Hello fellow KPU students!

Over the past year, KPIRG has grown in many ways: new offices, meaningful and timely events, thriving community partnerships, and intrepid action groups. We have all had a hand in getting here, and we are proud to support such active students at KPU -- all of you!

During our 2016-2017 terms in office, we’ve moved house three times! From early 2014 to 2016, we worked precariously out of the office of our allies, Pride Kwantlen, formerly located on the second floor of the Birch building at KPU Surrey campus. In June 2016, we, Directors and student members of a social justice non-profit, were displaced, pushed out, along with Pride, from this space, named, so aptly, the “Social Justice Space”.

During summer 2016, we set up shop in an unused classroom; every morning, we wheeled in our printer, computers, and supplies to the classroom, and at the end of every workday, we packed up and wheeled our office out. We also set up an open-air KPIRG office in the KPU Surrey courtyard every week, demonstrating to our student members and to our university of our commitment to our mandate despite the lack of accommodation at KPU, which is in stark contrast to the space arrangements of other PIRGs across Canada. Without even an empty classroom available to us during the fall 2016 semester, we were forced to find refuge in two small office rooms off campus, comprising less than 160 square feet for a registered non-profit Society of seven student board directors, four to five unionized staff members, and 19,000 student members.

Still lacking dignified space conducive to our mission, student engagement, and workplace physical and mental health and safety, this February 2017, we moved to our current, larger office, which will help us to be more accessible to students, as we are a stone’s throw away from the Newton Exchange bus loop. Your current KPIRG office (and lounge!) is located at Newton Village Offices #202-7380 King George Highway, Surrey. It is open to all KPU students who want to drop by or utilize the space for meetings, events, study jams, and downtime. Continuing the tradition of PIRGs before us, we provide a variety of resources to students, such as a library of books, journals, magazines, and zines, research funding, as well as the knowledge of our highly-informed, experienced, and supportive staff. We are more committed than ever to ending the space odyssey and returning home to our beloved campus to be closer to our fellow peers.

Summer 2016, we welcomed two temporary student employees tasked with events planning and student engagement and who have since continued the struggle for social justice beyond KPU. Spring 2017, we hired another temporary student staffer who is carrying the torch, acquiring invaluable skills and experience, and sharing these contributions with all of us. We are both proud and grateful to continuously support and work with such amazing students.

Our 2016-2017 term was marked by meaningful, high-quality events of contemporary relevance and urgency. Our programming drew in a great many students jazzed for social, economic, and environmental justice. We collaborated with our fellow students, faculty, and community organizations and organizers to bring to you these stimulating and interactive events. Highlights of 2016 include our annual Dis/orientation Days, Black History Month Confab, International Women’s Day, Genocide Across Space and Time, the Beehive Collective, Genocide Across Space and Time, and Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month November event are strong examples of events that endeavour to advance consciousness.

Our new offices in Newton Village afford us close proximity to other social justice community organizations and new opportunities to work together with such groups, which include Fight for $15, Organizing for People Power, Grassroots Women, and KDOCS, to name only a few.

The 2016-2017 year witnessed the rise of a robust crop of student-led, KPIRG Action Groups, each with an urgent mission: Islamophobia and Media Youth Workshop, Stigma and Drug Policy Reform, Disability Action Movement Now!, and Pipe Up Network at KPU.

This is only a glimpse of what we are all capable of achieving. On behalf of everyone at KPIRG, we would like to thank our the previous directors, staff, and YOU -- KPIRG committee members, volunteers, and all engaged KPU students -- for your steadfast support, firm commitment to the struggle for equity, and thirst for justice in all forms. Together we can and will decolonize the world around us.

Now, let us EDUCATE, ORGANIZE, and MOBILIZE one another and beyond!

In solidarity, forever,
Your Directors of KPIRG
Based out of Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s Surrey campus, the Kwantlen Public Interest Research Group (KPIRG) is a student-funded and student-directed not-for-profit, non-partisan resource centre and independent Society dedicated to social, economic, and environmental justice.

Since the 1970s, Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) have proliferated across North American campuses as a vehicle through which students mobilize, organize, and advocate for progressive social change. In 2013, KPIRG was founded at KPU Surrey by KPU students committed to social, economic, and environmental justice. Since then, KPIRG has engaged in a broad range of work, on and off campus, aimed at engaging KPU students and community allies in social, economic, and environmental justice. As a dynamic hub of progressive student activism, KPIRG strives to stand at the forefront of interrelated social, economic, and environmental struggles at KPU and in the community. We conduct research, advocacy, campus and community organizing/activism, lobbying, and educational and media campaigns, and ongoing programming.

We are non-partisan, which means that we are not allied with any particular political party. KPIRG brings together a diverse range of people, and our work is all centred on a shared set of values. This includes a commitment to anti-oppression, decolonization, and indigenous sovereignty; collective and collaborative working methods; space for continual learning and growth and self-reflectivity; self-representation and self-determination; an inclusive and safe space to build community on campus; mentorship, health and sustainability; accountability to our membership, our communities and ourselves.

We are a registered non-profit organization with our own constitution and bylaws and are, accordingly, independent from both the University and the Kwantlen Student Association. We are governed by a student-lead board of directors and use consensus decision-making as the basis for our work. We have a team of four unionized staff who carry out the work of the organization, and we aim to soon be a certified Living Wage employer.

KPIRG is funded through student fees - we receive $0.80 per credit from every enrolled student at KPU. Upon paying their student fees, all KPU students are members of KPIRG and can use the resources made available through our centre. Non-students can also become associate members of KPIRG and get involved with us. We realize that not everyone believes in the goals of KPIRG; therefore, we offer students the option to withdraw their membership during the fee refund period, which is within the first thirty days of each semester.

