

March 25, 2019

This letter is to express solidarity with the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) in their fight to maintain their space on campus.

As a fellow PIRG, we are dismayed that an organization that has served your campus for OVER THIRTY YEARS should suddenly not be worthy of a home. SFPIRG has, among many other things:

- contributed decades of important research, education, and action on social and environmental justice issues
- been a formative training and supportive space for hundreds if not thousands of strong and engaged student and community leaders
- supported and worked in solidarity with many other groups and initiatives on campus, which contributes to stronger networks of supports services for everyone

As a much newer PIRG, I know that our organization has also greatly benefitted from the guidance and generous mentorship of SFPIRG in the past – as when we were first formed, we relied heavily on materials and past work of our counterparts to help inform our own policies and approaches.

A failure to recognize the above legacy and ongoing work of SFPIRG feels like a bit of a slap in the face. To uproot them as well as the other student centres caught in this is to at best be ignorant of their value, and at worst a clear ideological decision to silence student social justice activism in a time where it is more important than ever. Organizations such as these help to create safer, healthier, and more inclusive spaces on campus and their impact should not be underestimated.

We at RPIRG hope that the decision to deny space to SFPIRG and the other student centres is reconsidered and look forward to hearing how the decision makers in this process will engage with them moving forward to rectify the situation.

Regards,



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