



September 2014 Members Meeting Agenda

Date: September 25, 2014

Item	Minutes
1. Review of Meeting Rules and Agreement	10
2. Approval of Agenda	5
3. Approval of minutes from previous meetings	N/A
4. What is WPIRG? – Presentation by the Board of Directors	20
a. Presentation of 2014-2015 Timeline (Attachment #1)	
b. Presentation of 2014-2015 Budget (Attachment #2)	
c. Role of Members Meeting in WPIRG's Structure	
5. Action Groups Updates & Announcements	15
6. New Action Group Applications	15
a. Waterloo350 – (Attachment #3)	
7. Interim Director Presentations	25
8. Endorsement of 1 Columbia Campaign (Attachment #4)	15
9. Funding Applications	30
a. Alternatives Journal Internship (Attachment #5)	
b. WCCC-Toronto Chile Solidarity Event (Attachment #6)	
10. Member Motions	N/A
11. Announcements from Associated Clubs/Groups	5



September 2014 Members Meeting Agenda Attachment #3

ACTION GROUP APPLICATION FORM

Tentative Name of the Group: Waterloo 350

Name of Contact Person:

Please provide a description of your Action Group (refer to www.wpirg.org for examples of action group descriptions):

Waterloo350 is a growing group of dedicated volunteers, based at the University of Waterloo, who are working to reduce climate destabilization. We are in the process of becoming a local chapter of 350.org– an international environmental group which is building a global movement to solve the climate crisis.

The starting point for our actions is the belief that the climate problem is a fossil fuel problem. There is no way to burn coal, oil, and gas without adding to the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. CO₂ levels are already dangerously high, so we need to develop ways to transition the global economy away from fossil fuel energy, and toward zero-carbon forms of energy that we can rely on indefinitely. We need to find a way to create the political will and commitment, at all levels of society, to leave as much of the world's remaining coal, oil, and gas underground.

The University of Waterloo is heavily invested in the fossil fuel industry. Governments and organizations around the world have recognized warming of 2°C as the threshold where climate change will become dangerous. If we want to stay below that limit, we can emit no more than 565 billion tonnes (gigatonnes) of carbon dioxide. Global fossil reserves contain 2,795 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide, more than enough to drive humanity off the 2°C trajectory.

Waterloo350 encourages the University of Waterloo to mitigate its climate change impact, by developing a campaign to divest the University from fossil fuel infrastructure and to redirect investment funds to support sustainable, zero-carbon energy options. The group uses education and awareness events, online campaigns including through social media, petitions, direct contact with decision-makers, and other tools to achieve these objectives.

Please outline the mission and goals of your Action Group:

The mission of our group is to develop and implement strategies and campaigns in response to the climate crisis, working on a local level with the University of Waterloo serving as the focus for our actions.

Toward this objective, our first campaign is calling on the University of Waterloo to sell its stock holdings in the 200 global fossil fuel companies that own the largest quantities of coal, oil, and gas. If we want to avoid dangerous climate change, no more than 20% of these reserves can be burned, and yet the business plans of these firms are to burn everything, while continuing to pursue new sources of unconventional fossil fuels, such as by drilling in the arctic. Because the stockmarket value of these companies depends on the outdated assumption that they will always be able to pollute without limit, selling these holdings will protect the university from the drop in their value that will accompany serious regulation of greenhouse gas pollution. Our divestment campaign will set up tangible goals for each term such as targeting individual faculty endowment funds and establishing support from various parts of the campus community.

Throughout the campaign we will also be working to link the climate justice movement to larger social justice issues that we see as integral to the movement. While our group will be focusing on divestment as it's current priority, we may also consider taking on other climate justice initiatives if there is particular interest from members of the group and/or on campus.

