



OPIRG Brock Update

CUPE 4207

JUNE 24, 2021

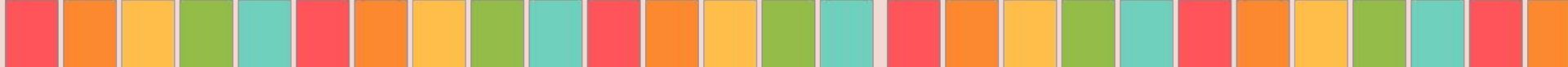
Web: www.opirgbrock.com | IG & FB: @OPIRGBrock | Twitter: @BrockOPIRG

Email: info@opirgrbrock.com



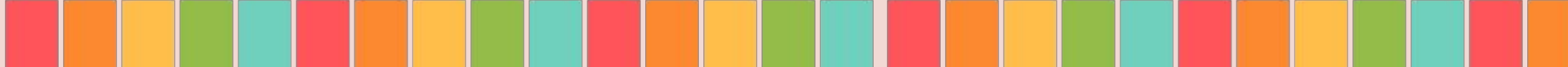


Background

- April 2019 AGM - OPIRG Brock presented, CUPE donated \$10,000, and there was a commitment to build a committee/ stronger partnership between the 2 organizations
 - 2019-2020 - The Niagara Social Justice Coalition was this committee hosting “Impacts of Ford in Niagara Campaign”
 - February 2020 GMM - notice of motion for a bylaw amendment
 - March 12 2020 GMM
 - OPIRG Brock presented at the CUPE 4207 GMM
 - a Special Assessment Bylaw was presented that would allocate 0.25% of wages fee on top of union dues to be allocated to OPIRG Brock
 - With the approval of this, all CUPE 4207 members became OPIRG Brock members
 - A \$10,000 donation was also made to address more immediate funding concerns, as this fee could not be put in place until the Bylaws were approved by CUPE National
- 

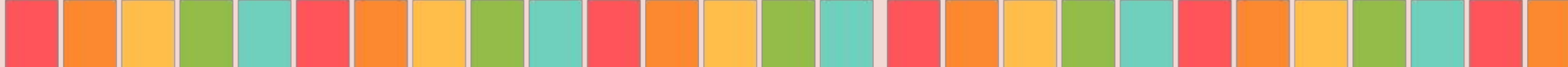



Special Assessment/ working with CUPE 4207

- Starting in June 2020, CUPE National approved the Bylaws amendment and the fee started to be collected
 - We wrote a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by CUPE 4207 President & the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors (rep)
 - Through this process, we rewrote our membership policies, Constitution, and website to improve online services and ease usage
 - At the November 2020 GMM, we presented and were posed with a question on the voting and renewal process on the Special Assessment Bylaw
 - From this request, a review and voting process was worked on and proposed and approved at the March 21, 2021 GMM.
 - We connected with Tracy, Nathan, Kate (CUPE 4207 member & OPIRG Brock Board member), about strategies increasing membership engagement
 - We have also all been working with this team to connect with Ash at the GSA to be able to collaborate and better support our overlapping memberships
 - Our team is currently working with Lina (VP Equity) on getting anti-oppression trainings set up over the months ahead
- 

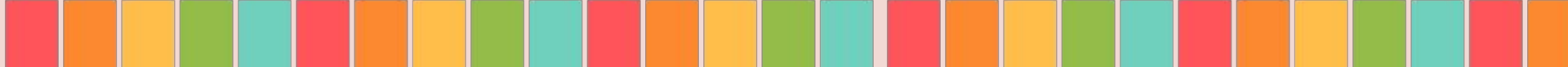


Access to OPIRG Brock memberships

- With the approval of the Special Assessment Bylaw, all CUPE 4207 members became OPIRG Brock members
 - We have implemented a registration process so we can more easily track our membership numbers and better connect
 - You can find the form here: www.opirgbrock.com/membership
 - On this page, you will also find the OPIRG Brock Membership Policies
 - As a member, you can vote and/or run in our annual Board elections that take place in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2021
 - To attend and participate in the AGM and/or Board elections, you must register by September 14, 2021
 - As an OPIRG Brock member, you also receive regular volunteer & opportunities updates, and access to semi-regular free raffle tickets
 - With the money earned through CUPE 4207 members being OPIRG Brock members, we have been able to add so many resources and partnerships
- 

