

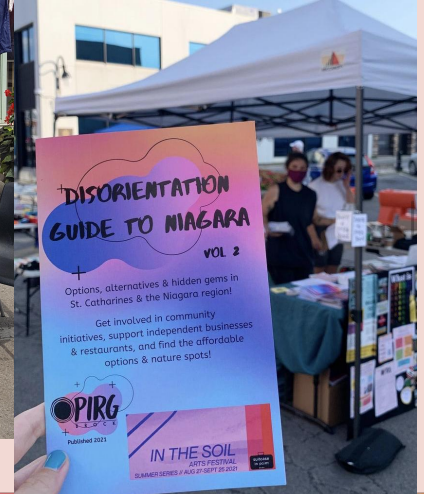


CUPE 4207 Update & building up community collaboration

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

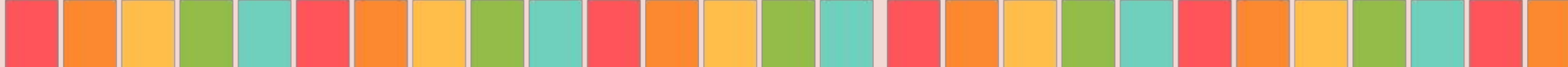
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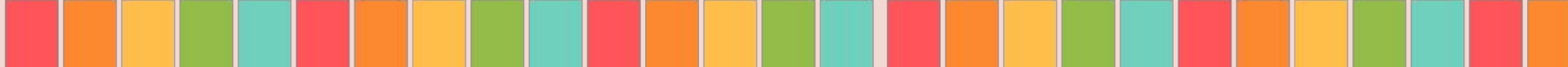



What is OPIRG Brock?

- Brock/ Niagara chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Group, working since 1988
 - Goals/ Mandate
 - Creating and supporting programming and resources that respond to the needs of the Niagara region
 - Fostering partnership between various sectors advocating for social, economic, and environmental change
 - Increasing opportunities and safer spaces for Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Colour in Niagara
 - 2 staff (unionized position -12.5 hours per week, 1 contract bookkeeper)
 - 6 volunteer Board members, 1 vacancy
 - Member based organization
 - A member of Ontario PIRG Provincial network - 12 chapters
 - Chapters across Canada & the USA
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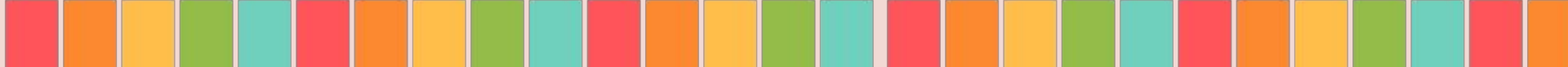



Background/ Summary

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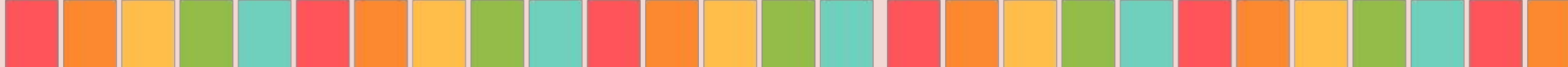
- BUSU campaign in 2018 → defunding OPIRG Brock (previous annual budget was around \$130, 000 per year)
 - A policy called the “omnibus agreement” that prevents 3rd party referendums under the student unions
 - Since 2019, OPIRG Brock and CUPE 4207 have been building an active partnership to increase the capacity of both organizations
 - In March 2020, a Special Assessment Bylaw Amendment was passed that resulted in all CUPE 4207 members becoming an OPIRG Brock member by paying 0.25% per pay period into OPIRG Brock
 - Regular cross promotion and long term planning
 - Collaboration on projects like the International Grad Student Solidarity Events
- 



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

- Donation 2019 - \$10,000
- Donation 2020 - \$10,000
- June-Aug 2020 - \$3,176.67
- 2020-2021 Fiscal year (Sept 2020-Aug 2021) - \$39,393.81
- 2020-2021 Fiscal year (Sept 2021-To Date) - \$20,426.27

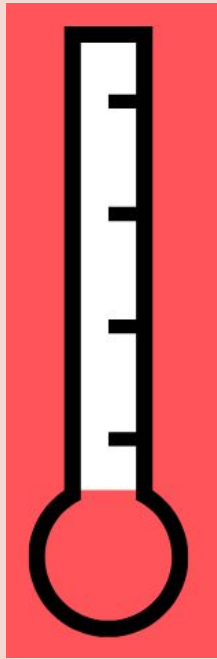
These amounts, alongside a small annual OPIRG Provincial equalization payment, and the various amounts we have fundraised this past year have had a huge impact on us moving towards our long-term financial goals!





