



Annual General Report 2020-2021

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What is OPIRG Brock

Guided by the general mandate of “supporting social, economic, and environmental justice”, the work of OPIRG Brock, like all PIRG chapters, covers a wide range of programming, campaigns, and supports for other Niagara-based groups’ work. For the past year, we have taken this mandate, paired with a longstanding standard of creating work that prioritizes safer spaces and opportunities for BIPOC people to develop and sponsor programming.

Another inter-related mandate for OPIRG Brock is the principle of “good people should know good people doing good things”. This guides us to connect people and groups across the region to better show up for one another.

Finally, a huge part of what OPIRG Brock comes through our fundraising efforts to work towards our dream goals of increasing our staffing and securing a permanent social justice organizing space in Niagara.

Acknowledgements - Indigenous Lands & Peoples

The work of OPIRG Brock takes place on Indigenous lands over which Indigenous people still hold jurisdiction, and as such we are responsible for upholding the treaties first made here. Here in St. Catharines we are meeting on the shared lands of the Onkwehonwe. (Pronounced: OWN - GWAY- HONE- WAY). This shared territory is held by Haudenosaunee [Pronounced: HO-DE-NO-SHO-NEE], Anishinaabeg [A-NISH-I-NAA-BEY], Wendat, and Chonnonton peoples. This territory is also home to many First Nations people from across Turtle Island, Metis, and Inuit people, as well as generations of families brought to the area through forced displacement and imperialism.

A key treaty governing this territory is the “Dish with One Spoon” agreement. This treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee binds them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous nations and peoples, settlers and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. We also call attention to the Upper Canada treaties, the Two Row Wampum, and the 1964 Treaties of Niagara, all of which outline our responsibilities and requirements as occupants on these lands.

In talking about our relationships to activism and how to be accountable to treaties first made here, it is essential that we root our discussion in the fact that historically and currently, Indigenous people are disproportionately targeted, stereotyped, and stigmatized. We see similar targeting happen to racialized communities, perpetuating long standing ideas of Anti-Black racism and a wide range of structural discrimination. These power dynamics and acts of violence enforce further issues of ableism, sanism, transphobia, classism, and increased incarceration, to name a few.

We also strive to acknowledge the work that often goes unacknowledged. Throughout the city and region we see everything from more formal bodies like the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to social media accounts like @BlackOwned905 to personal relationships supporting our collective liberation. As people with the ability and privileges to be able to gather today, we also want to acknowledge the people not present in this room. And with this reflect upon the realities and identities not reflected in the space.

Accountability to our treaty responsibilities means ongoing discussions about the last impacts and ongoing attacks of the violent colonial system we benefit from.

Discussing Residential Schools is one of these responsibilities. With over 6128 children recovered from 21 schools, with 139 still to be surveyed, we also most no reporting on this matter. Instead we are bombarded with placating election promises without action. We cannot move on with the world and our activism if we are not first rooting our work into calls to action from the Indigenous people of Turtle Island, and more globally.



Image source:

@courtyellowwolf (IG)

Groups, accounts, & people leading anti-racism activism in Niagara we recommend you check out!

- Abbey House
- Celebration of Nations
- De dwa da dehs nye>s
Aboriginal Health Centre
- Dr. Robyn Bourgeois
- Fallon Farrinacci
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
- Kakekalanicks Inc.
- Medicine for the Resistance Podcast
- Niagara Chapter of Native Women
- Niagara Regional Native Centre
- Nick Printup
- One Dish, One Mic Weekly Radio Show
- REDress Project
- Shawnee Kish
- Strong Water Women (Zhoooge Nibii Kwe)
Indigenous Women's Drum Group
- Black Female
Empowerment Society
- Black Owned 905
- BME Church, Salem Chapel
- Brock Student Justice
Centre
- Justice For Workers Niagara
- Migrant Workers Alliance for
Chance
- Niagara Folk Arts
Multicultural Centre
- Niagara Region Anti Racism
Association
- Niagara Workers Welcome
- TOES Niagara

Thanks Yous!

