

Dear Mr Petter and Mr Keller,

I am writing this email to address my concern as a current student about the upcoming eviction of Simon Fraser Public Interest Group (SFPIRG) by the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). SFPIRG has been a center for me to explore critically as a student and equip myself with the foundational tools required during the vital years of pursuing a higher education. One of the most important things I've gained as a student accessing SFPIRG's space has been to refine my critical thinking skills and the depth of my awareness around educational, social, and student issues.

SFPIRG has also provided an international student like myself with an avenue to engage with the student community on issues that matter. I was the president of the Ancient Forest Committee, an action group funded and supported by SFPIRG. My involvement with the Ancient Forest Committee at SFU helped me connect, explore environmental issues in BC, and informed my sense of belonging to an on-campus organization. I also volunteered as a board member at SFPIRG for a few terms and with that came many opportunities for me to attend workshops, speak on panels, as well as network with other important organizations on-campus and off-campus. In other words, SFPIRG complemented my university experience and grounded me throughout.

Aside from that, the access to a student lounge area, basic kitchen supplies, a well equipped library and computer at SFPIRG are just some of the things that also contributed to my experience as a student at Simon Fraser University in a positive way.

I do hope that the university administration and the board will consider the significance of having an organization like SFPIRG on campus directed to public interest issues and student community issues. Public Interest Research Groups on campus have a long history of supporting the balance between the needs of the university's administration and student needs. I believe maintaining and supporting this organization will speak to the strength and integrity of SFU's governance. I do hope that SFPIRG will be provided a space on campus by the university administration.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our student community.

Sincerely,

Jasheil Athalia

Simon Fraser University