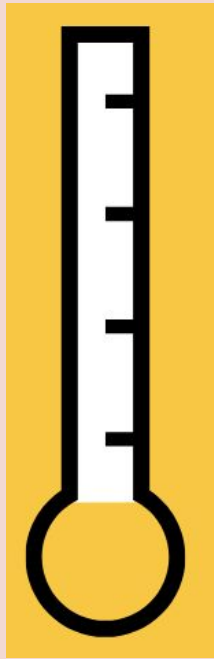
2022 OPIRG Brock Financial Goals

**OPERATING EXPENSES
(INSURANCE)**



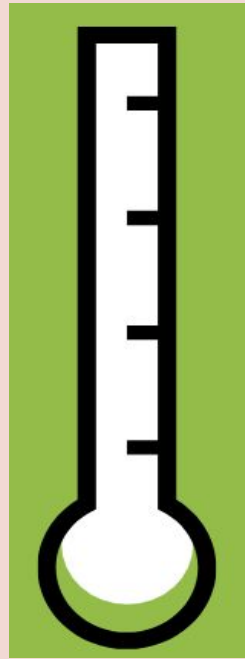
**GOAL:
\$1,000**

**ANTI-RACISM
SPONSORSHIP FUND**



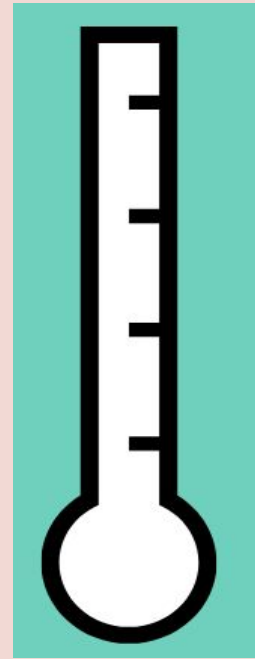
**GOAL:
\$1,000**

**FULL STAFF
HOURS**

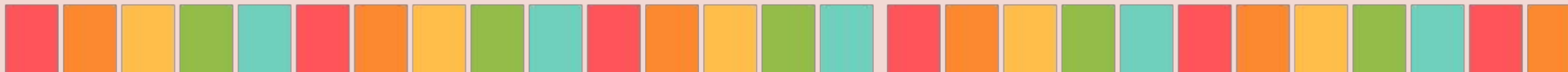


**GOAL:
\$70,000**

**PERMANENT
SPACE**



**GOAL:
\$50,000
or
In-kind
space in
StC**



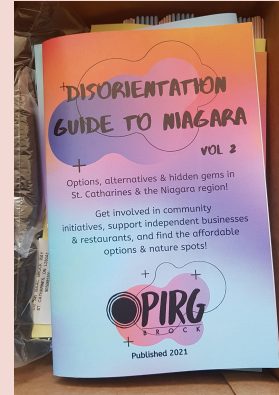
2022 OPIRG Brock Fundraising efforts

- Community Memberships
- Patreon
- FlipGive
- Private Donations
- Project Sponsorships
- 2022 OPIRG Brock Community Market
- Community driven fundraisers
- Grant consulting
- Workshop facilitation contracts
- The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V.2
- 2022 Animal Activist Calendar
- The Coming Out Monologues V.2
- Activist Surprise Bags!

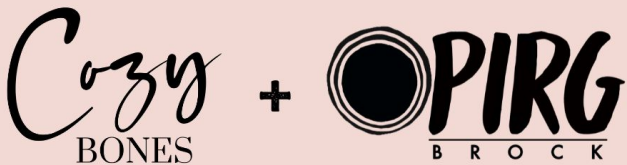


PATREON |

FlipGive



2022 Preview: 2022 Community Market, an online auction, & a puzzle exchange!



HAT FUNDRAISER

25% of sales go to OPIRG Brock!