- CUPE 4207
- OUTniagara
- Brock Departments -
Geography & Tourism
and Public Health
- Mazie Bishop, Cozy
Bones
- Fine Grind Cafe
- Mahtay Cafe
- Suitcase In Point
- Willow Arts
Community
- Contributors to our
2021 Animal Activist
Calendar
- Everyone who has
donated at,
promoted, and
volunteered with
the Free Store
- Ash Grover, Brock
GSA VP Equity &
International
- Kerry, Vanessa,
and Hamnah (our
amazing staff)
- Past OPIRG Brock
board members
and current
OPIRG Brock
board members

OPIRG Brock Supporters

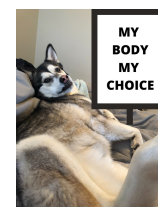
We'd also like to acknowledge all of you. OPIRG Brock would be nothing without the community around it. While OPIRG Brock is a work in progress, we always strive to support more perspectives and more space for social and environmental justice.

Acknowledgements - Labour

Through our activism, discussions of labour are integral to bring into our spaces; continually thinking about the precarious and poor working conditions, at Brock and throughout Niagara.

In Niagara, we live in a region that prospers off the continued exploitation of migrant labour through our grape & wine and agriculture industries. Faced with continued violence and job precarity, we call on everyone in this meeting and your extended networks to work in solidarity with the Migrant Workers Alliance for Change and the Migrant Rights Network to demand permanent resident status for all.

Furthermore, when we think of universities, we think of teachers and students. We would also like to acknowledge the support staff and janitorial staff who keep spaces like these going. Positions like these are often precarious and without support systems like unions but workers at a higher risk of poverty. Within Brock, we call for solidarity with non-unionized and unionized workers who are continually fighting for improved working conditions. If you would like to call attention to the Justice for Workers - Niagara campaign that is calling for 2 weeks paid sick leave for all employees at Brock!



Strengths of 2020-2021

Re-established our Action Group Program

- After our Action Group program being paused since 2018, due to lack of funding, internal structure, and capacity of both OPIRG and the community groups, we have been able to add 5 key community groups as Action Group
- Most groups currently pay into OPIRG Brock through Patreon or a donation
- Action groups get access to a range of services if they need them:
- Page on the OPIRG website
- 50 free buttons
- A bank account line for donations (if needed)
- Staff support with strategic planning
- Free raffle ticket
- We also work with 2 additional community groups/ projects, that aren't formally Action Groups, but have gotten staff support in planning: Shop Small Market Crawl/ St. Catharines markets & XRN



Strengths of 2020-2021

• Securing Money

- CUPE 4207 - had a full year of receiving funding and we able to establish a budget for the year ahead - all fundraised dollars will be in addition to our current budget!
- We able to reconcile an significant pending deficit before it caused any significant issues
- Donations - we saw an increase in cash donation by just have a jar available at our table
- Patreon - we have had a full year of receiving sustainer payment through Patreon (& were able to convert the payments to \$CAD)
- Sponsorships - We have several departments and unions sponsor our various projects, especially The Coming Out Monologues V. 2 and The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V. 2
- Fundraising items - our Animal Activist Calendars, The Coming Out Monologues V. 2 and The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V. 2 have all seen money come in
- Contracts - we have been able to secure several contracts for fundraising items, workshop facilitation, and consultations to increase revenue and partnerships
- Increased financial support from OPIRG Provincial, through
- Planning for the future! Since rebuilding OPIRG Brock starting in 2016 and being defunded in 2018, this has been the first year that we have been able to move towards long term strategic planning. This may seem small but is an essential step towards our achieving our goals for the future.



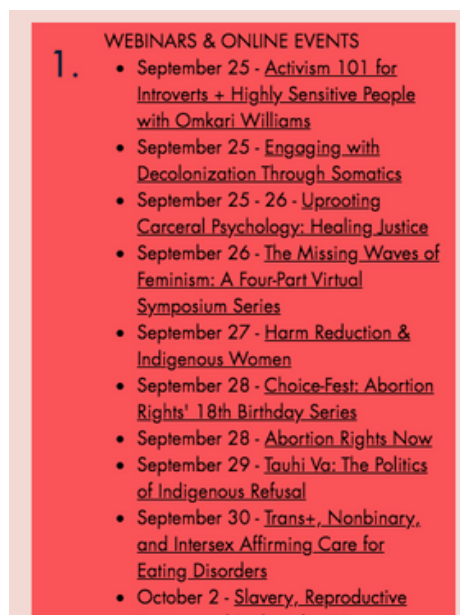
Strengths of 2020-2021

- **Re-established key programming: Niagara Free Store Store & Brock student placements**