We work closely with other student organizations on campus, including the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA), Women Organizing Opportunities for Women (WooW), KDocs, Pride Kwantlen, AbOriginal Resurgence Community, African & Caribbean Students Association (ACSA), Students of Colour Collective (SOCC), Sustainable KSA, Fossil Free Kwantlen, Critical Criminology Working Group, and others. We also work closely with many faculty members at KPU.
Territorial Recognition & Our Values

Indigenous sovereignty and the process of decolonization globally. We acknowledge that KPIRG is on unceded Indigenous land, in the South Fraser Region, belonging to the Coast Salish peoples. Based on our current knowledge, this includes the shared traditional territories of the Kwantlen, Musqueam, Katzie, Stó:lō, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen First Nations. We believe that all people living in Canada are distorted by colonialism on an ongoing basis as it affects our identities, relationships, experiences and perceptions. Therefore, settlers also need to engage in a process of decolonization in order to transform relations with themselves, each other, Indigenous people, the land and the state.

**Inclusive space** to build community on campus; therefore we seek to support a diverse range of students in their organizing and activism towards social and environmental justice.

**Anti-oppression**; therefore, we acknowledge that systems of oppression exist, are interconnected and must be challenged on multiple fronts through a diversity of actions.

**Body sovereignty and diversity.** therefore we resist all forms of violence against all beings and all bodies. We support reproductive justice, gender diversity, migrant justice, sexual diversity and (non-human) animal rights. We encourage a critical approach to mainstream ideas around: mental & physical health; dis/ability; beauty; poverty, class & capitalism; racialization; nationalism, citizenship & statehood; sex work; prisons & punitive justice.

**Self-representation and self-determination**; therefore, we value individuals and communities working and speaking from their own experience.

**Skills-sharing,** therefore we are committed to mentorship, mutual feedback and empowering student and community leadership.

**Continual learning and growth**; therefore, we strive to be patient, self-reflective, compassionate, and have an ongoing commitment to the learning process.

**Integrity, wholeness and healing;** therefore we strive to hold space where people can be their whole selves, find support and act to bring their values & day-to-day lives into greater alignment.

**Collective and collaborative working methods;** therefore we encourage a diversity of ideas and approaches.

**Accountability to our membership,** our communities and ourselves; therefore we strive to be transparent and commit to building on past collective knowledge.

**Sustainability;** therefore we strive to live in harmony with our environment and minimize our ecological footprint. This includes supporting sustainable food systems; biodiversity; and free access to clean water.

**Respectful communication;** therefore we commit to engaging in open and respectful dialogue with anyone who is willing to do the same.
The Organization

KPIRG is governed by a volunteer board of directors. They are elected annually and they help to govern the direction, vision and growth of the organization. They take part in strategic planning, attend regular meetings, participate in KPIRG’s Committees (including HR, Policy, Street Team, Finance, Anti-Oppression, etc.), and are generally active in the organization’s work.

In keeping with our commitment to fostering the active participation of a diverse spectrum of people, KPIRG employs a consensus process for decision-making. This process stresses the co-operative development of a decision through the active search for common ground. Everyone’s support is needed to finalize the decision, so that softer or culturally undervalued voices are encouraged and attended to. It is this policy that establishes the horizontal, non-hierarchical structure above.

The current board positions and its members are:

- **Anti-Oppression (Ryat Jey/Melinda Bige):** responsible for addressing the needs of marginalized groups under our social justice mandate while providing and developing resources relating to anti-oppression.

- **Board Organizer (Kim McMartin):** responsible for providing leadership to the Society and to help carry out the goals of the organization, including the enforcement of the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures, and for arranging board meetings and board activities.

- **Campus Life (Lincey Amora):** plans diverse activities, programming, and events on campus so that KPIRG student members can enjoy an enriched, challenging, and rewarding student life.

- **Community Affairs (Russell Liu):** creates, broadens, and deepens relationships between KPIRG and external community groups to extend our presence and effect off campus and to bring external opportunities to the students.

- **Finance (Monika Saran):** oversees the spending and operations of KPIRG and creates the Annual Budget while liaising with the Accountant and Administrative Coordinator.

- **Director at Large (Brandon Gabriel):** provides overall leadership, engagement and resourcing in promoting or creating the KPIRG’s public image for individuals, groups, or organizations in consultation with the KPIRG Board.

- **Director at Large (Juan Victor Cortez):** provides overall leadership, engagement and resourcing in promoting or creating the KPIRG’s public image for individuals, groups, or organizations in consultation with the KPIRG Board.

**KPIRG Staff**

There are currently four permanent, part-time staff members and a maximum of two temporary, part-time student staff members. The student staff are employed on an academic term basis (renewable). Their responsibilities are determined by the immediate and short-term needs of the organization. The current staff positions and its personnel are:

- **Research Coordinator (Deanna Fasciani):** the architect for action-oriented research and link-builder between KPIRG and community organizations.

- **Administrative Coordinator (Richard Hosein):** responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization, including bureaucratic, administrative/office oversight.

- **Outreach and Events Coordinator (Inderpal Johal):** the creative brainchild responsible for KPIRG’s public, media outreach, events planning, and KPIRG events & marketing.

- **Volunteer Coordinator (Alex Dingiria):** responsible for volunteer recruitment, their wellbeing, growth, and mentorship within KPIRG.
Events & Programming

2ND Annual Black History Month Celebration
February 24th, 9:30AM-5:30PM, & February 25th, 11 AM-7PM
Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey

Feb. 24 organized by African Stages Association of BC
Feb. 25 organized by Students of Colour Collective (SOCC) and KPIRG

On February 24 and 25, world-renown musical and cultural performers, scholars, activists, students, and community members converged at KPU Surrey for the 2nd annual Black History Month Celebration, a free, catered, and fully public event.