4 NEW COLOURS



WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL



Order from cozybones.com!

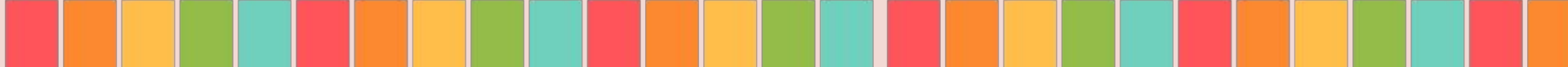
Make sure you use code **LOCALPICKUP** if you want to pick up in the Niagara Region!!

We won the 2021 'Making a Difference' St. Catharines' Arts Award!





Access to OPIRG Brock memberships

- With the approval of the Special Assessment Bylaw, all CUPE 4207 members became OPIRG Brock members
 - You can find the form here: www.opirgbrock.com/membership
 - On this page, you will also find the OPIRG Brock Membership Policies
 - After a lot of feedback that the annual registration form is not redundant and not working for members, our Board is revising that process with an update coming for May 1, 2022
 - 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 be a registered member by September 14, 2022
 - As an OPIRG Brock member, you also receive regular volunteer & opportunities updates, and access to semi-regular free raffle ticket
- 



OPIRG Brock Internal Achievements in 2021-2022

- Elected a very active board at our AGM in Sept, including a Partnerships & Volunteers Liaison & Communications & Media Liaison
 - After completing our first year of sustained funding since 2018, we were able to present a balanced 2021-2022 budget at our AGM, allowing all fundraising dollars to go into our long term financial goals
 - Our Board has been very active in volunteering with OPIRG initiatives and building policies and systems for long term visioning and strategic planning
 - We are currently working on strategic planning with all of the Action Groups working towards an OPIRG Brock Strategic Plan being launched in May 2022
 - Developed and implemented our Event Safety Protocol & our COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan
 - Active member of the OPIRG Provincial Network
 - Currently working on long-term partnership proposal for working with CUPE Ontario, CUPE 1281, the Niagara District CUPE Council, & the Niagara District Labour Council
- 


OPIRG Brock working with CUPE 4207 on strategic planning

- **Proposal #1:**
- OPIRG Brock support CUPE 4207 with Strategic Planning at the committee level with a focus on community partnership development in Niagara
- Includes a prep package, 1-2 online meetings with an interactive jam board, and a follow up report
- Helps with streamlining cross-promotion and building the CUPE 4207 annual plan and deadlines into the OPIRG Brock annual plan





OPIRG Brock Events & Communications Achievements in 2021-2022

- The Coming Out Monologues V.2 was added to the NOTL Library circulation - you can go check it out!
 - Aug-Nov 2021, we hosted a weekly Niagara Free Store in downtown St. Catharines & have been offered a weekly space from May-Nov 2022
 - In September 2021, we were able to relaunch our Experiential Education placement student program in the Department of Public Health and Geography & Tourism
 - We have placement students working on our harm reduction programming, the Niagara Free Store, the Niagara Skills Network, and with Niagara Reproductive Justice
 - On our website, we have added a page dedicated Harm Reduction services available at Brock for staff, students, faculty, campus groups, etc. & will be releasing a poster campaign on both St. Catharines campuses in March
 - We have taken on facilitating various workshops for different community groups
 - Active community partners in the OUTniagara Community Strengths & Needs Assessment
 - Social Media campaigns - Niagara Free Store & Anti-Capitalist Gift List
- 

OPIRG BROCK'S

ANTI-CAPITALIST GIFT LIST

- OPIRG x Cozy Bones fundraiser hats
- 2022 Animal Activist Calendar
- Activist Grab Bags Preorder (online gift token)
- Subscription to OPIRG Brock's Patreon
- Dedicate family and friend time to gathering donations for the Niagara Free Store
- The Coming Out Monologues V.2 (hard copy)
- The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V.2 (hard copy)
- One time & sustained donations to community activist organizations that prioritizes local, provincial, national & community activism

 [OPIRGBROCK.COM/SHOP](https://opirgbrock.com/shop)



Make one-time and sustained donations

*to community activist organizations
that prioritize local, provincial, and
national community activism!*

