
Our main demands are an end to deportations, detentions and double punishment, and support for

a full, comprehensive and ongoing regularization program (ie. Status for All!). We also actively campaign to build a Solidarity City, the creation of a community that rejects a system that engenders poverty and anguish, not solely for immigrants and refugees, but also for other Montrealers confronting these same realities.

We support open borders and the free movement of people seeking justice and dignity, meaning freedom to move, freedom to return, and the freedom to stay. 438-933-7654

solidaritesansfrontieres@gmail.com
www.solidarityacrossborders.org
www.facebook.com/CiteSansFrontieres

Taking What We Need

Taking What We Need is an informal collective organizing to fight for the lives of our sisters and ourselves. We acknowledge and abhor the reality that many transfeminine people face on a daily basis, falling at the intersections of poverty, racism,

misogyny, social isolation, and colonial violence. Taking What We Need's primary mission is to empower our sisters through discretionary funding and build solidarity within our community by collectively resisting transmisogyny.

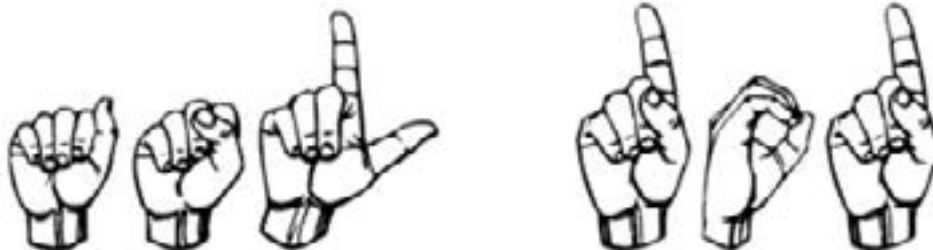
takingwhatweneed@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/takingwhatweneed

Tapettes en feu

Tapettes en feu est un collectif qui veut (1) Documenter les formes de "policing" hétérocissexiste, (2) diffuser au public les informations récoltés en lien avec les formes de policing hétérocissexiste, (3) se mobiliser légalement contre les formes de policing hétérocissexiste et (4) venir en aide aux survivant·e·s de violences policières hétérocissexistes.

tapettesenfeu@riseup.net
Tapettesenfeu.org
www.facebook.com/cruisecontrolmtl

American Sign Language (ASL) 101 classes sessions of Introductory on Wednesdays in Fall & Winter.



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, demonstrations and radical art projects.

The discretionary fund is accessed by making an application to the Board of Directors. The standard application form is accessible on the website (qpirgconcordia.org). Groups whose initiatives fall within the parameters of QPIRG's mandate generally receive between \$50 and \$700 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 2021 to August 2022, the Board of Directors made discretionary decisions usually once per month, allocating roughly \$2000 per session. In addition to discretionary funding, groups will sometimes 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 some of the groups who received discretionary support or endorsements from QPIRG in the past year:

- Parc-Ex Mutual Aid discretionary funds
- Food N Ting discretionary funds
- Almas exhibit / Chimbites discretionary fund
- CSSDP Harm Reduction Initiative, Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy Concordia discretionary fund
- "To Struggle is the Future" Exhibit, Workshops and Events discretionary fund
- Material support for detainees at the Laval Migrant Prison discretionary fund
- Bibliothèque DIRA discretionary fund
- Solidarity Across Borders discretionary fund
- Islamic Awareness Week by MSA Concordia discretionary fund
- Young Roots Farm: Farm & Wilderness Camp discretionary fund
- International Migrants Alliance in Canada (IMA-Canada)l discretionary fund
- Art Show Fundraiser for Ada'itsx so-called Fairy Creek discretionary fund
- South Asian Student Association discretionary fund
- Colourism Support Space Project discretionary fund
- Trans-Swim Piscine Quintal discretionary fund
- What Role Can Workers Play in the Fight Against Climate Change? discretionary fund
- Journaling Event discretionary fund
- Milton Park Indigenous Garden discretionary fund
- PYM Montreal legal fund
- Garden of the Sun / Sun Youth discretionary fund
- Mango Lemon Soda discretionary fund
- Elytra Collective discretionary fund
- Collective 4891 discretionary fund
- Milton Parc Citizen's Committee discretionary fund
- Prisoners' Justice Day Vigil discretionary fund
- É_V_I_C_T_I_O_N discretionary fund
- Book Club - Open Door Books discretionary fund
- Mega Crafters Emporium & Food N' Ting Collaboration discretionary fund
- ReImagine17 discretionary fund
- AMPLIFY BIPOC discretionary fund
- Jacqueline Stol; Queer Kuwentuhan: Filipino/a/x Snaps, Stories and Social Change in the Diaspora discretionary fund
- WORLD AIDS 2022 Ball discretionary fund
- Alay Larawan Photo Walk & Exhibition discretionary fund
- Briarpatch Magazine discretionary fund
- Pan Asian Collective discretionary fund
- Collective 4891 discretionary fund •Sexual Assault Centre Of McGill Students (SACOMS) space use
- Queer Idea of Fun (Alcoholics Anonymous) space use
- Fee Levy at Concordia (FLAC) space use space use
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) space use

Financial Report

This year we unfortunately had additional difficulties in catching up on completing audits for the past few years. We are pleased to be able to finally present the 2018 audit this year. Due to some delays out of our control, the 2019 audit is not ready to be presented today but should be available in the next couple months. We are optimistic that we will be able to finally catch up on our audits and financial reporting as we shift to a new bookkeeper with increased capacity. We will upload all audits and annual draft financial statements to our website as soon as they are complete. Any questions or concerns about QPIRG's finances can be directed to wade@qpirgconcordia.org



Draft Financial Statements - Unaudited

September 2021 – August 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FISCAL YEAR END IS AUGUST 31 2022

REVENUES:

Concordia Student Fees	\$338 366.69	
Donations	\$5000	
Employment Grants	\$22 851.12	
TOTAL REVENUES:		\$366 217.81

EXPENSES:

Working Groups		\$28 462.29
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Projects

Core Programs	\$25 899.50	
External Discretionary Fund	\$29 400	
Total Projects		\$55 299.5

Permanent Staff Expenses

Salaries	\$112 000	
Mandatory Employment Costs	\$12 499.04	
Well-Being Fund & Health Plan	\$8706.78	
Total Permanent Staff Expenses		\$133 205.82

Grant Staff Expenses

\$44 724.20

Administrative & Operational Expenses

Board Elections	\$412.97	
Training and Professional fees	\$4812.47	
Bookkeeping and Audit Expenses	\$11 185.78	
Computer Technical Support	\$842.88	
Photocopies and Office Supplies	\$9596.57	
Communications Expenses	\$2885.50	
Rent and Insurance	\$39 969.52	
Space Improvement and Maintenance	\$4982.49	
Refund Fees	\$19 918.47	
Total Admin & Operational Expenses		\$94 606.65

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$356 298.46**

NET PROFIT/(LOSS) **\$9919.35**



**The Annual Report of the
Quebec Public Interest Group of Concordia**