Black History Month is an event of significant importance to BC, as Black History lives in the legacy of Vancouver’s Hogan’s Alley, in Vancouver Island’s 150 year-old Black community, and in the local endeavours of more recent arrivals. This recent infusion of Black cultures is evident throughout the Lower Mainland, particularly in Surrey, where many new arrivals of African and Caribbean origin call home.

The BHM event comprised panel discussions, keynote speakers, African fashion show, African-storytelling, and musical and slam poetry performances. Taking place in one of Surrey’s most ethnically diverse town centres, the BHM celebration is a forum for students, local residents, and world-renowned guests to come together to celebrate, assert, and reflect on Black History, with an emphasis on Canadian, Caribbean, and continental African contexts. Illustrious speakers discussed and shared knowledge about the struggles of Black peoples and contributions of people of African heritage to.

February 25 Presenters:
(via video message) Senator Mobina Jaffer
Ron Nicholson, VP of BC Black History Awareness Society
Prof. David Austen of John Abbott College
Panel: Dr. Charles Quist-Adade of KPU; activist Kelendria Nation of Ummunity; Nubwa Wathanafa of KPU
Storytelling with Comfort Ero of African Stages Association of BC

Musical performance by Ndidi Cascade
Slam performance by Dana Mathews
Fashion Show by designer, Sarah Iyama

International Day against Police Brutality
March 5, 2016, 5-7pm
Social Justice Space, KPU Surrey

Working-class communities demand the following:
Take money from policing and fund social supports for working class women!
Community services should be run by our communities! Stop routing money needed for community services through the police force!
Guns and police out of our schools!
Disarm the police!
Take missing women reports seriously!
Cops must deal with the misogyny, sexism, and racism within the institution.
Independent third party investigations of sexual assault and violence by the police.
Democratic control over the police!

With guest speakers,
Aiyanas Ormond and Hugh Lampkin of VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users), speaking to the “the political economy of neoliberal containment in Canada”;
Jen Allan of Vancouver Copwatch/Copbloc;
Dr. Jeff Shantz of KPU’s Critical Criminology

First Annual International Women’s Day at KPU:
Working Class Women: Over-Policed and Under-Protected!
March 14, 2016, 1-5PM
Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey

On March 14, 1-5pm, community organizers, activists, scholars, slam poets, and students converged for the First Annual International Women’s Day Celebration hosted at KPU Surrey.

International Women’s Day is a day of global consciousness-raising and action. Of significance is the origins of International Women’s Day in
the collective struggles against Imperialism and Patriarchy. International Women's Day's roots in Labour and Women's Liberation, its internationalist orientation, and its predominance among working-class communities of colour make it a contemporary imperative. In response to the lack of a meaningful commemoration of International Women's Day in the City of Surrey, a group of KPU students, through the Kwantlen Public Interest Research Group (KPIRG), organized and mobilized in order to host a community event.

KPIRG and students seek to bring International Women's Day back to its century-old roots of struggle against women's oppression under patriarchy and the class system that breeds socioeconomic inequity and elevated levels of exploitation. Given that people of colour, or "visible minorities", constitute the majority of Surrey, long overdue is a commemoration of International Women's Day that reflects this diverse composition, fosters solidarity and sisterhood, boldly embraces "Women's Liberation", and sheds light on the exploitation and oppression of working-class women in our communities.

The event, entitled Working Class Women: Over-Policed and Under-Protected!, features community organizations -- Grassroots Women and South Asian Women against Male Violence -- as well as slam poet, Jillian Christmas. Grassroots Women (represented by Jennifer Allan of Vancouver’s Cop Watch, Victoria Chen, and Martha Roberts) hosted workshops and discussions centered on working-class women’s experiences of being over-policing, over-exploited, and under-protected. South Asian Women against Male Violence (SAWAMV), represented by Brittney Sharma, led a discussion on male violence against women and stereotypes about South Asian communities with regards to violence against women in the media and in Canada. Slam poet, Jillian Christmas performed slam poetry.

KPU students converged over steamy cups of coffee, delectable treats, and tantalizing discussion spanning politics, economics, and the social. KPIRG’s coffee corners highlight the historical significance and contemporary relevance of public spaces for meaningful conversation and face-to-face interaction.

KPIRG Coffee Corners
May 18, 2016, 2-5pm, Social Justice Space, Birch, KPU Surrey
June 14, 2016, 2-5pm, Social Justice Space, Birch, KPU Surrey
July 13, 2016, KPU Surrey courtyard

KPU students converged over refreshing pints of full-bodied discussion spanning politics, economics, and the social. KPIRG’s K-Pub highlights the historical significance and contemporary relevance of public spaces for meaningful conversation and face-to-face interaction.

DEZINE Workshop
May 24, 2016, 12-4pm, Social Justice Space, Birch, KPU Surrey

What is a zine? According to Wikipedia, a zine (ˈziːn/ ZEEN; an abbreviation of fanzine or magazine) is most commonly a small circulation self-published work of original or appropriated texts and images usually reproduced via photocopier.

KPU students created and compiled their creative and thought-provoking pieces, such as artwork, stories, recipes, and more, in a collective body that KPIRG published and which can be found on the at https://kwantlenpirg.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/webzine.pdf

2nd Annual KPIRG Garden Planting Party
June 10, 2016, Westerman Garden, KPU Surrey

KPIRG is all about food security, food sovereignty, and collectivized food production to serve the needs of the community. To this end, KPIRG planted a variety of vegetables, fruits, and herbs: tomatoes, kalettes, peppers, strawberries, lettuce, onions, chives, basil, oregano, etc., for the collective enjoyment of all KPU students.
Songs and Stories of Resistance & Hope, feat. Luke Wallace
June 15, 2016, 6-8:30pm, Room 418, City Centre Library
Organized by Pipe Up; Funded by KPIRG
Luke Wallace is a 24 year old musician from Vancouver whose music is rooted in ideas of conservation and environmental action. KPIRG and fellow participants sang along in the spirit of resistance and discussed community organizing for environmental justice.

