



SIMON FRASER
PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021-AUGUST 2022

**Let's build a just and compassionate
world together**

A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of a series of interconnected lines forming a complex, multi-faceted geometric shape, resembling a stylized web or a crystalline structure.

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COMMITMENT TO LAND, WATER, AND SOLIDARITY

We acknowledge that SFPIRG occupies unceded Indigenous lands and waters of Coast Salish peoples. Unceded means that this land was never surrendered, relinquished or handed over in any way.

To our current knowledge this includes the lands and peoples of:



We support the varied strategies that Indigenous peoples are using to protect their land, waters, and their communities. We commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. We acknowledge that we, as people living and working on unceded and occupied lands and waters are accountable to the laws and protocols of the people who have cared for this territory since time immemorial. We will continue learning how to honour this responsibility.



WHAT AND WHO IS SFPIRG?

The Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) is your student-led and student-funded resource centre on campus for social and environmental justice. Join us to build a more just and compassionate world together!

Our mission

Our mission is to engage students and community in social and environmental justice. We do this through education, community research, direct action, and organizing. Throughout all our work, we aim to build communities working together for justice and liberation.

Our history

PIRGs were established across North American campuses in the 1970's and 80's as a way for students to advocate for social change and progress student issues as important national issues. SFPIRG was established through referendum by students on SFU's Burnaby campus in 1981. Since then, SFPIRG has engaged in all kinds of exciting work and has positively impacted the lives of SFU students and the wider community.

Our governance

We are a registered non-profit organization under the BC Societies Act with our own constitution and bylaws making us independent from the University, the Simon Fraser Student Society, and the Graduate Student Society.

We are governed by a student-led board of directors who guide the direction, vision and growth of SFPIRG. We also have a team of four unionized staff who carry out the work and hold institutional memory of the organization. SFPIRG uses consensus decision-making as the basis for our work.

OUR VALUES

SFPIRG brings together a diverse range of people and our work is centred on a shared set of values. SFPIRG's organizational values serve as a guide for the work of SFPIRG. We invite everyone to come and talk with us about these values and to work with us in translating them into action!

Inclusive and Accessible Space

We recognise and respond to diverse access needs and are committed to the principles of disability justice.

Accountability, Integrity, Wholeness, and Healing

We are accountable to our membership and hold space where people can be their whole selves. We believe that this work requires continual learning, growth, curiosity, compassion, and self reflexivity.

Empowering Student and Community Leadership

We value individuals and communities working and speaking from their own experience, social locations, community histories and diversity of approaches that guide the SFPIRG.

Sustainability

We strive to live in harmony with our environment and minimize our ecological footprint.

Intersectional Anti-oppression

We acknowledge that systems of oppression exist, are interconnected, and multi-faceted. This requires us to challenge them in multiple ways and to ensure that our every day actions match our values.

Indigenous Sovereignty and Decolonisation

We acknowledge that we, as people living and working on unceded and occupied lands, are accountable to the laws and protocols of the people who have cared for this land since time immemorial.

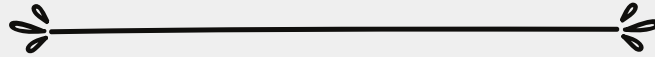
Body Sovereignty and Diversity

We resist violence against all marginalised beings and bodies and we support the right to exist in a social reality that allows for non-coercive consent and reproductive rights.

Respectful Communication

We commit to engaging in open and respectful dialogue with anyone who is willing to do the same.

OUR TEAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2021-April 2022 Directors

Palwasha Saeed

Hannah Male

Gurleen Aujla

May 2022-April 2023 Directors

Nebula Shen

Tuleen Awad

Clarissa Ramos

Yalda Tavakkoli

Gurleen Aujla (until October 2022)

STAFF COLLECTIVE

Susan Chiv, Director of Administration

Emily Capel-Shyu, Director of Finance and Operations

Kalamity Hildebrandt, Director of Research and Education

Chantelle Spicer, Director of Engagement

WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Sharvesh L - Knowledge Mobilisation Officer (Summer and Fall 2022)

Hannah Ghaderi - Library Technician (Summer and Fall 2022)

Amal Pozinkoff - MACS (Spring, Summer and Fall 2022)

Seniha Inceoz - Library Technician (Fall 2022)

YEAR IN REVIEW



Year in Numbers

20

workshops

273

registrants
for events

15

volunteers

3,000+

social media
interactions

**Our mandate and the diverse communities we serve allows us to be engaged in a wide range of work.
The main parts of our work include**

Education

Community
research

Action &
organizing

Building
community

Education

Climate & Collective Liberation Project

In the Summer, we were contacted by students from UBC to ask for support on making a toolkit that shared the stories of local climate justice activists. Our Director of Engagement helped design a dynamic layout that provided insights into intersections with climate justice, accessibility, Indigenous sovereignty, and art!