- After the COVID-19 year pause on our in-person programming and in order to create a more sustainable financial foundation, we have now been able to re-establish 2

- **Website**

- An up-to-date list of webinars, petitions, fundraisers, streaming resources, & support funds
- We an online market structure now permanently built on our website



What's Next: Areas for Improvement

Volunteer structure, retention, and training

- We have had a lot of people express interest in volunteering both with OPIRG and our Action Groups, and they need to get followed up with more regularly.
- **Action Items:** Create an OPIRG Brock Volunteer Manual, and promotions kit and start hosting public committee meetings.

What's Next: Areas for Improvement

Development of Anti-Racism Action Plan

- Despite having our Anti-Racism Action Plan Committee and achieving some of our goals, we need a more dedicated approach to taking the feedback and concerns that have been brought forward to better address past and ongoing issues with whiteness and better committing to our goals of anti-racism action and Indigenous solidarity in all aspects of OPIRG.
- We need to make more connections with the groups and community working on the Status for All Campaign and with the migrant workers in the region
- **Action Items:**
 - Monthly commitments for the Board and staff directly related to the Anti-Racism Action Plan.
 - Better informing our community partners on the structures to ensure safety and accountability measures, as well as follow up processes are readily available when issues arise
 - Review our current statements of solidarity and external statements we have signed onto, and incorporate those within our policies and programs
 - Reach out to Migrant Workers Alliance for Change and Niagara Workers Welcome about accessing Action Group privileges and the option of partnering with the Niagara Free Store

Ongoing areas in need of improvement

- Securing increasing and regular Funding
- Staffing- Board- Volunteer work balance
- Getting a space
- Dealing with urgency culture

Streamlined workflow system

- OPIRG has many moving parts and people involved, and to address all of the moving parts and deadlines, we need a centralized information and workflow system that brings together the work we do across multiple platforms.
- **Action Items:**
 - Establishing a centralized database where we can track deadlines, project updates, and feedback
 - Create a living archive of the all the documents and promo materials we have acquired or made

Board & Staff

• Structure

- OPIRG Brock is run by a volunteer operational board made up of seven (7) members.
- What this means is that each board member will have consistent working requirements, such as email communication and monthly board meetings, as well as a specific portfolio that they are responsible for.
- The portfolios include Provincial Liaison, Human Resources, Board Facilitator, Finance/Treasurer, Volunteer and Partnerships Liaison, Fundraising & Grants, Communications
- While each of these portfolios are held primarily by one (1) board member, each role also has a support person to help manage/problem solve the responsibilities where necessary
- The Board also hosts 5 committees: Finances, Communications, Accountability, Anti-Racism Action Plan, Grants & Fundraising, and Niagara Free Store

• Consensus Approach

- Consensus is a model for decision-making & facilitation model development through Indigenous forms of governance and is widely used today by groups rooted in anti-oppression and intersectional frameworks
- Model is rooted in the idea that all participants in a group should be able to give input & feel at least somewhat comfortable with the decision being reached.
- Moving away from more rigid structures, which use processes to minimize speakers lists and enforce majority democracy voting, the Consensus model has established a base set of norms that can be adapted to the needs of each group.

Board Members

- Elected in 2020: Patrick, Kate Spiegel, Fiona McKay, Daniela Calderon
- Appointed in 2021: Nicole Garcia-Ardilla
- Current Board (September 2020): Bhonita Singh, Patrick, Kate Spiegel, Fiona McKay

• Member Updates

- We streamlined the registration process onto 1 form for all types of memberships
- Established clear options for membership options
- Currently, we have 51 members

• Members Rights & Privileges

- Voting at the OPIRG Brock Annual General Meeting
- Running for election to the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors
- Voting in the annual OPIRG Brock Board elections
- Accessing the OPIRG Brock button-maker
- Accessing services provided by the Niagara Skills Network
- Regular newsletters, volunteer opportunities, & updates
- Semi-regular raffle tickets for OPIRG Brock fundraiser raffles

Staff

Members

- Kerry Duncan (Volunteer, Planning, & Training Coordinator)
- Vanessa Fyfe (Bookkeeper)
- Hamnah Shahid (CRO)

