

- **Why is your beginning balance approximated?**

The beginning balance was an approximate because at the time of submission (Sept 7), we had not yet received all the bills to close out the 2021-22 year (our year starts Sept 1). If you want the exact amount in our bank account, see the attached PACE bank statements. Even though our beginning balance is approximated, it is roughly within a thousand dollars.

- **What is being spent in office expenses? (I later noticed this is posted on your website, but it should be included in the budget you provided us)**

I have split out the office expenses into individual budget lines and did the same for administration.

To note: expenses were understated by \$790 in the last budget submission as “Insurance – Office” was mistakenly omitted in the summation of “office expenses”.

- **Wage related:**

- **Elaborate on cost-of-living allowance. Are staff contracted on 12-month periods?**

Permanent staff are unionized (not contracted) and are members of CUPE 1281. As the employer, the board is contractually bound by the Collective Agreement to CUPE 1281. According to the Collective Agreement, Schedule A: 3.1 The base wage shall be adjusted on Sept. 1, 2009 and on Sept. 1 each year thereafter in accordance with the cost of living increases as taken from the Ontario All-Items Consumer Price Index (same calculation in Bylaw 9 for MSU membership fees). The most up-to-date twelve (12) month increase will be used in making the calculation.

- **Elaborate on 13k allocation to PIPs?**

The board made a decision to allocate \$1,000 to each Public Interest Project in the 2022-23 fiscal year. It was reasoned that an increase would act as an incentive for PIPs to take on more elaborate projects without worry of being short of funds or having to fundraise. The \$3,000 has been set aside in a Special Projects Fund for PIPs for those groups who are very active in the year and require funds above the \$1,000 allocated to each PIP.

PIP programming was disjointed in 2021-2022 due to the transitions between in person and virtual. There was a total of 6 PIPs last year.

- **Who are all the different people receiving honorariums?**

2022-2023 Honorariums

The two following honorariums will be provided on Saturday, Oct. 22 in MUSC 230:

Baghael Kaur - Consensus Decision Making Workshop from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM - \$125 honorarium

Workshop Outline: This workshop will provide an introduction, or renewal, of the basic principles and practices necessary to implement consensus decision-making.

Bio: Baghael Kaur has facilitated workshops on consensus decision-making for more than 15 years. She has had the opportunity to practice her skills in a wide-range of formal and informal contexts. A graduate of the Peace Studies Program at McMaster University, and the Social and Political Thought Graduate Program at York University, Baghael loves to share equitable pathways to a more loving and just world.

Awiiyuk (Jaydene Lavallie) - Anti-Oppression 101: Confronting Power and Inequity in Our Communities from 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM - \$350 honorarium

Workshop Outline: This workshop attempts to look at anti-oppression from a slightly different angle, centering different oppressions (racism, patriarchy, transphobia, ableism, etc.) under the overarching systems of capitalism and colonialism. It traces the parallel evolutions of these issues historically and then goes into detail about how each of these separate systems of is enforced and experienced by marginalized people. It takes a good look at liberal politics of identity and complicates the contemporary battles over free speech. Overall, the workshop is looking at substantial ways to build a different world outside of incremental policy change.

Bio: Jaydene Lavallie is a Queer/Two Spirit Michif halfbreed living in Dish with One Spoon territory (Hamilton, ON). She worked as the Brantford Volunteer and Programming Director for LSPIRG from 2015-2018 and served on the Provincial Board of Directors during that time. She is passionate about land and water defense, indigenous sovereignty, and feminism and has struggled against gentrification in the city where she lives.

Fair Trade Fest scheduled for April. We will give a \$200 honorarium to Michael Sacco of ChocoSol.

ChocoSol Fair Trade Café and Talk - Exploring the spiritual, ecological, and geo-political story of chocolate.

Bio: Michael Sacco is the founder of Toronto's ChocoSol, a socially conscious chocolate trader. Working with Mexican farmers through a reciprocity-based horizontal trading technique that includes technology, ecology, and social engagement, ChocoSol has come to support the diversity of the cacao forest gardens while rooting itself in the socio-ecological fabrics of Southern Ontario. Sacco has focused on designing and implementing green production systems using solar power, pedal power, waste diversion, and upcycling techniques, which are holistically embedded in the value of ChocoSol's products.

Other speaker honorariums for 2022-23 will depend on the programming that OPIRG schedules and the amount of honorarium requested by speakers/facilitators. Volunteer leads and the board continually work on programming.

2021-2022 Honorariums – The following are previous honorariums, in case the Finance Committee would like to see examples.