Access the project [here!](#)



SCAN ME

SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIETY

A RESOURCE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
AND COLLECTIVE LIBERATION



CREATED BY UBC SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS
2021-2022 COHORT | SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECT TEAM

YEAR IN REVIEW



Re-Rooting Relationships Youth Cohort



This summer we were thrilled to be invited to the Re-Rooting Relationships cohort to provide a workshop on care-based social justice movements. This project facilitated by two SFU students Jocelle Rofel and Sarah Law was designed to provide youth a foundation in collective and community response to systemic problems.

During our session we discussed resisting the idea of care as a commodity and practical strategies for care that we can build in to organising and direct action.

SFPIRG Rotunda Library Re-Launch

In the fall of 2022, we were delighted to welcome students back to a new SFPIRG Library. Though smaller than the library in our old Rotunda space, this library re-design offered important shifts in the role of the library in our work. The library has shifted to be more action-oriented to support the (re)growing student activism on campus! Although we still have many books on theory and history of social movements, we want you to have a compass for what to do as you learn more about these important issues.



We also made the decision to focus a portion of our programming for the year around the library including launching a visiting author series, research support, and reading groups.

YEAR IN REVIEW

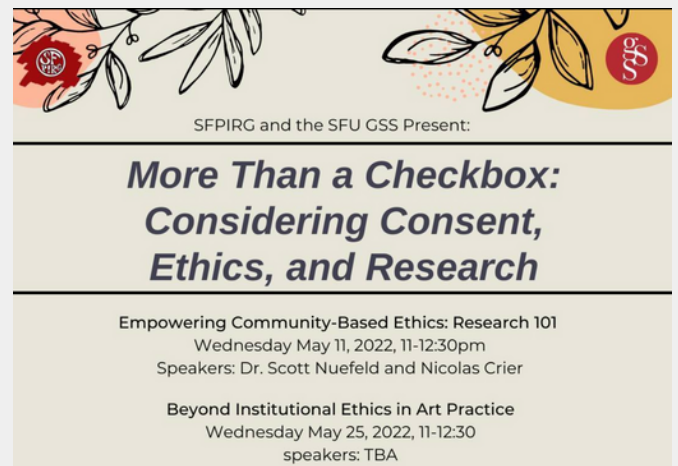


Community Research

Beyond a Checkbox: Research Ethics Events

In the Summer of 2022, SFPIRG teamed up with the SFU Graduate Student Society to present a series on research ethics that go beyond the legal or liability-based ethical considerations of the institution. During these two events, researchers shared a diverse knowledge and expertise of understanding and enacting real consent, accountability, and care in how we do research. Our topics covered community-based ethics and the role of ethics in artistic practice. We hope to continue hosting these events into the future as the realm of how we do research better is a constantly unfurling journey.

Our speakers generously shared many resources during and after their session with us. These and the recordings of the events can be found [on our website!](#)



Summer Solstice Zine-making

Our first in-person event since COVID was a lovely partnership with Embark Sustainability! The campus community was invited out on a beautiful summer day to celebrate the Solstice and reflect on their relationship to the land. Student artworks were brought together in a zine, creating a collective community understanding of love, grief, tensions, care, and longing in relationship to homelands and this land we work with.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Action & Organising

No Cops on Campus

We were excited to continue supporting the work of No Cops on Campus - the student and staff collective, which grew out of the 2021 Transformative Justice Summer Camp. This fall, we welcomed them formally into the SFPIRG fold as an Action Group to ensure the sustainability of their vital work.



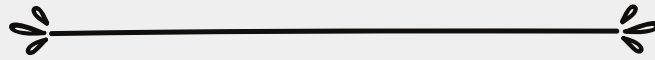
During the summer, members of NCoC began listening and learning sessions with equity-deserving groups on campus to better understand student understanding of community well-being and safety. This work will ensure that advocacy and education done by NCoC meets the needs of the community.