Swipe for where to donate
or find full list on opirgbrock.com/donate (link in bio)



PART OF OPIRG BROCK'S ANTI-CAPITALIST GIFT LIST

International Grad Student Solidarity with 4207 & the Brock GSA



What International Students Must know

Join us for a pannel discussion with experienced International students

Book the day November 4th at 6 p.m on zoom



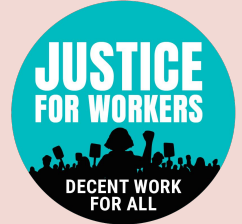
FRIDAY FEB 18

International Student Solidarity Panel @ 2:30pm - 4pm

Join us for this panel hosted by members of CUPE, OPIRG, and the GSA amplifying voices of international students at Brock who are interested in sharing their experiences with incoming and current students. Panelists will cover such topics as being an international student during online learning, support services for international students during COVID-19, finding a sense of community in a new place, and applying for jobs after graduation.

OPIRG Brock Action Groups & services available

- Strategic planning session in January or February
 - Can be on or offline
 - Includes goal setting, spectrum of allies chart, etc.
- Community forum in April or May
 - OPIRG's year-long schedule shown and discussed with key partners
- 50 free buttons
- Bank account line to store funds
- Accessing OPIRG's non-profit/charity status
- OPIRG Board or staff will try to regularly attend our meetings
- OPIRG's Canva Pro account
- Page on OPIRG's website and outreach via social media
- Co-hosting events and campaigns
- Use of OPIRG's policy or agenda templates
- Potential access to placement students for 2022-2023
 - Particularly for Communications or Gender Studies or Labour Studies
 - Beneficial to have students leading campaigns at the university, as they are more likely to listen than when activist groups do so
- Free booking space at Marilyn I. Walker once OPIRG gets their insurance
- Dissemination of publications and materials



Action Groups need organizers & volunteers!


- **Proposal #2:**
- **CUPE 4207 have 1-3 designated delegates for Justice for Workers Niagara (potentially that report back to the Political Action Committee and/or GMM). These positions will attend J4W-Niagara monthly meetings and be involved in the organizing for that team**
- Current J4W-N team is focused on a campaign to get 14 paid sick days to all employees at Brock
- It is voluntary to join J4W-N, but the hope is to help with initial engagement & retention, especially ahead of May 1st event
- Partnering during a bargaining year would help with support for your bargaining process
- Option is also available for Niagara Reproductive Justice & Niagara Tenants Union




Niagara Skills Network (NSN)

- Since 2019, OPIRG Brock has been working with community partners to develop the Niagara Skills Network, rooted in the community philosophy that “good people should know good people doing good things”, the Niagara Skills Network (NSN) will be an easy-to-use cross-sector mutual aid network focused on fostering solidarity through collaborative resources and skill-sharing.
- **The NSN will bring together activist groups, grassroots organizations, labour unions, frontline social and cultural services, and a vast community of independent artists and arts organizations.**
- To move the Niagara region away from photo-op activism and a siloed organizing culture where organizations rarely look outside their already established bubbles.
- Establishing a set of useful and transferable organizing tools, the NSN will start by creating an online platform.
- Building on this infrastructure, the long-term goal for the NSN is to facilitate an organizing culture in Niagara where groups know and support one another and are able to be called upon to show up for one another in times of need.





Supporting the development of the NSN & OPIRG Brock at various levels of labour

- The following amendments are being brought to the OUWCC next weekend, with the hopes of endorsement and going onto the CUPE Ontario Convention in April:
 - . The request is that 4207 endorse these proposals and
 - **Proposal #3:** CUPE 4207 takes the following action to support these proposals:
 - Speak in support and endorse them at OUWCC
 - As a local, submit the motions to CUPE ON Convention in April
 - Bring the proposals to the Niagara District CUPE Council for endorsement ahead of the OUWCC, and to be submitted from the NDCC to the CUPE ON Convention
 - **Proposal #4:** CUPE 4207 supports the following proposals being brought to the Niagara District Labour Council
 - Promoting the Niagara Free Store to locals, and encouraging locals to have free store donation bins
 - Providing financial sponsorship for the 2022-2023 NSN Workplan
- 



Questions?

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