Please describe how your Action Group fits within WPIRG's mandate:

WPIRG's mandate is to support social and environmental justice initiatives on campus. As a student-run campaign seeking to take specific and direct action to end our university's financial relationship with climate-causing fossil fuel industry, we consider ourselves an environmental justice group. In saying we are an environmental justice group, we want to emphasize that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect marginalized communities, be they poor communities, indigenous communities, or located in the Global South. These impacts of climate change will be structured based on existing social and economic inequalities but exacerbate conflict and inequalities that will further harm those already disenfranchised by capitalism and colonialism. Waterloo 350 and the fossil fuel divestment campaign plans to address these broader climate justice issues by bringing the campus-based movement to UW and educating students. For this reason WPIRG seems the most appropriate home for our group on campus.

Is your Action Group affiliated with any other organizations or groups on campus or in the community?

We would be affiliated with 350.org and receive some outreach materials and basic social media support from them while also working as part of a network of 350 chapters and Fossil Free campaigns. Through 350 we would also probably have an informal affiliation with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition and their staff. On a local level we may also develop closer ties with a divestment campaign happening on a citywide level but we would likely continue as two separate groups.

In addition to financial support, how do you see WPIRG supporting your Action Group?

Ongoing support from WPIRG that would be helpful to the action group include recruitment support, promotions, campaign planning guidance, and help building stability to deal with turnover between terms and years.



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Whereas a large number of UW students and WPIRG members have been negatively impacted by the construction delays at 1 Columbia; and

Whereas students have as of yet been unsuccessful in having rental deposits returned despite the breach of contract; and

Whereas many students are interested in taking further action to win back deposits; therefore

Be it resolved that the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group endorse a campaign to win back deposits for the tenants of 1 Columbia; and

Be it further resolved that WPIRG agrees to cover any ancillary costs associated with the campaign including the cost of filing claims with the Landlord & Tenant Board;



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Proposal: A WPIRG-funded editorial internship at A\J

A\J – *Alternatives Journal* – is an environmental magazine based in KW. Founded at Trent in 1971, and housed in the University of Waterloo’s Faculty of Environment since 1984, we cover both Canadian and international environmental news and solutions. Blending ecological, social, political and economic perspectives, A\J provides a deeper level of analysis than is usually found in the mainstream press. Issues are thematically focused, presenting in-depth exploration of specific topics like water conservation, climate change, green energy, and so on.

We also publish near-daily content online and a digital edition of the magazine, as well as our sponsored subscriptions for students – we have partnered with 15 (so far) universities and colleges in Canada to provide free access to the magazine to their environmental students. WPIRG is an A\J subscriber and we’ve worked together on many things over the last 20 years, including helping to provide our full-time staff with health insurance back in the day.

For years, we have hosted University of Waterloo work-study students – up to 7 each semester – in a variety of roles, from editorial to marketing. Unfortunately, the Faculty of Environment decided to change the nature of our relationship in April of this year, and, in addition to reducing our funding and not renewing our office space past April 2015, they are no longer providing these work-study positions, which, as you can imagine, has left us struggling to keep up.

We prioritize giving our work-study students essential and meaningful work, and many return year after year to complete another term with us. A number of former interns have also gone on to full-time positions at the magazine, and/or used their experience at A\J to launch careers elsewhere.

Because our interns are so integrated and do such important work – and because we believe in paying people for their contributions whenever possible – we are hesitant to fill these roles solely with volunteers. We also know that these positions are fantastic experiences for the students and very much want to continue offering them.

This is where WPIRG comes in.

While environmental issues and research haven’t been a key focus in recent years, WPIRG’s roots are in researching and promoting environmental change. Partnering with A\J to offer an internship to a UW undergraduate student will help WPIRG provide part-time employment to one or more students, and to fulfill the research and environmental aspects of your mandate.

Below is the model we have developed with LSPiRG, which we would be happy to modify to suit WPIRG, and below *that* is the job description currently being circulated to Laurier students.