2021-22 Board Training Honorariums

Board Governance Workshop - \$100 honorarium per workshop (gave 2 workshops in the one fiscal year, as our fiscal year runs from Sept. to Aug., but our AGM and election of new board is in April.

Mike Borrelli is a social research, engagement professional and labour unionist with more than a decade of experience working with, and serving on the Boards of small, community-based non-profits. A McMaster graduate ('05), he has served as a Director at OPIRG McMaster, and is a strong supporter of PIRGs on Canadian campuses. Mike lives in Hamilton's North End with his family and currently serves as Chair of the Board of the Hamilton Community Land Trust, and Treasurer of the Beasley Neighbourhood Association.

Financial Literacy Workshop with Tannis Maynard-Langedijk - \$113.00 honorarium

TML Business Support and Prov. PIRG Accountant.

Fair Trade Fest Honorariums for 2021-22

Michael Sacco of ChocoSol - \$200 plus tax

Michael Sacco of ChocoSol spoke about his mentor, Gustavo Esteva, and the calling and vocation he inherited from him to participate in the regeneration and sustainability of the forest gardens of the Americas.

(\$100) paid to student Nicolas Belanger – Solo guitarist honorarium

(\$200) paid to student Zeke Wilson – band member for Missing Pieces band

(\$200) paid to Amina Suhrwardy, former Mac student – hand balm workshop honorarium

(\$91.80) paid to Amina Suhrwardy – reimbursement for supplies for hand balm making workshop

2020-2021 Honorariums

Join us on Tuesday October 20th, 2020 from 5:30-7:00pm EST to speak with Caroline Brunt and Nettie Wild, the creators of Bevel Up – Drugs, Users and Outreach Nursing. We will be speaking about the importance of caring for those who have been marginalized, the role of

documentary and storytelling as a means of social change, and fielding your questions. \$100 honorariums

Disability Justice for Activists and Allies

OPIRG McMaster welcomed Dr. Erika Katzman, occupational therapist and assistant professor in disability studies at King's University College (Western University), for a talk on disability justice. As well as speaker honorarium, this event also called for \$124.30 expense for an ASL interpreter.

Film screening and discussion of 3000 Nights.

3000 Nights is a 2015 international drama film directed by Mai Masri. The film was originally screened at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival and was the Jordanian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards. The story follows a Palestinian women who gives birth to a son while sentenced to 8 years in a high-security Israeli women's prison.

The discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Wafaa Hasan. She is an international lecturer, author and scholar who has taught in the Centre for Women and Gender Studies at Brock University, the Historical and Cultural Studies Department at the University of Toronto-Scarborough Campus, and in the Gender Studies and Feminist Research Program at McMaster University since 2016. We look forward to Dr. Hasan guiding a meaningful discussion at this event. \$500 Honorarium payment to Wafaa Hasan

Know your Rights Activism Workshop – March 29, 2021 - \$300 honorarium

The workshop had two parts; the first part focused on basic security culture as well as practical tips and expectations for a range of demonstrations. The second part focused on increasing awareness of your legal rights and demystifying the arrest process with the hope that participants can be more prepared and empowered to take action – even when it may involve risk.

Trish Mills is an anarchist living in the occupied territories of the Neutral [Chonnonton], Haudensaunee and Mississauga peoples, known as Hamilton, ON. She has been organizing in so-called southern Ontario for a number of years and is committed to helping build resilient communities that are capable of taking risks in the struggle for collective liberation.

Feb. 3, 2020 - Food as a Colonial Weapon: Starvation, Extinction, and Removal was a workshop focused on the story of colonization on these lands through the lens of food. Divided into two parts, the first section looked at the historical ways that food animals were purposefully driven to extinction, Indigenous peoples were deliberately starved, and the ways in which food was held ransom for their cooperation in their own oppression. The second part looked at the contemporary ways that Indigenous peoples strive to regain food sovereignty and the ways in

which settler colonialism continues to try to thwart their efforts and disrupt their traditions. The workshop ended with a discussion on the Mik'maq lobster dispute, current and historic.

Awiiyuk is a Queer Michif halfbreed anarchist from the Prairies, currently living in Dish With One Spoon Territory (Hamilton, ON). Jaydene Lavallie \$300 honorarium (Also found in the 2022-2023 Honorariums)

Film screening and discussion of David Suzuki's Rebellion

Sparked by activist Greta Thunberg in Sweden and exploding around the world, the global climate protests have been some of the largest demonstrations in history. Rebellion, a documentary from The Nature of Things, is a vivid portrait of this extraordinary grassroots movement. Rebellion takes us from a sea of protestors in Montreal to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and from the Bank of England's boardrooms to the slums of New Delhi, in a dramatic and compelling journey that asks, where do we go from here in the fight for a livable planet?

