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SFPIRG ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018 TO AUGUST 2019

**HELP MAKE SOCIAL
CHANGE IN YOUR
COMMUNITIES!**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
SFPIRG TODAY!**



WHAT is SFPIRG?

The Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) is a student-funded and student-directed centre dedicated to social and environmental justice.

PIRGs were established across North American campuses in the 1970s and '80s as a way for students to advocate for social change. SFPIRG was set-up by students on SFU's Burnaby campus in 1981! SFPIRG has done loads of amazing work over the years and has positively impacted the lives of students and the wider community.

Our mission is to engage students and community in social and environmental justice. Areas of work include education, action, research and community-building initiatives. We are non-partisan, which means we are not allied with any particular political party.

SFPIRG brings together a diverse range of people and our work is all centred on a shared set of values. These include: intersectional anti-oppression; body sovereignty and diversity; Indigenous sovereignties and decolonization; self-representation, self-determination, and empowering student and community leadership; inclusive and accessible space to build community on campus; accountability, integrity, wholeness and healing; sustainability; and respectful communication.

We are a registered non-profit organization with our own constitution and bylaws. We are governed by a student-led board of directors and we use consensus decision-making as the basis for our work. We have a team of three permanent, unionized staff who carry out the work of the organization. SFPIRG is a certified Living Wage employer. We are independent from both the University and the Simon Fraser Student Society.

We work closely with other student organizations on campus, including the Women's Centre, Out on Campus, CJSF, First Nations Student Association (FNSA), Embark, The Peak, and Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA). Collectively, we are known as the Rotunda groups. Find us in **TC326 in the Rotunda** or visit **www.sfpirg.ca** for more info.

WHAT DOES SFPIRG VALUE AS AN ORGANIZATION?

Turn the pages to learn more about some of the values that influence our work! For a full list of our organizational values and for more information about what they mean, please visit us online at **www.sfpirg.ca**!

PROGRAM STATISTICS

Although most of 2019 was dedicated to the space campaign, we still had a great deal of engagement with our programs!

SFPIRG ran over **14** events, workshops and talks throughout 2019, with **266** people attending them all! Over the year, we received **138** letters from inmates through the Letters For The Inside (LFTI) program, and our **54** active LFTI volunteers responded to **113** letters. **40** new LFTI volunteers were trained this year! The Bike Tool Co-op was also accessed **39** times.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

We supported many community groups in 2018-19 with booking space at SFU campuses, accessing resources, and more. Some of the groups we supported include:

- Afrocentrism Conference 2019
- BC Initiative for Inclusive Post Secondary Education – STEPS Forward
- Black Women in SFU Politics Event
- CJSF Radio
- Embark Sustainability
- JotikArt
- Kikiai Collaborative
- Kinesiology Games SFU
- Left Alternative
- Out on Campus
- Queer ASL
- Red Jam Slam Society
- SFU350
- SFU Autistics United
- SFU Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance
- SFU Knitting Club
- SFU Labour Studies Student Union
- SFU Pursuit of Happiness
- SFU Red Cross
- SFU Self in Social Context Lab
- SFU Semester in Dialogue
- SFU Student Dialogue Series
- SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry
- SFU Women's Centre
- South Asian Diaspora Identity Film Project
- Teaching Support Staff Union
- Transformative Justice 101 Event
- TumblerShare
- Vancouver Trans Day of Remembrance
- Wings of Hope SFU
- World Media in English

ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY, WHOLENESS AND HEALING;

therefore we strive to be accountable to our membership, hold space where people can be their whole selves, find support, and act to bring their *values* and their *day-to-day lives* into greater alignment. We believe that all of this requires continual learning and growth and so we encourage curiosity and compassion, and we strive to be self-reflective and supportive of the learning process in others.

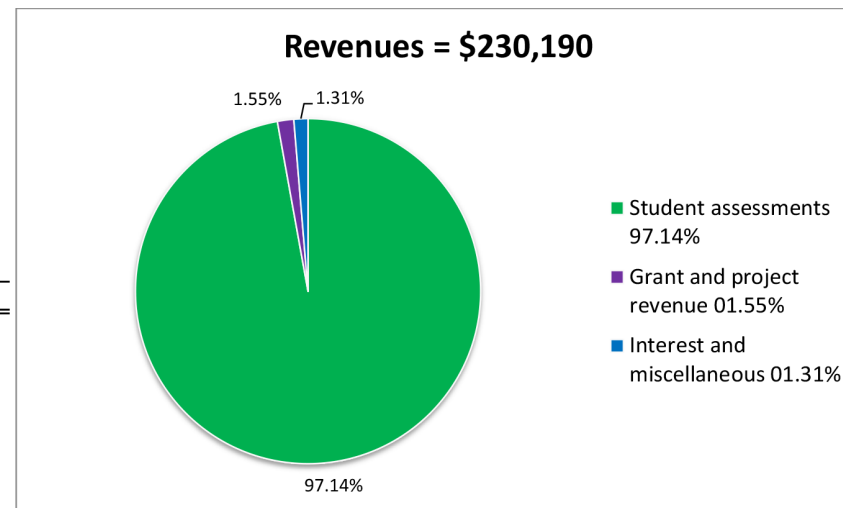
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 2018 - August 2019