Banking on a Better Future Week of Action



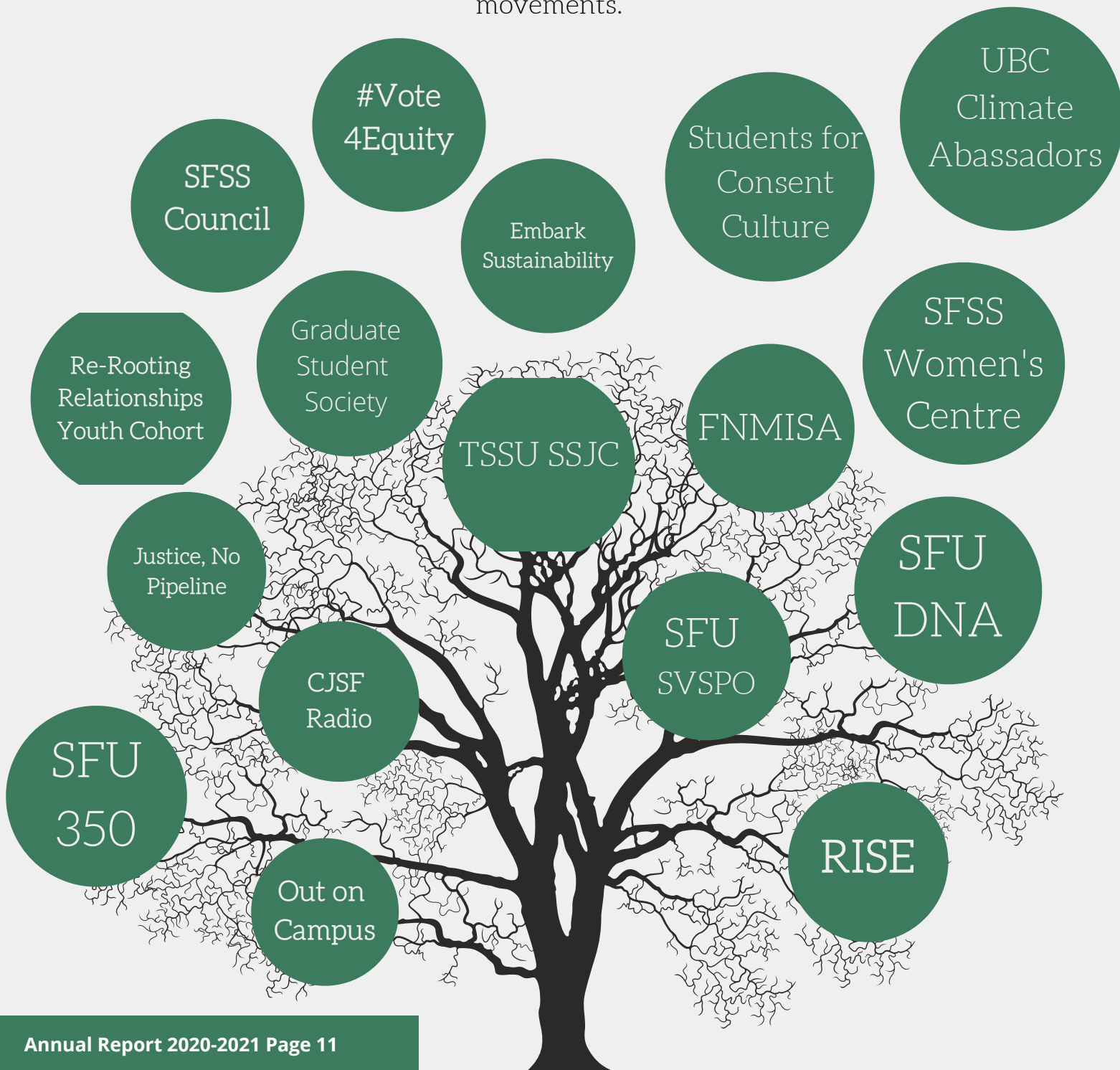
In July we joined our friends at Banking on a Better Future and Embark Sustainability to call on big bank divestment in climate chaos during a week of action. During this week, we talked to students about TMX and how the five big Canadian banks fund the destructive pipeline while we tabled in the SUB. We also hosted some postcard writing sessions and posterized throughout the AQ. Following the week of action, SFPIRG joined the structure of organisers across the country to continue working on divestment.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Building Community

In our reporting period, we had the pleasure of working alongside and in solidarity with many amazing communities of collectives. This might look like SFPIRG endorsing campaigns or actions, learning together, or providing resources. It always looks like building community that support one another and creates sustainable social justice and environmental movements.





email: info@sfpirg.ca

website: www.sfpirg.ca

facebook: www.facebook.com/sfpirg

instagram: @sfpirg

twitter: @sfpirg