Public Interest Research Groups

PIRGs are campus-based, student-led organizations that connect students to community politics, research, and organizing.
APIRG was founded by a student campaign in 2001.

Every year, undergraduate students pay an optional $1.99 - $3.98 DFU to us through the SU.

Every 5 years, the student body affirms that they want a campus PIRG through a SU referendum vote.
Our Mandate

APIRG is a student-run, student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, advocacy, and action in the public interest. APIRG exists to provide students with resources to be active citizens.
Our Values

APIRG considers an **equitable** environment to be a part of positive social change. We acknowledge that **social change is achievable** and see social awareness as a valuable facet of the public interest. We see **anti-oppression** as a process that acknowledges the existence of systemic oppression (including, but not limited to, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, and ableism).

Through practices and policies, **we seek to actively identify, challenge and address oppression** wherever it exists, in all its various forms, and to actively encourage opportunities for social awareness and change. Further, we recognize and respect that systems of oppression interact in different ways and affect each person differently.
What do we do?

We provide students with resources to be active citizens through:

1. Funding
2. Services
3. Events
4. Training
How do we do it?

We prioritize anti-oppression, accessibility, and consensus-based decision-making in everything we do!
APIRG Funding

- **Working Group Funding**
  - Up to $2000 for a student group or community group with undergraduate student involvement working on an issue that falls within the APIRG mandate, with a focus on research, events, actions, publications, or other diverse activities.

- **Event/Project/Research Funding**
  - Up to $2000 for groups and individuals undertaking events, projects or research which support APIRG’s mandate and contribute to positive social change

- **Microgrant Funding**
  - $150 microgrant to support the accessibility of a student-led project or event.
APIRG Services

APIRG recognizes that funding is only part of the support that people need in order to make their projects happen. Mentorship, training, resources and supplies are also needed!

- Button maker
- Small-batch photocopying services
- On and off-campus networking and outreach opportunities
- Resource library
- Volunteer recruitment support
- Promotional support
- advice & support in project development, facilitation and reflection
- support with financial tracking etc.
- support in grant-writing
- Group training on anti-oppression theory/praxis, consensus-based decision-making, grant writing, accessible event planning, and more topics (by request)
APIRG Events

- **AWOL (A Week of Liberation)** - Sept 12 -17
  - Annual back to school orientation event
  - Focused on building community, knowledge, and power for social change through community-building events, workshops, film screenings, and more!

- **IQS (Intersections of Queer Series)**
  - Since 2016 APIRG in partnership with The Landing, iSMSS, UAlberta Community Social Work Team, and other community groups presented the Intersections of Queer Symposium, celebrating the huge variety of LGBTQ2S+ histories, identities, experiences and dreams for the future, teaching each other as peers and building solidarity in each others’ struggles
APIRG Events

- **AGM (Annual General Meeting)**
  - Our AGM is the core of what holds us accountable to our membership. It’s a time to connect with APIRG members, Working Groups, funding recipients and share what we’ve accomplished over the past year.

- Other events - we collaborate with University of Alberta students, faculty, and Edmonton and area community members to organize events that matter to students and community!
APIRG Trainings

- Volunteer Committees
  - Library
  - Outreach
- Workshops
  - Anti-O 101 & 102
  - Consensus-Based Decision Making
  - Grant Writing
- Speakers
- Bookclubs
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Thank you!