Revenues = \$230,190

Student assessments 97.14%
Grant and project revenue 01.55%
Interest and miscellaneous 01.31%

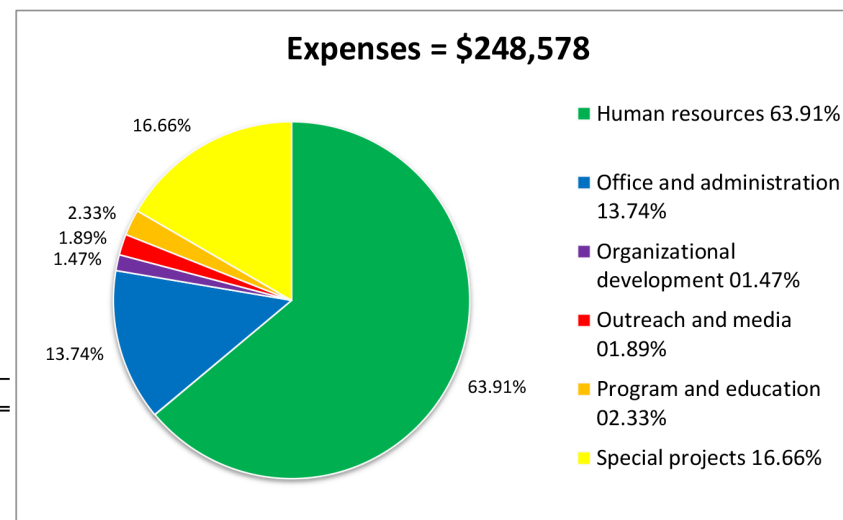
97.14%	223,602
1.55%	3,567
1.31%	3,021
100.00%	230,190



Expenses = \$248,578

Human resources 63.91%
Office and administration 13.74%
Organizational development 01.47%
Outreach and media 01.89%
Program and education 02.33%
Special projects 16.66%

63.91%	158,864
13.74%	34,164
1.47%	3,649
1.89%	4,708
2.33%	5,781
16.66%	41,412
100.00%	248,578



The above graphs provide a visual breakdown summary of SFPIRG's revenues and expenses during the September 2018 - August 2019 fiscal year. The **full audited financial statements**, including the auditor's report, are available in digital format at www.sfpirg.ca under "Governance Documents". Paper copies are available to SFPIRG members upon request - members may contact us at info@sfpirg.ca or visit us in **TC 326** to request a paper copy.

SELF-REPRESENTATION, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND EMPOWERING STUDENT AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP;

therefore, we value individuals and communities working and speaking from their own experience. We respect that our different life experiences, social locations, and community histories necessarily requires a diversity of approaches, and we seek to support skill sharing, mentorship, mutual feedback and capacity building.

BOARD of DIRECTORS (TERM STARTING MAY 2019)

Aiswariya Alagu-Sunder | Adriano D'Alessandro | Balqees Jama
Ana Lozitskaia | Simran Randhawa

BOARD of DIRECTORS (MAY 2018 - April 2019)

Maisaloon Al-Ashkar | Aiswariya Alagu-Sunder | Adriano D'Alessandro
Simran Randhawa (joined Oct 2018) | Emma Warner Chee

PERMANENT STAFF TEAM

- Susan Chiv | Director of Administration
- Kalamity Hildebrandt | Director of Research & Education
- Craig Pavelich | Director of Communications

WORKSTUDIES & TEMPORARY STAFF

- Teresa Dettling | Campaign Outreach & Engagement Support (Ongoing until June 2019)
- Breanna Fraser-Hevlin | Campaign & Outreach Assistant (Fall 2018)
- Shravan Gupta | Communications & Resource Assistant (Spring & Summer 2019)
- Cameron Hoang | Communications & Resource Assistant (Spring & Summer 2019)
- Balqees Jama | Campaign & Outreach Assistant (Fall 2018)
- Shirley Ji | Communications & Resource Assistant (Spring 2019)
- Naman Katyal | LFTI Student Coordinator (Fall 2018)
- Brinda Odedra | LFTI Student Coordinator (Spring & Summer 2019)
- Mateo Zepeda | Campaigns Manager (Ongoing)

INTERSECTIONAL ANTI-OPPRESSION;

therefore, we acknowledge that systems of oppression exist, are interconnected and multifaceted, and must be challenged in multiple ways.