Genocide Across Space and Time
July 21, 2016, 1-5pm, Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey
Organized by SOCC & KPIRG
Genocide is the extermination project against a people, their language, culture, and spiritual cosmos. All six of the inhabited continents have been sites of genocide. Genocide can be an ongoing process and is always an exercise of power and an assertion of presumed supremacy. Genocide Across Space and Time was both a forum and opportunity for popular education, consciousness-raising, and collective action. From defense of human rights to anti-imperialist struggles, resistance to genocide manifests itself in ways as diverse as the peoples subjected to past and present genocidal campaigns. Asserting their diverse experiences while linking their struggles. Community organizers and survivors, on July 21, converged to build solidarity and build on popular movements towards liberation from structural racism, patriarchy, capitalism, and colonialism. Regions featured were Turtle Island (Americas), Armenia, Palestine, Rwanda, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (Tamil)

The keynote speakers were Tamara Starblanket, (Spider Woman), Cree, from Ahtahkakoop First Nation, Co-Chair of the North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus and the Instructor and Program Coordinator for the Aboriginal Justice Studies Certificate Program at Native Education College.

Other speakers included
The KPU Elder-in-Residence and Elder of the Kwantlen First Nation, Lekeyten Antone
Steven Newcomb, co-founder and co-director of the Indigenous Law Institute.

Shawnee/Lenape, he is author of Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (2008), and a columnist for Indian Country Today Media Network

Honore Gatera, the head of Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre in Rwanda

Varto Papasian of the Armenian Cultural Association of BC

KPU instructor, Seema Ahluwalia

Premraj Chelliah, a Vancouver-based Tamil activist and board member of the South Asian Network for Secularism & Democracy (SANSAD)

Parminder Swaich of the Surrey-based East Indian Defence Committee (EIDC), who spoke in Punjabi about the 1984 Sikh Genocude. Jashan Kaur of KPU’s Toastmasters interpreted.

Hanna Kawas of the Canada-Palestine Association & BDS movement

4 UBC students with SANSAD and speaking about Bangladesh: Sanzida Habib, Nazrul Islam, Shariful Islam, & Mustafizur Rahman

Art of Resistance V.2: Beehive Collective and Test Their Logik
July 26, 2016, 1-6pm, Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey

The Beehive Collective is an all-volunteer group of artists and activists who create giant intricate murals focused on social and environmental justice issues for use in popular education around the world. Test Their Logik is a Toronto-based hip-hop group who makes music to support social movements and freedom fighters worldwide against capitalism and colonialism. The Art Of Resistance Tour exists to cross-pollinate social justice movements throughout the territory now known as Canada to strengthen our collective resolve, highlight the intersectional nature of our struggles and oppression, and inspire resistance through art and stories. The goal of this tour stopping at KPU is to engage KPU students through art and music to get involved and active in social justice movements and causes both on campus and in the community.
Dis/orientation Days (Sept.13-23, 2016)

We are at Kwantlen September 13, 2016, 4-7pm, Aboriginal Gathering Place, KPU Surrey

Storytelling and discussion about allyship, decolonization, indigenous sovereignty, and the Kwantlen First Nation, on whose shared traditional territory KPU stands. Preceded September 30th’s Orange Shirt Day, in commemoration of the survivors and victims of the residential school system.

Guest speakers:

KPU Elder-in-resident, Lekeyten (Farley Antone) of the Kwantlen First Nation

Brandon Gabriel, renowned artist of the Kwantlen First Nation

Just Eats
September 14, 2016, 4-7pm, West 1010, KPU Langley

Critical discussion on the “labour behind the food”. This event coincided, in time and place, with KPU Langley Farmers’ Market and highlighted the ways in which, despite the rising discourse of “organic” and “local” food movements, food production within the current food system is predicated upon the exploitation of agricultural workers, many of whom live and work in precarious conditions under the Temporary Foreign Workers’ Program.

Guest speakers:

Alexandra Henao, organizer with the BC Migrant Workers Dignity Association (MWDA)

“Jorge”, a Mexican temporary foreign worker

Dr. Kent Mullinix, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

A ‘Folktivist’ Music Session with Luke Wallace

September 14, 2016, 4-7pm, Langley Farmers’ Market at KPU Langley

Luke Wallace is a 23 year old folk musician from Vancouver, Canada. His music is rooted in ideas of conservation and environmental action that some dub as ‘folktivism’. Over the last two years he has had the pleasure of working in collaboration with Indigenous communities, conservation groups and grassroots organizations in an attempt to raise awareness about conservation efforts occurring along the West Coast of Canada. Many of these projects are situated around the expansion of oil and gas pipelines that put at risk local communities and ecosystems as well as the global community as a whole. Wallace performed before a packed, family-filled crowd at the KPU Langley Farmers’ Market.

A Future without Waste
September 15, 2016, 1-4pm, Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey

Discussion about the systemic causes of waste production, community action, and lobbying for policy changes at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels.

Guest speakers:

Lucas Harris, Senior Policy Analyst at the B.C. Ministry of Environment

Jen Rustemeyer of the award-winning documentary film – The Clean Bin Project

Marilyn Yeo of Soap for Hope, an initiative of Enactus SFU and Mission Possible, a non-profit in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside

Fast Fashion
September 16, 2016, 1-4pm, Melville Centre Room B, KPU Richmond

Exploring alternatives to the Fast Fashion industry model and uncovering and exposing the super-exploitative international garment industry (production to retail), as enabled and empowered under neoliberal globalization.

