



SIMON FRASER
PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT

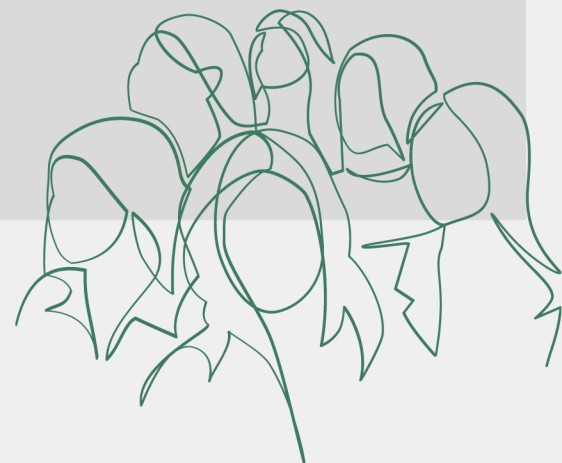
SEPTEMBER 2023-AUGUST 2024

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



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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 2023-April 2024 Directors

Nebula Shen
Arwaa Adnan
Divine Lwamba

Tuleen Awad
Rebecca Ballard

May 2024-April 2025 Directors

Adam Ivanovic
Ash Powers
Divine Lwamba
Laaya Ghaemi
Rebecca Ballard

Artin Safai
Samia Chowdhury
Emily Blyth
Omar Mahamoud

STAFF COLLECTIVE

Kalamity Hildebrandt, Director of Finance and Operations
Hannah Ghaderi, Director of Research and Education
Noëll Cousins, Director of Engagement

WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Aditi Sharma
Kanksha Chawla



YEAR IN REVIEW



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

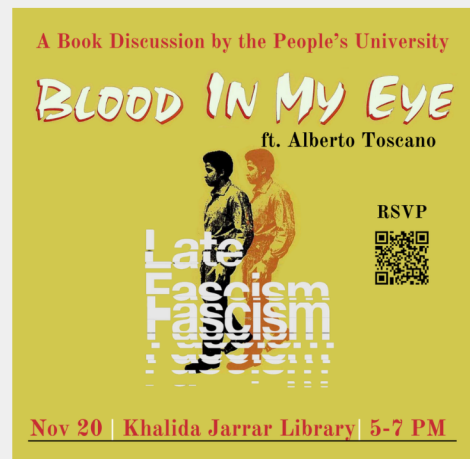
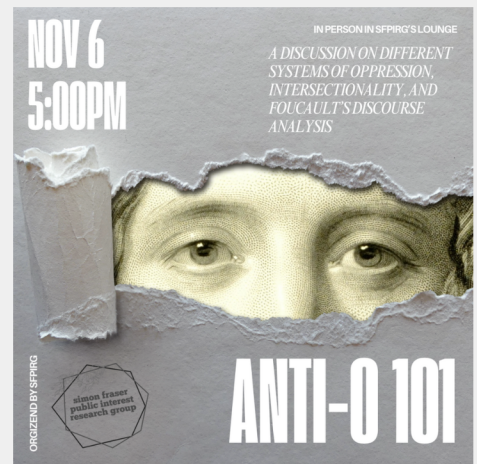
Building community

Education

Workshops

In the past year we have facilitated more than 40 workshops on topics ranging from anti-oppression to intersectionality to mental health, as well as skill building workshops to support students in making change happen on campus and in their community!

Using popular education pedagogies, participants in the workshops have the opportunity to co-create knowledge and build relationships!



YEAR IN REVIEW



The People's University

In July 2024, we were thrilled to launch The People's University project, our initiative to provide free and accessible education to all. This project aimed to break down barriers to learning, offering opportunities for growth and knowledge to those who might not have access to traditional educational spaces. While rooted in academic exploration, The People's University focused on community-driven learning, creating a space for people to learn together in an inclusive, welcoming environment. Through a series of workshops, reading groups, and teach-ins, we explored a wide range of topics, from social justice to mental health, empowering individuals to take action on the issues that matter most.



THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY PROJECT HAS BROUGHT YOU...

A READING GROUP
ON THE BOOK

**Caliban
and the
Witch**

by Silvia Federici

Sessions

- #1 - October 18th. 3-5pm @ the Fraser Library
- #2 - October 24th. 7:30pm @ Cinematheque
- #3 - October 29th. 6-8pm @ the SFPIRG Lounge

NOVEMBER 18 | 6pm
SFPIRG OFFICE (SUB 1410),
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
SFU Burnaby

RSVP

**CAMPUS
NALOXONE
TRAINING**

**Punjabi, Tamil, Hindi & French speakers
will be in attendance to answer questions.**

FROM THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY PROJECT

TUESDAY
19 NOVEMBER 6-8 PM
THE SFPIRG LOUNGE

**ON THE PRINCE
RUPERT GAS
PIPELINE**

RSVP

YEAR IN REVIEW



Community Research

Letters for the Inside Revival!

