GRANTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

ABOUT VIPIRG
The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and other action in the public interest. Located in the Student Union Building of the University of Victoria, VIPIRG is a place where students and community members connect to work together on social and environmental justice issues.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the VIPIRG Grants Program is to support events and action-based projects at the University of Victoria and in the greater Victoria community.

The Grants Program offers individuals and groups a funded opportunity to create positive change in the community through events, campaigns, actions, research, or education in social and environmental justice.

The projects may include research projects, events, workshops, publications, multimedia presentations, performances, and more.

Projects should increase knowledge, awareness, and dialogue on a given topic, with a particular emphasis on one of more of VIPIRG’s priority areas: sustainability, student engagement, poverty, harm reduction, and strengthening relationships with local indigenous nations.

The Grants Program is administered by VIPIRG’s Board of Directors, through the Grants Committee.

HOW TO SUBMIT
1. Apply online at www.vipirg.ca/grants.
2. Apply in person. Email grants@vipirg.ca to setup an appointment.

Accessibility concerns? Please email grants@vipirg.ca or call 250-721-7285 and we will try to make this application more accessible for you.
GRANTS CRITERIA

Funding is available:

- Once every VIPIRG fiscal year (September 1 – August 30).
- To students and student groups
- To community organizations that have an annual budget of less than $200,000
- For projects that have a commitment to social and environmental justice
- For events, projects and initiatives occurring within the current academic semester, or within the two upcoming academic semesters
- Applications for grants must demonstrate one or more of the following:
  - Consistency with VIPIRGs overall mandate for research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest,
  - The desire and ability to facilitate skills development and capacity building for student and community members and,
  - Opportunities for the increased involvement between University of Victoria students/staff/faculty and community members or organizations.

Priority is given to:

- University of Victoria students
- Groups that engage with the University of Victoria campus
- Groups and projects in Victoria
- Groups working on the following issues: sustainability, student engagement, poverty, harm reduction, and strengthening relationships with local indigenous nations.
- Groups working within their own communities
- Groups that demonstrate accessibility and long-term vision

Funding is not allocated to:

- Student or work exchanges
- Groups or projects that contravene VIPIRG’s own constitution and mandate
- Groups fundraising to donate to other groups or causes
FUNDING CATEGORIES

Small Grants (max. $500)

This fund is available to students, new groups, and established ones. Small grants can be used for small campaigns, one-time events, art projects, publications etc.

Large Grants (max. $1500)

Groups applying must have a bank account in the organization’s name, and must have previous experience organizing events or campaigns.

Conferences & Workshops Fund (max. $100)

Funding available for University of Victoria students attending social and environmental justice conferences and/or workshops.

COMMITMENT FROM VIPIRG

VIPIRGs support for groups receiving grants may include the following elements:

- Financial grant: VIPIRG will provide up to the limit (explained above) for a given grant category to allow an individual, group, or collective to spend time on the project.
- Mentorship/support: VIPIRG staff will meet with the grant recipients in the beginning, middle, and end of the project to provide guidance and support as needed.
- Media, communications, and outreach: VIPIRG staff will support recipients in promoting their events, publications, workshops, or presentations of their projects. This may include room booking, advertising on the VIPIRG website and through our social media accounts.

EXPECTATIONS OF RECIPIENTS

- Endorsement: Recipients will be asked to credit VIPIRG as the funding source on project reports and other materials. They will also be asked to include VIPIRGs name and logo on their posters and advertisements. Our logo can be found on the Media page of our website.