This event was near and dear to the KPIRG staff’s heart, as it featured a respectful debate between the KPIRG staff (unionized with USW Local 2009) and the guest speakers, proponents of “sustainable fashion”, in front of a large audience of largely fashion design students. Of note was the discussion on unsafe working conditions and labour rights violations in Bangladeshi garment factories, who supply the
retail giant, H&M. We publicly presented Myriam Laroche with the Humanity Fund report, and Ms. Laroche expressed her intention to convey the report and our messaging to H&M.

**Guest speakers:**

*Myriam Laroche of Eco Fashion Week – one of the world’s leading experts on environmentally “sustainable fashion” and collaborator with H&M*

*Irina McKenzie of FrameworQ*

*KPIRG staff (USW Local 2009)*

**Tai Chi & Chai Tea**

**September 19, 2016, 12-1pm, Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey**

Taking Tai Chi back to its origins, this event was part of a broader “Decolonizing Tai Chi” movement, eschewing the consumerism and cultural appropriation that characterizes contemporary Western, capitalist Tai Chi practices. Chai tea was also served! In no small token did the event title and content reflect the sizeable Asian (South and East) composition of KPIRG and broader community.

*Tai Chi instructors from the Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism.*

**Workers' Rights Outreach**

**September 20, 2016, all-day, KPU Surrey courtyard**

Day-long tabling, outreach activities, and social investigation at KPU Surrey campus. KPIRG staff distributed the Humanity Fund report, Workers’ Rights and Safety: After Rana Plaza, providing background to Rana Plaza and linking the struggles of Bangladeshi garment workers to our labour struggles domestically. KPIRG staff also hosted “Employment Standards Act trivia” as part of our social investigation, where we informed KPU students of their labour rights under the Act and the history behind the gutting of the Act, while also learning of the working conditions and concerns of the student body. We also distributed Fight for $15 materials and collected student signatures for the petition.

**Women's Liberation**

**September 21, 2016, 1-4pm, Cedar 1205, KPU Surrey**

Although the “F”-word (Feminism!) has been gaining traction in speak and public consciousness, the struggle for “Women’s Liberation” is as necessary as ever. Women’s Liberation is best understood as emancipation from capitalism and patriarchy, which are at the root of women’s exploitation and oppression. We placed particular emphasis on working-class women’s experiences: precarious and super-exploited workers, such as temporary foreign workers (ie. caregivers), women on government income assistance, Aboriginal women, etc. We took care to link local with global working-class women’s experiences, tracing the experiences of super-exploited garment workers to those of low-wage retail workers. Attendees participated in a workshop-style format.

**Guest speakers:**

*Grassroots Women Collective:*

*Martha Roberts, midwife and M.Ed of SFU*

*Victoria Chen of Westcoast Leaf and Chinatown Action Group*

*Jennifer Allan of Vancouver CopWatch and aboriginal community organizer*

**Housing Crisis**

**September 23, 2016, 4-7pm, Main 3830, KPU Surrey**

A forum on the housing crisis in Metro Vancouver, shelter as a human need and right, commodification and privatization of space, mobility of financial capital and absence of government regulation, diminishing to nonexistent social safety net, and community organizing for immediate measures and long-term structural and systemic changes

**Guest speakers:**

*Jannie Leung of Chinatown Action Group*

*Dave Diewert and Herbert of the Alliance against Displacement*
Events & Programming

Fair Trade Campus Week Outreach
September 26-30, 2016, all KPU campuses
KPIRG was responsible for ensuring that KPU's four campuses were among the 40 campuses across Canada partaking in the nationwide Fair Trade Campus Week event. KPIRG is a long-time Fair Trade advocate. Come to the KPIRG office to enjoy a steamy, complimentary mug of exquisite fair trade coffee...It's on us!

Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month event
November 16, 2016, 4-7pm,
Room 1804-5, KPU Langley
Organized by Disability Action Movement Now! (D.A.M.N.), a KPIRG Action Group
Guest Speakers/Organizations:
(via video message) The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sports and Persons with Disabilities
BC Aboriginal Network for Disabled Society
Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association
Inclusion BC
National Educational Association for Disabled Students
Langley Pos-Abilities Society

Organizing for People Power Community Discussion Series (January 17-25, 2017)
An emancipatory series of community discussions based on real life organizing experiences, organized by Grassroots Organizing for Reform & Revolution:
Local Victories and Lessons from the Vancouver Bus Riders Union
Tuesday January 17, 5pm, room FIR 240
Looking Forward - Looking Back: The Black Panther Party and People Power
Thursday January 19, 2pm, room FIR 232
Transformation and Liberation: Learning from the Philippine Revolution
Monday, January 23, 2pm, room CEDAR 2005

Organizing For People Power: Can we build a grassroots movement to change everything in Surrey?
Wednesday, January 25, 5pm, room Fir 232

Exploring Satire with the Simpsons
Grassroots Cafe, KPU Surrey
Popular culture, in the form of installments from The Simpsons, provides an insight to an extended exploration of global and local issues that are commonly used as themes in many episodes. Whether it is South Park, the Simpsons, or Boondocks, cartoons have a way of invoking emotions and moments of realization through humour. This pairing of popular culture with societal dilemmas and current events allow for an opportunity of in-depth analysis. What does the humour tell us? What do these wacky Simpsons episodes have in common with the ordinary being? What have the Simpsons predicted so far? Join KPIRG while we lead these engaging and meaningful discussions, after watching a full Simpsons episode, of course!

February 23, 2017, 12-3PM
A focus on the labour movement & unions.