Following a nearly three year hiatus, we were happy to welcome Letters for the Inside back into our regular programming!

LFTI is a nationally-recognized project where student researchers respond to research requests from prisoners. In 2007, LFTI joined to SFPIRG as an Action Group and in 2009 became a permanent SFPIRG project. LFTI has since expanded to provide services across Canada and the US. Our volunteers have responded to over 1,000 information requests.

After waking the project back up, we brought on our first student researchers in January 2023. Our first cohort was 42 students strong and they responded to 26 letters so far!

In the summer of 2023, we hosted a strategic planning session with our board and the LFTI coordinator, which highlighted potential new directions for the project, ways to get the project into more prisons, and different opportunities for ongoing learning for our student researchers.



Common requests for information included:

- song lyrics
- access to documents
- mythology
- prisoner rights
- product information
- fan mail addresses

YEAR IN REVIEW

Action & Organising



Liberation Summer Organiser's Boot Camp

For the second year, we partnered up with Organizing for Change and Embark Sustainability to create a space for bringing together youth organising for change in the Lower Mainland. Our Liberation Summer Bootcamp recognized a need for a space that built our collective power in response to the urgency of the climate crisis and nurture moments of reflection and connection that are crucial in strategizing to realize the change we want, need, and deserve in the world today.

From July 17-18, we built intentional space for both emerging and veteran organizers to come together and strategize our next steps at the intersections of climate justice, disability justice, abolition, Indigenous sovereignty, poverty reduction, and racial justice.

Our goals for Liberation Summer

- create diverse opportunities for relationship building
- intergenerational learning and multi-sensory engagement
- practical examples and strategies for building care into our social movements
- exposure to local climate and social justice movements and resources

YEAR IN REVIEW

Action & Organising

Our program included:

- Anti-oppression in practice
- Finding our role
- Food distribution in DTES
- Art in the park
- Organising strategies
- Building joy into our movements with T-Rex against TMX
- Embark community gardens tour

Registration

July 25: 13 folks

July 26: 23 folks

July 27: 24 folks



Favourite sessions

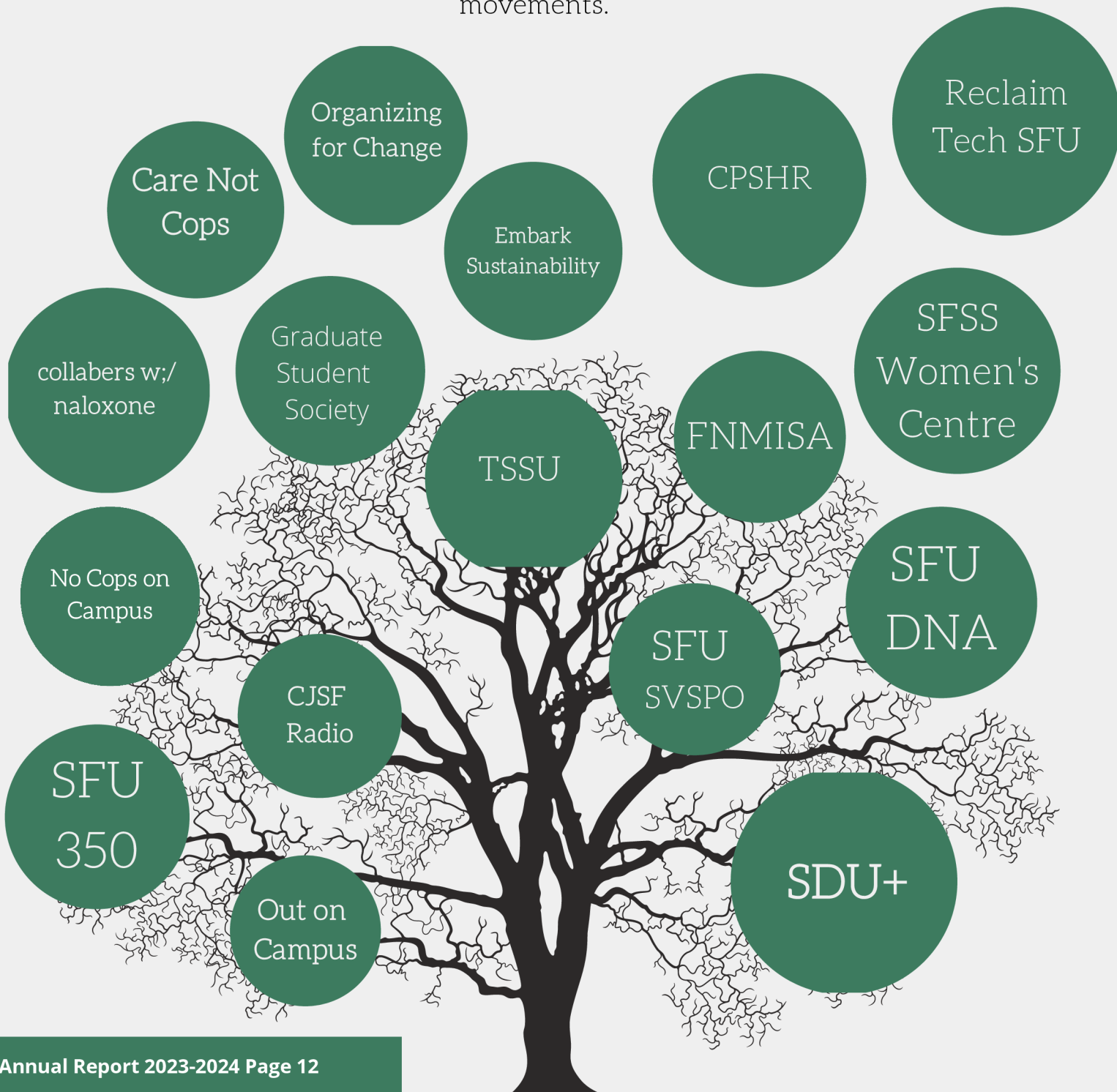
included social movement maps, distribution, and Lucy & Emily from Trex against TMX