Professional Services

- Brokerlink (Insurance)
- Durward Jones Barkwell Company LLP (Auditor)
- Sullivan & Mahoney (Legal)

PIRG BROCK
Become a Member

With your annual membership, you gain the following rights & privileges:

- Voting at the OPIRG Brock Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Running for election to the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors
- Voting in the annual OPIRG Brock Board elections
- Accessing the OPIRG Brock button-maker
- Accessing services provided by the Niagara Skills Network
- Regular newsletters, volunteer opportunities, & updates
- Semi-regular raffle tickets for OPIRG Brock fundraiser raffles

Annual membership includes options at \$0, \$10, \$20 or by becoming a member on Patreon!

GO TO [OPIRGBROCK.COM/MEMBERSHIP](https://opirgbrock.com/membership) TO SIGN UP TODAY!



Volunteers & Placement Students

We had so many amazing volunteer, supporters, and placement students provide essential work to the OPIRG Brock projects and partnerships this year. The necessary restrictions around COVID-19 had a significant impact on many of our volunteer and placement programs and after a year have planning have been able to slowly re-open some of these programs.

• Board of Directors (volunteer with everything!)

- Kate Spiegel
- Fiona McKay
- Patrick
- Bhonita Singh
- Daniela Calderon
- Nicole Garcia-Ardilla

• Grants & Fundraising

- Mazie Bishop
- Mo Constantine
- Ashley Tiberi

• Professors & Admins:

- Antony Chum
- Andrew Nielsen
- Dragos Simandan

• Niagara Free Store

- Harleen Sandhu
- Taylor Beckett
- Seamus Bronwyn
- Ash & Logan Grover
- Christian Chaves
- Kostyn Petrunick
- Vince Pacilli
- Bonez Poley
- Kaho Nishibu
- Margret Taylor
- Aleah Graff

• Partner Organizations & Venues

- Positive Living Niagara
- Streetworks Niagara
- Niagara Reproductive Justice
- Cozy Bones
- Fine Grind Cafe

2021 Placement Students

• Harm Reduction & Naloxone

- Vanessa Morcone
- Disha Mehta

• Niagara Free Store

- Janique Beecher
- Rajkumar Jani

Niagara Reproductive Justice

- Sonia Sarpong

Budgets

Budget Key Highlights

- The membership does run on a consensus based decision making model, however the board does approve the budget. The following information is being presented to membership for the purposes of transparency.
- Through an evaluation of our financial strategic planning, we realized that we had a pending deficit and took necessary immediate action such as reducing staff's hours and other operating expenses in order to remedy the situation.
- Insurance was reduced to eliminate the policy that insured us for inside in person events, as we have not had any since the start of the pandemic. This can be changed at any time, should we gain access to an indoor space.
- The board elected to forgo an audit this year as that was a significant expense, to the tune of \$5,000. Audits are used for a number of things in the accountability process of an organization, including being used in grant applications, however last year's audit can be used for up to two years.
- Budgeted revenue includes our income from CUPE 4207 and an equalization payment from OPIRG Provincial resulting in \$39,267.40 total. Fundraising income can not be included as it is not guaranteed.
- Budgeted expenses includes staff costs at reduced hours and trimmed operating expenses resulting in \$39,144.02 total.
- Our budgeted net surplus for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is \$123.38

Finances - What's Next?

While evaluating our financial strategic planning, we were able to identify multiple tangible financial targets for the years to come to achieve our larger organizational goals. While these tangible targets are useful for internal coordinating and planning, they also lend themselves to engaging our membership in our fundraising goals.

The Fundraising Committee

- The Board voted to make the Fundraising committee public so that members can join and volunteer with fundraising and grants- so if you're interested in joining, let us know!