March 2, 2017, 12-3PM
A focus on sexual violence against women: assault allegations and sexual harassment at work.

March 16, 2017, 2-5PM
A focus on sexualization and objectification of women.

April 5, 2017, 10-5PM
Multiple episodes covering themes of homophobia, environmentalism, disability, capitalist vs. worker, senior care, unpaid reproductive labour done by women, etc.

International Women's Day
March 8, 2017, 12-4pm
KPU Surrey, Cedar 1205
International Women's Day is a day of global consciousness-raising and action. Of significance are the origins of International Women's Day in the collective struggles against Imperialism and Patriarchy. International Women's Day's roots in
Labour and Women’s Liberation, its internationalist orientation, and its predominance among working-class communities of colour make it a contemporary imperative. It is in this vein that KPIRG and students seek to bring International Women’s Day back to its roots of struggle against women’s oppression and exploitation under patriarchy and the class system that breeds socioeconomic inequity. Women’s Day seeks to bring working-class women together to raise collective consciousness, organize, mobilize, and act for change. On March 8, community organizers, activists, critical scholars, slam poets, and students converged at KPU for an afternoon of emancipatory conversations, activities, reflection, planning, and celebration. For the event, we focused on the experiences of working-class women of colour; policing of working-class communities of colour; structural racism; hyper-exploitation of women and precarious work; ie. temporary foreign worker program; eroding public services and spaces for women; male violence against women

Guest presenters:

Grassroots Women: Jen Allan, Aboriginal community organizer and co-founder of Vancouver CopWatch, & Martha Roberts, midwife and community organizer

Parminder Swaich of the East Indian Defense Committee

Adriana Smetzer of West Coast Domestic Workers’ Association

Itrath Syed, Phd candidate of Simon Fraser University

Guest performance

Sumaiya Tufail, slam poet
KPIRG Grants Program

How much $ did KPIRG annually dole out to students and community members in the form of grants?

- 2 small grants of up to $500 and 1 large grant of up to $1000 per semester, totaling 9 grants/year valued at up to $6,000 per year

What were the grants application submission deadlines?

- SUMMER DEADLINE: June 30
- FALL DEADLINE: October 31
- SPRING DEADLINE: February 28

How did KPIRG award grants?

*The Board approves or denies a grant application at the first board meeting following the grants application deadline. The successful applicant will receive notification via email.*

How many applicants and recipients have there been since KPIRG’s inception?

*Since 2014, KPIRG has awarded, annually, thousands of dollars of grant funding to KPU students and campus and community groups and organizers.*

For 2016, the figures are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Grants Budgeted ($CA)</th>
<th>Number of Grant Applications</th>
<th>Grants Funds Requested ($CA)</th>
<th>Grants Approved ($CA)</th>
<th>Grants Awarded ($CA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>325.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All 2016</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16,700</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>3,325.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KPIRG’s 2016 Grants Recipients:

Spring

- Janice Jotika Samant’s Brown Body Stories Zine and Album Launch: A Night of Shameless and Truth-Telling/A Night of Song, Performances, Art, and Community-Sharing ($500)
- May 2017 Zine Launch event at KPU Richmond
- The Media Co-op/The Dominion ($500)

Summer

- Kdocs Community Outreach Initiative: KPU Richmond screening of The Mask You Live In ($300)
- ENG 4300 practicum students organizing the July 28, 2016, special KDOCS screening of How We Got Gay and Transforming Gender at KPU Surrey ($400)

Fall

- Kwantlen Documentary Film Festival (KDOCS)-Bronze Sponsorship ($1,000)
- Nahz Empowerment of Women and Girls ($500)
- Rising Up Against Unjust Recruitment ($500)
KPIRG has received grants from a number of sources:

Municipal Government

- 2016 City of Surrey Community Promotion Grant: $2,000 and $750 for Black History Month and International Women's Day 2016, respectively
- 2017 City of Surrey Community Promotion Grant: $500 and $500 for future 2017 events on November as Aboriginal Disability Awareness Month and Refugees in Surrey, respectively

Federal Government (Employment and Social Development Canada)

- 2016 Canada Summer Jobs Grant of $3,135.00; used to hire one KPIRG student staffer over summer 2016

Financial Institution

- 2016 Vancity Community Partnership Program -- Mission-based Grant of $2,800; used for Dis/O Days 2016

Not-for-Profit

- 2016 Steelworkers Humanity Fund of $2,000; used for Dis/O Days 2016.
KPIRG's Community Action Research Project Program (CARPP) was founded as a countervailing force to the oppressive tendencies often reproduced by post-secondary institutions. Universities have historically served to uphold exploitative and oppressive systems, such as capitalism, patriarchy, and structural racism (altogether known as Imperialism).

Situated in our communities, these educational institutions often extract data and resources from our communities, without meaningful exchange, and leave behind little in the way of substantial, net benefits. Such extractive research objectifies community organizing and activism and co-opts popular, grassroots knowledge and movements in ways that reinforce the power inequity between researcher and the groups that they represent (academic, corporate, state), on the one hand, and the community, on the other.

By focusing our resources on groups and individuals in search of theory, information, and the energy to supply them, CARPP encourages students to consciously wield their institutional advantage and convert it into a useful tool for political action. CARPP connects KPU students with local, progressive, non-profit community organizations that need research but lack the financial and informational resources. By taking part in CARPP, KPU students can integrate more community-directed, transformative research into their education while engaging in crucial community organizing.

KPIRG's CARP is one of similar programs found at other PIRGs across Canada, namely OPIRG-Ottawa's Community Research Project (CRP), QPIRG's Community-University Research Exchange (CURE), and, formerly, SFPIRG's Action Research Exchange (ARX). As with grassroots, community organizing, we choose research tools to fit the specific issue being explored and the research needs of communities with whom we are working. Methodologies include, but are not limited to, participatory action research.