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.

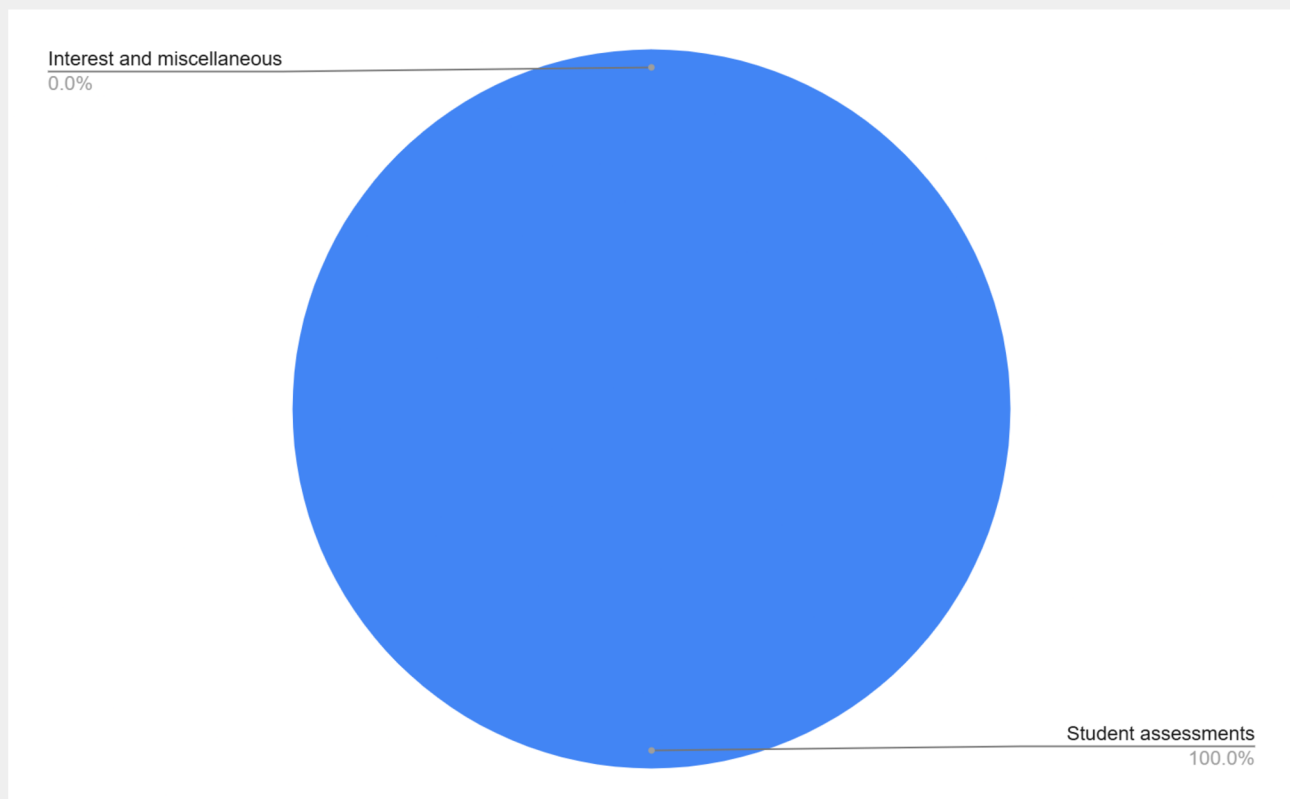


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Below is a summary of SFPIRG's revenue and expenses during the September 2023-August 2024 fiscal year. The full audited financial statements can be found at <https://sfpirg.ca>.

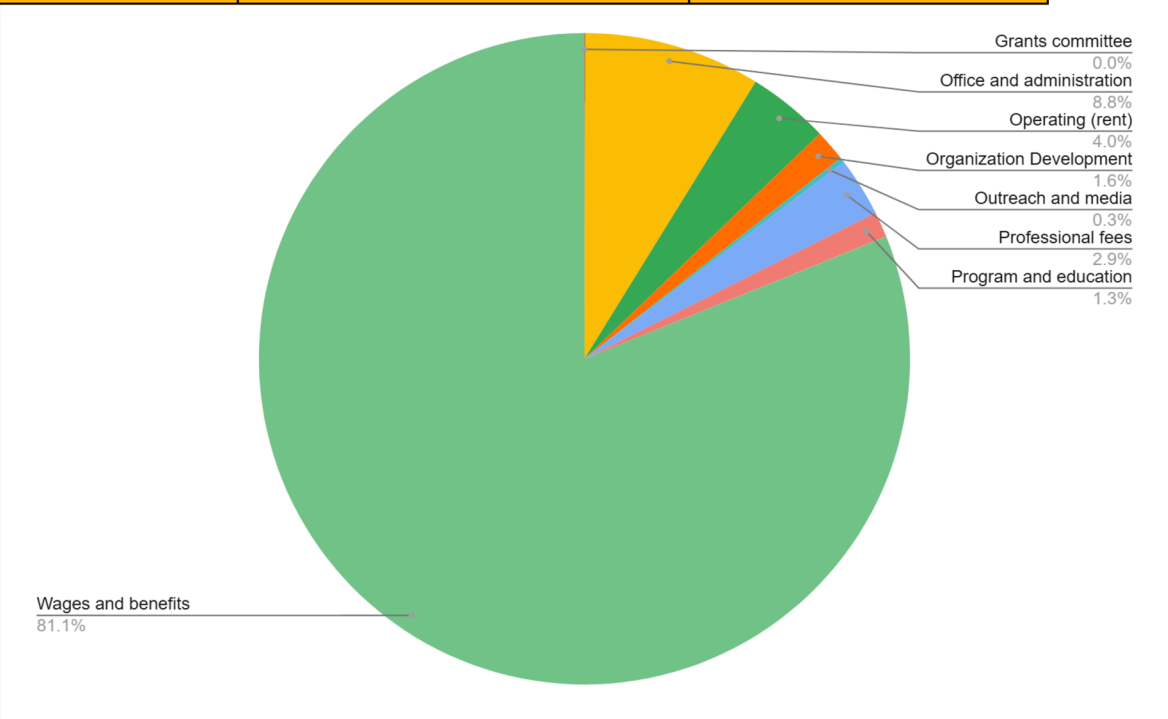
| Revenues | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Total Revenue: \$247,533 | | |
| Student assessments | 99.99% | 251,323.00 |
| Interest and miscellaneous | 0.01% | 19.00 |
| Grant and project revenue | 0.00% | 0.00 |
| Total | 100.00% | 251,342.00 |



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



| Expenses | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Total Expenses: \$247,891 | | |
| Accessibility | 0.00% | 0.00 |
| Grants committee | 0.03% | 78.00 |
| Office and administration | 8.78% | 22,097.00 |
| Operating (rent) | 4.04% | 10,171.00 |
| Organization Development | 1.56% | 3,934.00 |
| Outreach and media | 0.25% | 638.00 |
| Professional fees | 2.93% | 7,376.00 |
| Program and education | 1.27% | 3,186.00 |
| Special projects | 0.00% | 0.00 |
| Wages and benefits | 81.13% | 204,122.00 |
| Total | 100.00% | 251,602.00 |





email: info@sfpirg.ca

website: www.sfpirg.ca

facebook: www.facebook.com/sfpirg

instagram: [@sfpirg](https://www.instagram.com/sfpirg)