Tangible Targets

- Increasing our insurance policy and operating expenses back to pre-cut levels is our first goal at \$1,000.
- Funding our Anti-Racism Action Plan Sponsorship Line with a goal of \$1,000
- Increasing staff hours to standard levels with a goal of \$70,000
- Acquiring a permanent space with a goal of \$50,000

Fundraisers & Sustainers

Memberships (www.opirgbrock.com/membership)

- Primarily based on people signing up
- Total amount is included with other incomes (ie. CUPE income, Patreon, vendor fees, etc.)
- Individual memberships = \$0, \$10, \$20 options

Patreon (www.patreon.com/opirgbrock)

- Secured monthly payments from people and members who support our work
- Options for individuals, organizations, & businesses at multiple levels (e.g. \$5, \$10, \$20, & \$30 options)
- Reworked the perks this year to be more useful
- Current options include:
 - \$5 per month (Individual)
 - \$10 per month (Individual, organization)
 - \$15 per month (creator/ vendor)
 - \$20 per month (individual. local businesses)
 - \$30 per month (individual)
- Raised \$2,555



FlipGive

FlipGive (www.flipgive.com/teams/258243-opirg-brock)

- OPIRG Brock Team Code: 2ZHQPQ
- FlipGive is a free fundraising website that gives cash rebates to teams when they buy from brands online or buy gift cards to make their purchases in person
- Some stores include Freshco, Sobey's, Etsy, Tim Horton's, etc.
- We don't promote this widely because this project contradicts our anti-capitalist values to an extent
- We host it internally, so if you would like to join the FlipGive team, please email info@opirgbrock.com

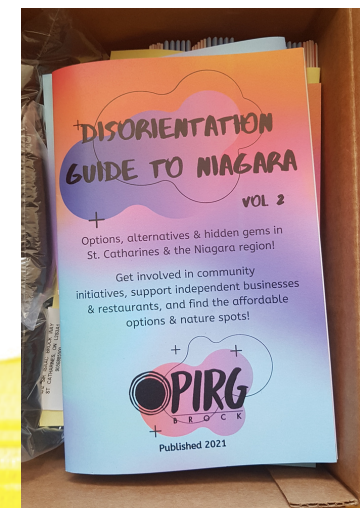
Fundraisers & Sustainers

Cash Donations

- We earned \$341 through one-time cash donations

Online Shop

- With the numerous standing publications released this year, we made them, access to our button maker, and more to come permanently available for sale on the website



The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara V.2

- Self-published community guide zine showcasing hidden gems in Niagara
- Received sponsorships from Brock Departments of Sociology, Labour Studies, Women and Gender Studies, Social Justice and Equity, and Health Sciences
- Raised \$1,150
- We wanted to make this as accessible as possible so it is also available to download for free on our website!

2021 Animal Activist Calendar

- Calendar featuring animal friends of our community members, movement-themed months, and special dates
- Raised \$456



Grants

Grant & Funding Applications (unsuccessful so far)

- Applying for the Niagara Skills Network
- Freedonia
- Groundswell
- Upcoming - United Way Grant
- We were nominated for the St. Catharines' Arts Award in the "Making a Difference" category
 - \$500, if we win (+ increased potential at other arts funding)
 - Results announced November 21, 2021



Events

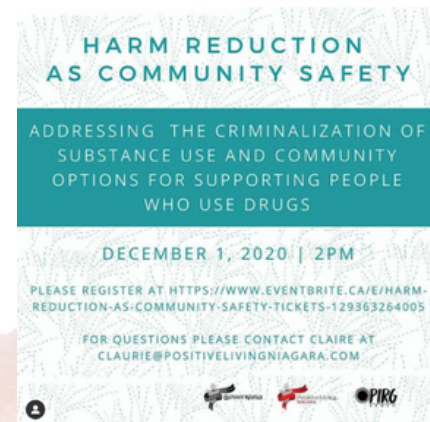
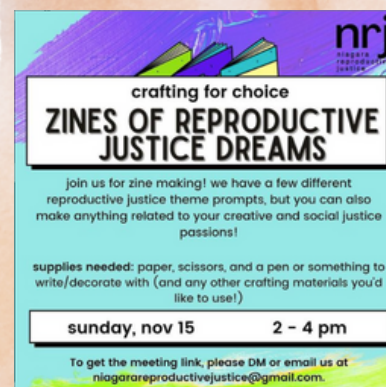
2020-2021 Events

- Decent Work at Brock Webinar with Fight for \$15 & Fairness - Niagara
- Abolish the police: An online reading group
- The Coming Out Monologues V. 2 Launch
- Niagara Free Stores
- NSN Community Toolbox
- Harm Reduction & Naloxone Trainings

2021 Events to watch out for

- October 7 - Solidarity for International Grad Students Panel
- October 23-24 - OPIRG Brock Community Market
- October 24 - Niagara Reproductive Justice 2nd Birthday
- October 24 - Willow Arts "Live from the Willow" Album Launch
- Niagara Free Store - every Saturday in October!
- Naloxone & Activism workshop with Streetworks