KPIRG's Research (CARPP) Coordinator is tasked with supporting student researchers in conducting original research on community-based issues. Students and community members participating in our CARPP program receive training, mentorship, and hands-on research experience.

**Mandate of CARP**

- to channel the academic resources and privilege of the university setting towards marginalized community organizations working towards social change, while taking direction from those community organizations and respecting their autonomy over their research needs.

- to facilitate productive, mutually transformative collaboration and solidarity between students and community organizers in a way that redefines the boundary between the university and the communities in which the university is situated and, thereby, promoting socially relevant and useful community-based research and political action.

- to inform students about PAR and community organizing and broaden students' academic horizons by providing them with the resources to perform relevant, action-oriented academic work.

*KPIRG's CARP Program can be used for course credit in the classroom or as an independent project on the part of the student.*
Community Action Research Project Program (CARPP) at KPIRG

Each semester, KPIRG offers two student research positions, each accompanied by a semesterly honorarium.

Student Researchers in Action:
CARP Projects of 2016 and beyond

A Place Where Everyone Belongs: Experiences of Students with Disabilities at KPU
(The following is adapted from the research proposal of the study indicated above)

In 2015, self-identified students with disabilities, who registered with KPU's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), accounted for nearly 4 percent of the KPU student population. Critical assessment of the extent of accessibility and accommodation for self-identified students with disabilities at KPU is imperative.

This research project aims to:

- raise awareness around the physical, academic, financial, cultural, and other barriers facing KPU students with disabilities.
- effect progressive policy change at KPU by forming the foundation for future accessibility and accommodations policies.

The three co-investigators of this research study are all KPU students, with several identifying as students with a disability. As part of this study, these student researchers, who are also members of Disability Action Movement Now! (D.A.M.N.), a student group on campus, will be 1) conducting interviews with KPU students who self-identify as living with one or multiple disabilities and gathering student testimonials; 2) administering an online survey; 3) engaging in institutional and policy analysis.

One direct, public benefit stemming from this research is increased awareness among students, faculty, staff, and administrators at KPU of barriers facing KPU's students with disabilities and of structures, processes, and mechanisms for inclusion. The knowledge produced and disseminated in the published results will serve as a potent educational tool. Additionally, this study will offer an opportunity for institutional self-reflection, self-assessment, and growth, as well as for students to share their experiences and perspectives and influence policy. Quantitative and qualitative data obtained through this study may help to form the basis of accessibility and accommodations policies at KPU. Ultimately, this research endeavours to assert disability rights as human rights and promote a more inclusive and accessible campus environment for students of all abilities.

Upon completion, the student researchers will be submitting this report and accompanying policy proposal to KPU's President's Diversity and Equity Committee (PDEC) for deliberation in fall 2017 and possible adaptation or adoption thereafter.

Sexual Violence on Campus: A Comparative Study of Policies, Procedures, and Services at Select Post-Secondary Institutions in B.C.

In 2016, the Provincial Government mandated that post-secondary institutions devise and adopt a policy on Sexual Violence & Misconduct within a predetermined timeframe and following the parameters outlined in Bill 23, the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act. On February 1, 2017, KPU unveiled its first drafts of SR14 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and SR14 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedures. The proposed policy and procedures came in the wake of a series of KPU-hosted community consultations, or “Community Conversations”, which took place in October and November 2016 on all four KPU campuses. The community conversations were open to all KPU faculty and students. KPU hosted two
additional consultations on the Surrey Campus on the request of KPIRG. KPIRG Directors, staff, and volunteers participated in several of these consultations.

This CARPP proposal aims to analyze KPU’s new Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and attendant procedures, in addition to other KPU policies and procedures, as they pertain to sexual violence on campus and/or involving KPU community members.

One KPU student has been enlisted as the KPIRG-CARPP student researcher.

Together with the CARPP Coordinator, the student researcher will

1. Analyze
   - university responses to sexual assault tracking and public disclosures;
   - survivors’ disclosures to KPU security and/or KPU administration and/or law enforcement;
   - follow-up services on campus and referrals to off campus services/programs;
   - communication/reporting chains; and
   - relationship between KPU administration, KPU-contracted security, and law enforcement.

2. Compare KPU policies and procedures with those found at other public post-secondary institutions in BC.

3. Submit findings and recommendations to KPU for consideration for possible revision of KPU policy and/or procedures.

National Energy Board Data Mining Project (Completed in spring 2016)

KPIRG enlisted a three-person team of KPU students to conduct the National Energy Board data mining project for the community non-profit, the Pipe Up Network. The student researchers reviewed written and oral summary arguments from select municipalities, which were submitted to previously-held NEB hearings on the proposed Kinder Morgan-Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The student researchers composed brief summaries of the submissions, thereby clarifying the municipalities’ positions on the proposed pipeline expansion; identified expert studies commissioned by the municipalities; and extracted data from the submissions that support concerns about the pipeline proposal. Social, economic, and environmental concerns included costs to local governments, emergency response procedures, human health effects, and environmental impacts. Each student was assigned to one of either Surrey and Metro Vancouver, Chilliwack and the Fraser Valley Regional District, and Abbotsford and the Township of Langley.
2016 – 2017 KPIRG Endorsements