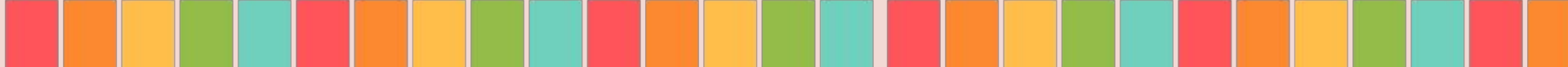


Special Assessment Funding Breakdown (different amounts because it based on wages)

- June 2020 - \$1,403
 - July 2020 - \$1,167.57
 - August 2020 - \$606.10
 - September 2020 - \$2,117.10
 - October 2020 - \$5,664.62
 - November 2020 - \$3,759.28
 - December 2020 - \$3,771.31
 - January 2021 - \$5,232.48
 - February 2021 - \$3,534.14
 - March 2021 - \$3,450.20
 - April 2021 - \$5,699.68
 - May 2021 -Forward - TBD
 - Total thus far: \$36,405.48
- 



OPIRG Brock Updates

- With regularly funding through the Special Assessment Bylaw, we were able to maintain our permanent unionized staff at 12.5 hours/ week and a contract bookkeeper
 - We have also be able to fully overhaul our website to better resource the community and publish social justice resources
 - We have also be able to fully overhaul our website to better resource the community and publish social justice resources
 - On the weekend of August, we will be hosting our first Free Store since the start of the pandemic. In partnership with In the Soil, this will be in-person, and have all needed COVID-safe partnerships
 - Since 2021, we have offered 3 key events so far in partnership with CUPE 4207 and the Nlagara District CUPE Council (sent out in the newsletter)
- 

Events

ENGAGING YOUR MEMBERS AMIDST COVID

January 20 @ 6pm

Niagara labour unions & community activists
- bring your questions!

How have you been communicating with members before COVID? How has it changed? What do you find is working? What barriers are you facing in communicating with members? Bring your questions!

Email infondcc9102@gmail.com to register!

Email info@opirgbrock.com for any accessibility needs or if you have any specific questions or topics you would like to see covered!



This event is a part of the OPIRG Brock Community Toolbox Series.

Engaging Your Members Amidst COVID

Jan 20, 2021 at 6pm

Speakers: Shannon Kitchings (community activist), Elise Lee Lai (CUPE 1281), Hamnah Shahid (Justice for Workers - Niagara), Brittany Nisbett (CUPE Ontario), Kyle Hoskins (community activist)

Moderator: Kerry Duncan (OPIRG Brock)

Co-hosts/ co-sponsors: OPIRG Brock, CUPE 4207, Niagara District CUPE Council

Find the handout here:

www.opirgbrock.com/opirg-publications

Events



**SOLIDARITY IS NOT
A METAPHOR**

March 11 @ 6pm

What does building solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Colour communities actually mean in practice for unions and activist groups in Niagara?

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3sBAUJn>

Online event. Open to everyone.

Logos: SPS, CUPE 1281, MIBDN RESISTANCE, CUPE Niagara, OPIRG

This event is a part of the OPIRG Black Community Toolbox Series.

Solidarity Is Not A Metaphor

Mar 11, 2021 at 6pm

Speakers: Patty Krawec (Medicine for the Resistance) Shannon Kitchings (community activist), Hamnah Shahid (Justice for Workers - Niagara), Tracey Lewis (community activist)

Moderator: Elise Lee Lai (CUPE 1281)

Co-hosts/ co-sponsors: OPIRG Brock, CUPE 4207, Niagara District CUPE Council, Niagara District Labour Council, Medicine for the Resistance, CUPE 1281, Fight for \$15 & Fairness Niagara

Find the handout here:

www.opirgbrock.com/opirg-publications

Events

Incorporating Naloxone & Harm Reduction into our Activism

Naloxone training and a discussion
on what harm reduction means in
practice and how to implement it
within our spaces.

June 29, 2021 | 2pm

Please register at www.eventbrite.ca/e/incorporating-naloxone-harm-reduction-into-our-activism-tickets-159522824061

For questions, please contact
claurie@positivelivingniagara.com



This workshop is part of OPIRG Brock's Community Toolbox Series.