Events



Partnerships & Coalitions

- **Niagara Free Store**
 - In the Soil Arts Festival 2021
 - Mahtay Cafe
 - James St. Market
 - with Fine Grind & Cozy Bones
- **Niagara Skills Network**
 - Suitcase In Point
 - CFBU 103.7 FM
 - Cozy Bones
 - OUTniagara
 - Positive Living Niagara
 - Willow Arts Community
 - CUPE 4207/ Niagara District CUPE Council
- **OUTniagara**
 - Key partner on their *Informed, Inclusive, Indivisible: Collectively Advancing 2SLGBTQ+ Equality in Niagara+* project
- **ANRP Coalition (Abolish the NRP/ Building Community Alternatives)**
 - A new community focused coalition focused on the Niagara Regional Police
 - Hosted 4-5 sessions of the Abolish the police: An online reading group as a starting part of the Coalitions
 - Developed resources for the group related to self-educating on some of the cases across the country
 - Ongoing work happening on an "Alternatives to calling the police/ 9-11 document"
 - More events coming soon!



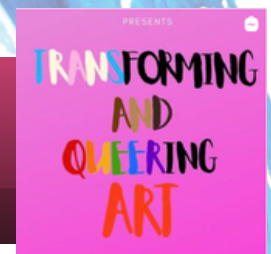
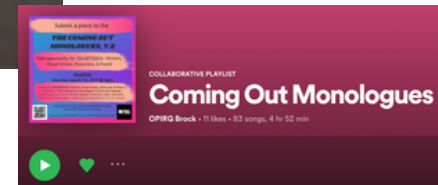
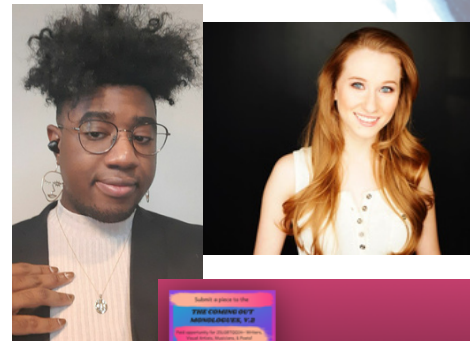
The Coming Out Monologues V.2

- Were able to provide honoraria for all artists
- Art available for free on the OPIRG Brock website
- Book available as a fundraiser!
- Self-published zine featuring Trans and Queer artists
- Associated programming included TRANSforming and QUEERING ART IG live series featuring QTBIPOC artists from our Coming Out Monologues Playlist on Spotify
- Ticketed zine launch event featuring performances from contributors and community partners
- Performers included Jermaine Marshall & Laura Piccinnin
- Includes visual descriptions and recordings



18 amazing artists

- Aleah Graff
- Dusty Miller
- Richie
- APOLLO
- Mia
- Emilia Fireweed
- Rabia Choudhary
- Morag Mackenzie
- Namitha Rathinappillai
- Laura Piccinnin
- Stephanie Jonsson
- Daniel Hummel
- Ren Reid
- Ashley T.
- Melissa Montovani
- J-Marsh
- Taylor
- A bite-sized queer



Action Groups

Niagara Reproductive Justice

www.niagarareproductivejustice.com

Facebook: Niagara Reproductive Justice

Instagram: @niagarareproductivejustice

Email: niagarareproductivejustice.com



NRJ is a group of community members in the Niagara Region of Ontario advocating for increased visibility of and access to sexual health resources in Niagara. We're always looking for more members and volunteers! There is room for new members to join any of our subteams, including Graphics, Social Media, Research & Campaigns, Events, Monitoring Anti-Choicers, and Abortion Support Services. We are also looking for volunteers to join our Rapid Response Network as a mobilizer, counterprotester, materials hub, and/or debriefer.

Niagara Tenants Union

www.niagaratenantsunion.noblogs.org

Facebook: Niagara Tenants Union

Instagram: @niagaratenantsunion

Email: niagaratenantsunion@gmail.com



Niagara Tenants Union is a grassroots network of volunteer tenants and activists who are working together to build tenant power and resistance against skyrocketing rents, gentrification and displacement, and harmful landlords. They are direct action focused and aim to respond to the housing crisis by getting organized and building autonomous tenant power to fight back against things like evictions, unsafe rental units, rent increases, landlord abuse and harassment, and broader issues of structural housing inequality.