2017.01.23 - Letter to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Skills by Rising Up
2016.11.17 - 6th Annual End Violence Against Women Candlelight Vigil
2016.11.02 - Rising Up Against Unjust Recruitment Coalition & Campaign
2016.11.02 - Stop Demovictions Burnaby Campaign organized by the Alliance Against Displacement
2016.11.02 - Stop Kinder Morgan: No Consent No Pipeline March & Rally
2016.10.19 - Before the Flood documentary film screening at KPU
2016.10.06 - Grassroots Women Class Presentation
2016.10.06 - Submit Community Membership for BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
2016.10.06 - People’s Defense (now named Organizing for People Power [OPP])
2016.10.06 - LaxU’U’La (Lelu) Defenders
2016.06.22 - The Canadian Fair Trade Network’s letter to Tim Hortons
2016.03.17 - Next Up & anti-Trans Pacific Partnership movement mobilization
2016.02.15 - Endorse & Sponsoring of Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) event
2016.02.15 - Endorse & Sponsoring of 2-day Black History Month Confabulation
2016.06.22 - The Canadian Fair Trade Network’s letter to Tim Hortons
## KPIRG 2017 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Item</th>
<th>Projected 2017 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>250,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>8,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>259,285</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and Benefits (Staff &amp; Elected)</td>
<td>176,364.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Development</td>
<td>4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and Administration</td>
<td>38,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming and Events</td>
<td>12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARPP - Research</td>
<td>2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>20,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach and Media</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Acquisitions (from reserves)</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>281,084.71</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>2,070.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>22,929.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Testimonials

Gurpreet Khangura, 3rd year Accounting Student
"KPIRG provides a comfortable and safe space to hang out and be yourself. Participating is a good way to give back to the community. I tried other organizations, on and off campus, but they are not approachable."

Mehak Sandhu, 1st year Computer Information Systems Student
"KPIRG provides us opportunities to work closely with community and raise awareness about issues that are affecting us and the community. The opportunities that are provided and supported with are not offered anywhere else on campus."

Justin Bige, 3rd year Creative Writing Student
"KPIRG is a safe space for students to actually be able to take deep breath from oppressive systems in today's world, and to focus on research and collaborate with each other including faculty. KPIRG is a social justice organizing hub that is not comparable to other organizations at KPU campuses."

Lenee Son 4th year Journalism Student
"KPIRG is deeply committed to intersectional social justice principals, which is reflected in their work on campus. They work towards making KPU a safe and inclusive space for students; organize amazing events such as their 2015 BHM conference with guest speaker former Black Panther Chairwoman, Elaine Brown; and assist students in taking action pertaining to social, environmental, and economic justice. Without the support of KPIRG, I also would not be able to make my first documentary! I'm currently co-directing a documentary on trans rights, which KPIRG is sponsoring. If you're passionate about social, environmental, or economic justice, I wholeheartedly recommend you check out KPIRG!"

Justine Nelson, PIPE UP Network Chapter Coordinator
"From a personal perspective, KPIRG is part of the reason I am doing the work I do today. I came to my first PIPE UP meeting because KPIRG invited them to campus. The organization is full of supportive and passionate people who immediately made me feel welcome and have continuously encouraged and supported me. When I graduated I was hired as the Coordinator for PIPE UP, which has led to many exciting opportunities. PIPE UP is now an official KPIRG action group and we've done a lot of great work together, including being part of the campaign to get KPU to back out of a deal with Kinder Morgan. It was a very powerful moment. They have also provided support to other initiatives and helped us reach out to the student population. We wouldn't have the presence we do on campus if it wasn't for KPIRG's support. I look forward to the day they get space on campus again!"

Catherine Kruger, KPU Student and Co-founder of Disability Action Movement Now! (D.A.M.N.!
"On behalf of the Disability Action Movement Now (D.A.M.N.!) I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Kwantlen Public Interest Research Group (KPIRG) for their continuous support in our efforts to raise awareness around disability and accessibility at KPU. Disability is a concern of and for all Canadian citizens and residents. Through hosting public events we enable consciousness about the significant barriers to access of disability support services, social marginalisation, structures and attitudes towards disability, and inappropriate services for persons with disabilities. The Kwantlen Public Interest Research Group (KPIRG) is a non-profit that will work to this end in solidarity to assist in making changes and improving the learning experiences for students with disabilities in the KPU community and beyond. As a collective with KPIRG members and their sponsorship, we at D.A.M.N.! we can further our aspirations to raise awareness around disability and accessibility, underscore the need for equitable access to services, resources, and education, and advocate for the full and meaningful inclusion of all people with disabilities."

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Volunteer with KPIRG!

Volunteers are a valuable resource for our organization and staff. By volunteering, you will not only help your fellow KPU students, but also strengthen our workplace and promote community involvement through educational and action-oriented means.

Volunteering with KPIRG includes, but is not limited:

- General support on an as-needed basis, e.g. topical research, tabling at events, button-making.
- Joining or creating an action group (click here for more info on action groups).
- Joining a KPIRG Committee, where you participate in internal, collaborative decision-making.
- Having a specific volunteer job within KPIRG, e.g. office administrator, critical contributor.
- Having a specific volunteer job with external organizations that KPIRG supports.

Or you can start an action group!

An action group is a KPIRG mandated group of individuals collectively working towards a social and/or environmental justice goal.

We provide logistical support to help your group achieve your goal. Please talk to us if you’re interested in getting an action going.

Past and Current Action Groups:

Pipe-UP Network
Disability Action Movement Now! (D.A.M.N!)
Fossil Free Kwantlen
Lehar Manifesto
Anti-Stigma & Drug Policy Reform Action Group
Islamophobia and Media Youth Workshop Action Group

facebook.com/KPIRG | twitter: @KwantlenPIRG | instagram: KPIRG | www.kpirg.ca | staff@kpirg.ca
Mailing Address
12666 72nd Avenue, Surrey, BC, Unceded Coast Salish Territories, V3W 2M8

Administrative Offices:
Newton Village #204 - 7380 King George Hwy., Surrey, B.C., V3W 5A5
Unceded Coast Salish Territories

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Monday - Friday