LSPiRG Editorial Internship Agreement with A\J

LSPiRG's contribution:

1. Circulate the job posting to Laurier students.
2. Participate in interviews and the final hiring decision, and arrange interview space on campus.
3. Pay one student at a rate of \$12.00 an hour, up to 80 hours per semester, for two semesters (Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 as a pilot program). (\$960 base funding, plus EI, vacation pay, etc)
4. Generate an hours tracking sheet and administer payroll.
5. Check in with the intern throughout the job term and facilitate evaluation of the program.

A\J's contribution:

1. Promote the job posting on the A\J website and social media.
2. Receive applications, select interviewees and schedule interviews.
3. Participate in interviews and the final hiring decision.
4. Assign work and supervise the intern on a day-to-day basis.
5. Review and confirm submitted hours on the tracking sheet.
6. Provide initial training and ongoing mentorship and feedback to the intern.
7. Recognize LSPiRG on the A\J website and in organizational materials.
8. Run at least one advertisement about PIRGs across Canada in the magazine, with final approval from LSPiRG.

We are open to increasing the number of hours per week, maximum number of hours per semester, and hourly rate of pay. We are also open to having multiple positions, or different students each semester. One student the whole time is obviously easier for us, but we also understand if WPIRG wants to offer more opportunities.

If this is successful, we'd also be happy to host summer interns, either part- or full-time, and to discuss other internships (events, outreach, marketing, etc) in the future.

One way to increase the benefits for WPIRG would be to have the editorial intern spend some of their hours compiling an e-book from archival content, or something along those lines, that could have WPIRG's name on it.

Job posting

LSPiRG Editorial Internship at A\J

A\J, or Alternatives Journal, is Canada's environmental magazine, featuring intelligent analysis, inspiring stories and smart solutions to today's environmental problems. We publish a bimonthly print magazine, a digital edition and a busy website.

A\J believes in providing meaningful, unique opportunities for students and volunteers to gain valuable experience and develop useful skills. We welcome driven, enthusiastic contributors to help us create, market and distribute A\J in Canada and abroad, and to deliver our special events and education initiatives.

The LSPiRG Editorial Internship pays \$12/hour, for 8-10 hours a week, up to a maximum of 80 hours per term, for two terms (Fall 2014 and Winter 2015). Hours of work are flexible and will mostly take place at A\J's downtown Kitchener office, around

the corner from the Charles Street Bus Terminal. The internship is open to Laurier undergraduate students.

Job Description

You will bring your skills and passion for publishing and environmental communication to assist A\J's editorial team, reporting to various staff members. You'll work within a small-office environment with a dedicated, diverse, fun-loving, hard-working team to create, promote and distribute A\J both in print and online. You need strong research skills, an eye for detail and an unrelenting drive to find the answer – because if we can't prove it, we can't print it.

Duties

- Fact-check articles for publication in A\J
- Contribute written content to the magazine and/or website as assigned
- Prepare research for longer articles/projects or sidebars
- Carry out or contribute to miscellaneous projects as assigned
- Help with proofing process and promotional efforts
- Complete organizational tasks as assigned
- Check in with LSPIRG staff twice per semester (additional support will be provided by LSPIRG when needed)

Qualifications

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong understanding of environmental issues
- Tenacity and excellent research skills (fact-checking experience is an asset)
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to manage and prioritize multiple ongoing projects
- Professional demeanour in all communications

How to apply

Email jobs @ alternativesjournal.ca with a cover letter, resume and one or two writing samples by September 15, 2014 at 9:00 am. Interviews will be conducted with A\J and LSPIRG on campus September 18th and 19th and the position starts the week of September 22nd.



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APPLICATION FORM

Tentative Name of initiative: For the Right to Exist, Resist and Overcome
Name of Contact Person:

Please provide a description of your initiative (include mention of the type of initiative – project, group, event, campaign etc.):

The Women's Coordinating Committee for a Free Wallmapu will be hosting a political solidarity event in commemoration of Chile's September 11th Coup of 1973, and unto yet another anniversary of Chilean Independence (held on Sept 18th), which represents the ongoing plunder, displacement and genocide of our Mapuche indigenous Peoples as well as the criminalization of dissent since the inception of the Chilean State. We are therefore having this event to create awareness of the current situation of Mapuche and Anti-Authoritarian Political Prisoners, connecting the issues of ongoing land claims struggles both in Wallmapu and here on Turtle Island. In this way, we will be bringing in special guest speakers from various indigenous territories, including Miranda Dick of the Secwepemc Womens' Warrior Society directly from the West Coast, who will be presenting on the recent Imperial Oil spill in "BC;" we will also be hosting Melissa Elliott, from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory to speak on the recent Line 9 occupation along the Haldimand Track.