Action Groups

Willow Arts Community

www.thewillowcommunity.com

Facebook: Willow Arts Community

Instagram: @willowartscommunity

Email: thewillowcommunity@gmail.com



Willow Arts Community is an arts + peer support charity dedicated to reducing barriers and providing opportunities for adult artists and creatives living with mental illness/substance use disorder in Niagara. We use the arts as an agent of social change by connecting and engaging with the public through exhibitions, publications, and performances to lessen the effects of stigma and social isolation. We are currently building our capacity to bring on volunteers in our new space (opening Oct 4, 2021). We will be seeking assistance with communications, admin support, & studio set up/clean up.

Justice for Workers Niagara

www.justice4workers.org

Facebook: Justice for Workers Niagara

Instagram: @fairwagesniagara

Email: fairwagesniagara@gmail.com



Justice for Workers is an Ontario-based labour organizing group advocating for workers' rights, including a \$20 minimum wage. We are revitalizing a chapter in Niagara to address the unique needs of the region and to mobilize the community! Currently looking for volunteers to support with a campaign for 2 weeks paid sick days for all employees at Brock!

No New Fighter Jets Coalition

www.nofighterjets.ca

Facebook: No Fighter Jets Coalition

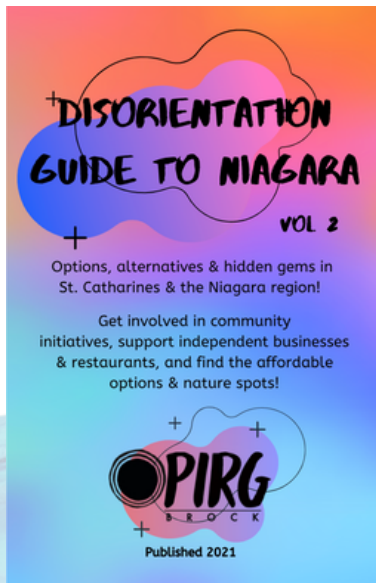
Instagram: @nofighterjets

Email: Use form on website



Over the past year, the No Fighter Jets Coalition has run numerous webinars, petitions, and in person protests fighting against the federal government's proposed purchase of 88 nuclear capable fighter jets for a sticker price of \$19 billion. In February, the coalition launched their first report detailing the true lifetime cost of the 88 fighter jets, at a whopping \$77 billion over 30 years. Going forward, we have learned that the contract will be chosen in the beginning of 2022 and signed later in the year.

Publications & Resources



We also developed many useful handouts for our workshops that are available on our website!!

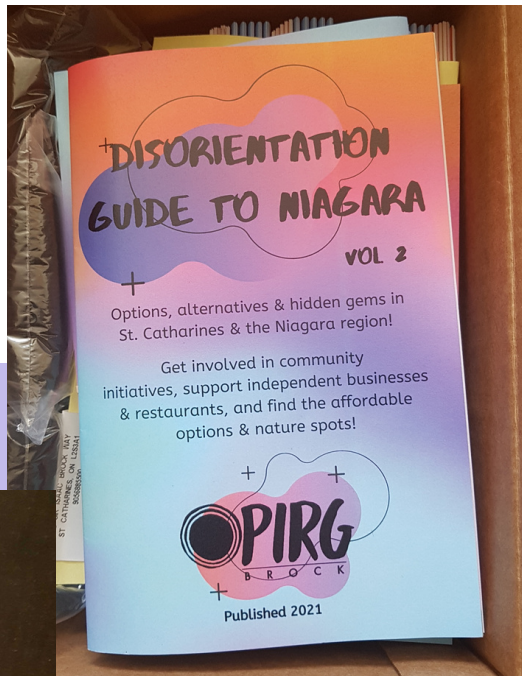
Key Community Partnerships



Faculty of Applied Health Sciences



Marketing & Communications



PUBLIC STATEMENTS

RE: JNE Recovery and Towing sign & challenging transphobia in Niagara



Marketing & Communications

Thank yous

- This year our marketing and promo was made possible through supports from Brock printing (with honorable mention to the self-print stations at Staples)

The Communications Committee

- The Board voted to make the Comms committee public so that members can join and volunteer with communications and marketing- so if you're interested in joining, let us know!