YEAR IN REVIEW

SFPIRG had an incredibly busy year full of programming and our continuing campaign to secure long-term space on campus.

In the Fall of 2018, SFPIRG ran full-day educational workshops on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and on Body Size Diversity to further intersectional anti-oppressive training, perspectives, and education on campus. We also fed and built community with a very popular series of Free Soup Days through October!

Spring 2019 found SFPIRG running and supporting events to equip students and community with skills and knowledge necessary for the work they want to do on campus and in the world. In January we offered a workshop to student leaders on how to put their values into practice through governance. We also co-sponsored a hugely popular talk by Mia Mingus on Transformative Justice. In our communities, our homes and our workplaces, most of us will at some point have to confront interpersonal harm or violence. Most of this harm cannot or should not be handled by police, prisons or other state systems, which: retraumatize survivors; are racist, sexist, homophobic, and transphobic; and are parts of systems that cause harm rather than repairing it. When individuals and communities lack tools to address violence without calling in state actors, most violence goes unaddressed. Transformative Justice offers tools for intervening in harm and helping our communities heal by transforming the very conditions that allow harm to occur.

Carrying on with the work of supporting healing in our communities, we facilitated a workshop in Summer 2019 on the “Trouble with Health/ism”. We looked at how dominant beliefs about health can actually do harm and, ironically, contribute to poorer health outcomes for exactly the people we claim to be most concerned about. We also explored ways to support our own wellness, and the well-being of others, without doing harm in this way, and considered the kinds of larger social and policy changes that might actually help make us all ‘healthier’.

With regards to our space campaign, as SFPIRG’s Financial Statements show, we ran a deficit as a result of hiring temporary staff to support the campaign. We are fighting to ensure that SFPIRG can remain on campus to support what SFU students want: social and environmental justice at SFU.

As in the previous fiscal year, our campaign to secure long-term space continued through Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, raising awareness about student space issues on campus. We collected over 2,600 petition signatures supporting SFPIRG receiving long-term leased space at SFU, and dozens of letters of support, including from the Graduate Student Society at SFU, Katrina Chen (MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed), student clubs and DSUs on campus, and more! We also hosted a Town Hall For Student Space in Spring 2019.

With a new SFSS Board taking power in Summer 2019, we reached out to reopen dialogue in the hopes of rebuilding a respectful and collaborative relationship. We asked the SFSS to consider the implementation of an “alternative shared space model” which would provide space for SFPIRG, SOCA, Embark, and CJSF, in addition to providing semesterly office space in the SUB for some clubs and SUs.

In July 2019, Board members and staff from the SFSS and SFPIRG met in an attempt to bridge the gap and to catch new Board members and staff up on the issues to that point. In the months following, the SFSS did not follow-up with any further direct org-to-org communication. Rather, the SFSS Board voted down a proposal for an “alternative shared space model” in November 2019. They voted instead to propose housing our student groups in the Undergrounds/Forum Chambers – spaces that SFPIRG and other student groups have repeatedly voiced concerns over since 2017 due to inadequate size and inaccessibility.

Students have continued to make their displeasure known to the SFSS. In December 2019, SFSS Council - made up of representatives of DSUs, FSUs, and SFSS Constituency Groups - voted overwhelmingly to condemn the SFSS Board for their decision to not house all our student groups in the SUB. Furthermore, in January 2020, Council passed a motion to hold a student referendum in Spring 2020 asking students to approve housing our student groups in the SUB.

Student organizing and activism works! Students have successfully put pressure on the SFSS Board, and as of February 19th, 2020, our student groups are in serious dialogue with the SFSS. We are collectively working to find viable options that will provide students with what they have asked for: workable, accessible spaces for student voices; support and resources for social and environmental justice; environmental sustainability initiatives and opportunities; democratic student media; and dedicated space for Black students on campus. We believe a resolution that works for ALL students is on the horizon.

INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTIES AND THE PROCESS DECOLONIZATION globally;

We acknowledge that SFPIRG is located on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples. Based on our current knowledge, this includes the territories of the **Musqueam**, **Skxwú7mesh** (pronounced *Skohomish*), **Tsleil-Waututh** and **Kwikwetlem** nations. We seek to support the varied strategies that Indigenous peoples are using to protect their land and their communities, and we commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity.

Body SOVEREIGNTY AND diversity;

therefore we resist **violence** against **all marginalized beings and bodies**. We support and encourage a critical approach to a wide range of intersecting issues.