Aliénor (Allie) Rougeot has been a human rights advocate since a very young age, focusing on climate justice since high school. She co-founded the group Fridays for Future Toronto and, with her co-organizers, she led the large youth climate strikes in 2019. She is a public speaker and workshop leader, using these opportunities to raise awareness on the urgency of the climate crisis, discuss the solutions that are available to us as a society and empower others to join the fight. She studies Economics and Public Policy at University of Toronto. Aliénor Rougeot speaker honorarium \$100.

- **Are there systems in place preventing conflicts on interests?**

The OPIRG Conflict of Interest policy can be found here:

<https://www.opirgmcmaster.org/policies/>

- **Last year there was 5k allocated and 0 given, is there an explanation?**

I mistakenly omitted the "actuals" amount (assuming this is reference to \$4,300 – Honorariums Fees budget line). Resubmitted budget now shows \$1,130.80 budgeted. A breakdown is in the "Who are all the different people receiving honorariums?" question under 2021-2022 Honorariums.

- **Can provide further detail on what funds are being used towards for projects 4,5,7,8,10,11?**

Project 4: Black History Month – programming is to be planned.

Project 5: Fair Trade Fest – Historically, expenses for this event included equipment for performers and speakers, MUSC atrium rental, table rental, honorariums for student performers, honorariums for guest speakers on the topic of Fair Trade, Fair Trade prizes and Fair Trade samples for students, and advertising of the event.

Project 7: Community Garden

Expense	Estimated Budget
Garden Tools	\$250
Soil, Mulch, Compost	\$600
Seeds	\$200
Garden Events	\$300
Garden expansion (similar expenses as above to match new garden size)	\$1,650

Project 8: Making Connections Week – event held in second semester, but a focus would be to introduce PIPs to the student population. Large expenses would be venue and table rental.

Project 10: Special Events – Our volunteer leads are working on this programming and not all are in place at this point. One example would be the Cinema Politica screenings with guest speakers.

Project 11: OPIRG AGM – In the past, our AGM has included food for attendees and sometimes, time permitting, we have had a guest speaker or even performance (e.g. speaker on the history of the PIRGs).

- **Project 13, Expense 1 and 2, specifically, where are the donations going to?**

Groups seeking financial support from OPIRG. Groups must fill out an Application of Support (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfU9q8iuFdqCy6zq8iLE6oNFOJA8DRvRv19FK9XpUGSM0J5rA/viewform>) which will be reviewed and granted should the group fulfill the necessary requirements set out by the Granting Policy (<https://www.opirgmcmaster.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Support-Granting-Policy.pdf>).

For many years, we have given support to both student groups and to community groups who meet the OPIRG requirements. In return, OPIRG asks to be included in the sponsorship acknowledgements and OPIRG requires a post event form to be filled out. As this is an ongoing application process for 2022-2023, we do not know, as of yet, where all the allocated funds will be designated. Thus far, we have given \$300 to Atzin, supporting an Indigenous community in Mexico and an organization with which we have a long standing relationship (one that has engaged students throughout the years in a variety of ways with Atzin and continues to do so today, as for instance, the connection with Peace Studies which OPIRG facilitated).

- **Could you expand on the expenses associated with board training?**

The two board training workshops scheduled thus far are with Baghael Kaur and Jaydene Lavallie and are expanded on under the “who are all the different people receiving honorariums?” question.

- **Comparing to the budget on your website (if there is reason to disregard the website budget, please let me know):**

The budget in question was created by the outgoing 2021-2022 board as a prediction for the 2022-2023 year. The website has since been changed to the budget (the one emailed to Craig Dawdy on September 7) that was updated by the current board with the 2022-2023 plans in mind. I will upload the attached re-submitted budget to the website when I send this to the Finance Committee.

- **Is there a reason the Provincial OPIRG Fees are not listed in the budget submitted to the MSU?**

It can be found in the notes beside the line item: Administration. “Univ. admin charge; board & office insurance; audit; accounting services; quickbooks subscription; credit union charges; Prov. Fees”. In the re-submitted budget, Prov. Fee is a separate line item.

- **Why are expenses overstated by 36K on the budget submitted to the MSU?**

Please refer the answer given above: “Comparing to the budget on your website (if there is reason to disregard the website budget, please let me know)”.