Buttons

- Our button maker was used throughout the year at tabling, to create buttons related to carrying Naloxone and for NRJ

Resource Development & Public Statements

- This year also came out with a range of resources & public statements
- All of these are available on opirgbrock.com

Website & Social Media

- This year, we updated opirgbrock.com to not only improve functionality, but host the Coming Out Monologues and Action group pages, and offer resources like a continually updated list of webinars, petitions, fundraisers, support funds, etc.
- This year we significantly expanded our social media reach, especially on Instagram where we now have over 1k followers!

Anti Racism Action Plan

At our last AGM (September 2020), we committed to implementing an Anti Racism Action Plan Committee dedicated to address previous and ongoing issues with whiteness, white supremacy, white privilege, racism, and xenophobia in our spaces, while also continuing with our commitment to increase opportunities and safe spaces for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour activists and artists.

The Anti Racism Action Plan Committee formed and the team at OPIRG Brock was able to complete the following steps this year:

- Resource sharing through the 2021 Animal Activist Calendar
- Donation to 1492 Land Back Lane Legal Fund
- Active member in the Niagara Arts Equity Coalition
- Updating the OPIRG Brock Safer Space Policy
- 3 months of reviewing organizational self-evaluation tools in preparation for evaluating OPIRG Brock
- Co-organized the Solidarity is Not A Metaphor Panel and put out an accompanying handout
- Promoting Indigenous Solidarity and Anti-Racism led resources in Niagara & across the country (Community Market, The Coming Out Monologues, The DisOrientation Guide to Niagara)
- Establishing the monthly commitment for the year ahead
- Added Indigenous solidarity component to Brock placement students' program
- Established the Anti-Racism Sponsorship budget line and primary funding priority for the year ahead

Anti Racism Action Plan

In addition to continuing the work from this past year, for the year ahead, the team at OPIRG Brock has committed to the following and will be adding more action items, as they come up:

- A regular Anti Racism Action Plan meeting schedule
- Better sharing of current policies and procedures (e.g. Safer Space policy, Incident Report) in place with all community partners, volunteer
- Establish the anti-racism evaluation process/ tool for evaluating and improving OPIRG Brock
- Reviewing our current statements of solidarity and external statements we have signed onto, and incorporate those within our policies and programs
- Reaching out to Migrant Workers Alliance for Change and Niagara Workers Welcome about accessing Action Group privileges and the option of partnering with the Niagara Free Store
- Monthly rotation of who will be sharing their land acknowledgement and commitments to Indigenous solidarity at the Public Board Meetings (including team education and resources on how to best write and share land acknowledgements in a respectful, meaningful, and action oriented manner)
- Rotating schedule for the Feedback and Concerns Liaison
- Monthly readings/ videos that will be the board and staff's monthly homework
- Requirement that all Board, Staff, placement students, and volunteers need to attend a minimum of 1 training or event per year
- Evaluation of statements of support we have issued, and what more we can be doing to support these commitments
- Open to so much more!

OPIRG Provincial

- The OPIRG Provincial Network acts as a liaison between all of the PIRG chapters throughout Ontario.
- Provincial deals with matters such as networking meetings, provincial-wide trainings, connecting with student interested in establishing PIRG chapters on their own campuses, and supporting the various chapters in upholding their rights and responsibilities to their members.
- Within Provincial each chapter works on 1 or more "Collectives". OPIRG Brock is on the "Chapter Support Collective", which is aimed at building resources that serve all the OPIRG chapters
- In addition to Brock, currently there are OPIRG chapters at Carleton University, Kingston (Queen's), McMaster, Peterborough (Trent), University of Guelph, University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo, University of Windsor, Wilfred Laurier University, York University. Additional chapters exist throughout Canada and the United States.

Goals for the year ahead

- Board transition, onboarding, and strategic planning
- Monthly commitments for further work on the Anti Racism Action Plan
- Continue pursuing contracts as a means of revenue
- Launch Patreon campaign - we need help!
- Programming will focus on the Niagara Skills Network, Niagara Free Store, and supporting other groups events

Notes

**OPIRG Brock
Hat Fundraiser!**
25% of sales go to OPIRG Brock!



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