Moreover, we will also be screening the feature Mapuche Indigenous documentary, *NEWEN MAPUCHE: the Strength of the People of the Land*. The documentary is filmed and directed by Elena Varela on the plight of the Mapuche indigenous People criminalized by the Chilean government under the Anti-Terrorist Law. In the film, she compiles the data of various events, becomes acquainted with Mapuche leaders, prisoners and underground Warriors, who elaborate on why they struggle, but is unaware that she is also being investigated and surveyed by State intelligence. On May 7th, 2008, Elena is arrested under a judicial set-up during the filmmaking process and has all her material confiscated, narrating her own personal and lived experience with political persecution. The night will begin 6pm with the film screening and followed by a meal and the speaking event at 8PM, which will take place on Saturday, September 27th 2014, at OISE 252 Bloor Street West, Room 2212 in the University of Toronto, and is sponsored by Rising Tide Toronto.

Please outline the mission and goals of your initiative:

We are having this event to create awareness of the current situation of Mapuche and Anti-Authoritarian Political Prisoners, connecting the issues of ongoing land claims struggles both in Wallmapu and here on Turtle Island.

Please describe how your initiative fits within WPIRG's mandate (refer to above mandate):

Considering that our goal with this initiative is to recognize the intersection with indigenous, environmental and prison justice issues across the continent, our mission with this initiative fits completely within the

WPIRG mandate in pursuing an integrative analysis, of social and environmental justice issues as a whole. Moreover, in creating links between local and global struggles (such as that of the Mapuche People in southern Chile as well as indigenous Peoples here on Turtle Island), we are not only respecting and encouraging ecosystem integrity, we are also motivating community participation and responsibility by encouraging community members to become more aware of these issues and open the door for discussion on how to engage with these issues further.

Is your initiative affiliated with any other organizations or groups on campus or in the community?

We are an OPIRG Toronto action group

What is the amount of funding that you are requesting? (Please attach a tentative budget, be as detailed as possible and include other sources of revenue)

\$1000 to cover the outstanding (especially travel) costs of the event. Please see attached proposal with budget attached.

In addition to funding, do you require any additional support? (i.e. help with outreach and promotion, logistical support such as space booking, access WPIRG office supplies etc.)

Outreach and promotion is always appreciated, especially on social media.

“For the Right to Exist, Resist and Overcome!” Solidarity Event Budget:

Projected Expenses

Travel

For Miranda Dick (Two way flight from Kelowna BC to Toronto, ON)	\$700
Solidarity Delegation from Kitchener, ON (10 ppl/Car Gas)	\$150
Taxi (To and From Airport)	\$100
Taxi (To and from Venue Space):	\$50

\$1000*

Accommodation (for Miranda Dick):	\$100
Food (Empanadas/vegan option, tea, coffee, water, etc.)	\$200
Venue (OISE) [Large room weekend fee]:	\$180

Outreach and Arts/Crafts

Flyers/Poster	\$150
Banner:	\$50

\$200

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1680

Travel + Accommodation + Event + Outreach

(*) NOTE: Missy Elliott’s expenses will be covered by Rising Tide Toronto, and are not included in our budget.

Checks may be sent out to:

Friends of Abya Yala Research Group
500 Duplex Avenue. #2909
Toronto, ON M4R 1V6

Your donation will be greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from and working with you all in solidarity with our (indigenous) political prisoners. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

The Women’s Coordinating Committee For a Free Wallmapu