Incorporating Naloxone & Harm Reduction into our Activism


June 29, 2021 at 2pm

Speakers: Claire Laurie (Positive Living Niagara),
Kerry Duncan (OPIRG Brock)

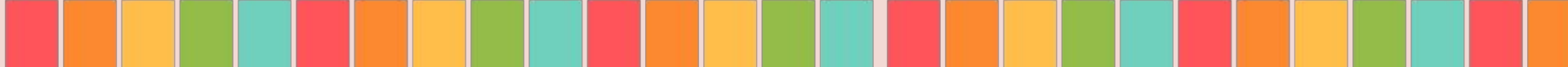
Co-hosts/ co-sponsors: Positive Living Niagara,
OPIRG Brock, CUPE 4207, Niagara District CUPE
Council

Register for this event here:

www.eventbrite.ca/e/incorporating-naloxone-harm-reduction-into-our-activism-tickets-159522824061



OPIRG Brock Website (www.opirgbrock.com)

- On the main page of the OPIRG Brock website, you can find a regular updated list of online events and rallies (Niagara events & safe in-person events are flagged), petitions, fundraisers etc.
 - You can register your OPIRG Brock membership using the 2021 OPIRG Brock Membership Form <https://www.opirgbrock.com/membership>
 - You can find all of the 18 artists featured in *The Coming Out Monologues V. 2*, launched on May 19, 2021 (<https://www.opirgbrock.com/coming-out-monologues>) (you can also order a hard copy print-book)
 - You can also download the Print-at-Home and Digital copies of *The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V. 2* (you can also order a hard copy print-book)
 - You can find an extensive
 - The OPIRG Brock website will be home to the list of resources being published in the year ahead under the Niagara Skills Network Project
- 

ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:

Justice for Workers - Niagara

- <https://www.facebook.com/fairwagesniagara> | [@fairwagesniagara](https://www.instagram.com/fairwagesniagara)
- Group was previously referred to as Flight for \$15 & Fairness - Niagara, branding has changed to match the Provincial campaign
- The campaign has shifted from *Make Brock a \$15 & Fairness Campus* to a campaign focused on getting 14 paid sick days for all workers at Brock. This campaign will start with non-unionized workers to work towards building a strong base for future bargaining for 4207 and the other Collective Agreements/ contracts without them
- This team needs more people! Get involved by emailing fairwagesniagara@gmail.com



ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:



Niagara Reproductive Justice

- www.niagarareproductivejustice.com | [@niagarareproductivejustice](https://twitter.com/niagarareproductivejustice)
- Advocating for increased visibility of and access to sexual health resources
- Get Involved - Launched a Rapid Response Network to help counter-protest anti-choice activity in the region
- If you see anti-choice activity in the region, please fill in their reporting form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeryRm0nA0sOaHiWnx-6zjQl970p5eNhWkzzNful175tzYInQ/viewform>

ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:

Niagara Tenants Union

- www.facebook.com/niagaratenantsunion
- New group of tenant volunteers and activists who are working together to build tenant power and resistance against skyrocketing rents, gentrification and displacement, and harmful landlords.
- Working on building outreach and connections with more folks directly affected by homelessness/ houselessness & tenant associations
- As a newer group, they are in need of volunteers and organizers!
To get Involved by niagaratenantsunion@gmail.com
- Niagara Tenant Support Phone Line: (289) 438-6727



ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:



No New Fighter Jets

- www.nofighterjets.ca | [@nofighterjets](https://twitter.com/nofighterjets)
- The Canadian government is quietly planning to purchase 88 new warplanes, for a sticker price of \$19 billion and a total cost of at least \$77 billion.
- See their full research report “FROM ACQUISITION TO DISPOSAL: Uncovering the true cost of 88 new fighter jets” here: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Uncovering-the-True-Cost-of-88-New-Fighter-Jets-Report.pdf>
- To get Involved, go to www.nofighterjets.ca/#contact

ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:

OUTniagara



- www.outniagara.org | [@outniagara](https://twitter.com/outniagara)
- A community organization that began in November 2004 with the purpose of uniting Niagara's sexual and gender-diverse community.
- OPIRG Brock and CUPE 4207 are currently a partners on their Community Strengths & Needs Assessment (CSNA)
- To get updates about this project and how to participate in the , please email kerry@outniagara.ca
- OUTniagara has a Community Fund which helps fund 2SLGBTQQIA+ initiatives and individuals. If you need more info about the fund, visit here www.outniagara.org/our-work/community-fund

ACTION GROUPS

- Over the past year, we have increased working with Community Groups that we encourage groups to check out:

Willow Arts Community



- www.thewillowcommunity.com | [@thewillowcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/thewillowcommunity)
- An arts + peer support organization dedicated to reducing barriers and providing opportunities for adult artists and creatives living with mental illness/substance use disorder
- For more information and to get connected to the Willow Arts Community, please email: thewillowcommunity@gmail.com



Questions?

Web: www.opirgbrock.com | IG & FB: @OPIRGBrock | Twitter: @BrockOPIRG

Email: info@opirgbrock.com

