

## **OPIRG YORK Action Group Application 2024-2025**

Thank you for your interest in becoming an OPIRG York Action Group!

Below you will find more information on what being an Action Group means, what OPIRG can do for you, the application process and the policies surrounding Action Groups.

OPIRG-York is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization based at York University. Fundamental to our operation are Action Groups. These groups organize autonomously around various issues of social justice and environmental action. Some examples of past action groups include: Cinema Politica, Tools For Change, YU Divest, Prisoner Correspondence Project Toronto, and the Palestine Solidarity Collective (PSC).

### **What role do Action Groups play at OPIRG?**

Action Groups are central to the functioning of OPIRG. They consist of a group of volunteers who work on a specific issue pertaining to anti-oppressive, anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, social justice and environmental issues. The Action Groups are dedicated to enacting change on campus and/or in the broader community. Action Groups receive funding from OPIRG and access to the OPIRG office\* (note: we continue to require non-cloth masks in the office).

OPIRG York is committed to change at York University but we ALSO envision larger community interaction. We work to blend student organizing with grassroots activism to ensure broad social and environmental change. Thus, we are encouraging applications for action groups with a broad vision; especially those who come from traditionally marginalized communities.

\*At present, access to the OPIRG office is negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To be considered for Action Group status, please fill out the application form and sign the action group policies form. This form allows the Action Group to concisely outline its goals and the way in which it embodies a particular issue. Once reviewed by the OPIRG York board of directors, the contact person will be notified of the board's decision. Action groups then must follow the action group policies.

**Applications are received on a rolling basis.** You can expect a response within 2-3 weeks.

**Please submit the completed application to:** [opirgyork@gmail.com](mailto:opirgyork@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about applying to become an Action Group and/or what the benefits of becoming an Action Group are please contact the Programming Coordinator via email at [opirgyork@gmail.com](mailto:opirgyork@gmail.com).

## **ACTION GROUP INFORMATION**

### **WHAT OPIRG CAN DO FOR YOU...**

All Action Groups are allocated a budget for projects and events they wish to have. These might include a speaker series, movie nights, handbooks, outreach materials, trainings and other activities. In addition to a budget, each Action Group also has access to OPIRG's many resources:

- \* We offer a budget for all Action Groups as well as access to other important resources like a printer and photocopier.
- \* We help with volunteer outreach by giving out your Action Group's information as well as directing potential volunteers to your meetings/email.
- \* We will help plan and brainstorm possible events, actions, etc.
- \* We offer the OPIRG office as a place to meet, hangout and hold meetings for your Action Group. Please note: at present, access to the OPIRG office remains limited due to the ongoing pandemic. The office is closed to non-staff and non-board members of OPIRG until further direction from York University.
- \* We book rooms for you to have meetings, host events, meet-and-greets, film screenings etc. on the York campus. For events hosted during campus closures, we can assist you with organizing your event remotely.
- \* We book tables for you to distribute your information/literature to the York community.
- \* We send information out over our e-listserv, as well as our social media platforms, for your events and meetings (to ensure people hear about them).
- \* We can help you draft literature, make posters, put up posters, and generally advertise your Action Group, your event or your meetings.
- \* We offer space on our website to write about your group and/or issues of importance that you would like the York community to know about.
- \* The use of our Resource Centre (including books, zines, newsletters, etc.) and the possible addition of new resources for the issue/cause you are working on. Again, please note: at present, access to the OPIRG office remains limited due to the ongoing pandemic.
- \* We offer anti-oppression trainings, consensus/collective building and facilitation trainings for all Action Groups.
- \* This is in addition to the help of OPIRG staff, board members and volunteers for project support, visioning and outreach etc.

### **WHAT OPIRG YORK EXPECTS FROM YOUR GROUP . . .**

- \* The contact person for the Action Group will keep us apprised and up-to-date on meetings, events, etc.
- \* Information for the OPIRG York website, including current contact person and links to

affiliated organizations.

- \* The Action Group will put the OPIRG York logo on all posters and other advertisements.
- \* The Action Group will maintain the OPIRG York mandate at all times and avoid and address any and all racist, sexist, classist, ableist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic and/or any other oppressive language or actions in meetings, at events, and so on.
- \* The Action Group will use the OPIRG York office respectfully and responsibly. This includes cleaning up after yourselves, keeping the office tidy and not removing/taking items from the office without asking permission, or returning.
- \* The Action Group will be committed to fostering a cooperative and communicative environment that is welcoming to newcomers and based on consensus decision-making.
- \* Action Group members will attend a mandatory Action Group meeting with the Programming and Volunteer Coordinators, once per term and an orientation meeting.
- \* Every Action Group will present their work throughout the year at the Annual General meeting at the end of March or early April of the year.

**ACTION GROUP/PROJECT APPLICATION  
2024-2025**

**Date:**

**Name of Contact Person:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Name of Action group:**

**Has this Action Group/Project been funded by OPIRG York in the past?**

**Is this Action Group/Project currently being funded by other sources?**

**If Yes, by who?**

**Is this Action Group/Project affiliated with other organizations and/or groups on campus, in the greater community or internationally?**

**If yes, which one(s)?**

**Please provide a description of your Action Group:**

**Within this context please outline some of the goals of this Action Group/Project and how it relates to OPIRG. Please also list/outline two proposed events that your Action Group would like to organize:**

**How do you imagine OPIRG York could support your Action Group/Project (beyond funding)?**

**OPIRG York is part of Tools for Change, a network of groups that host different skill building workshops that are free for all OPIRG York volunteers. What workshops and/or trainings would your group be interested in attending at York? Check out the following website to see some of the trainings Tools for Change has done in the past:**

**<http://www.toolsforchange.net/complete-list-of-workshops/>**

**Please list as many options as you can think of, as it will help us cater our programming towards the interests of your group!**

**Is your group affiliated with, or does your group explicitly support or endorse, any political party? Please explain.**

**OPIRG York works on a decolonial framework that strives to engage with work that is strictly anti-oppressive, anti-capitalist, anti-colonial and fights against ongoing displacement and occupation of Indigenous land. We cannot accept action groups who go against this mandate. What does your action group do to abide by and support this mandate?**

**OPIRG York is situated in the North York community and caters to students from many areas. We would like to prioritize groups that plan to do work on and around the York campus. How will your group help prioritize this (E.g. Will you be hosting on campus meetings and events regularly? Is your work based in the North York, or Jane Finch area?)**

**Do you understand the Action Group policies and will your group abide by them?**

**Please attach the Action Group policy form, completed.**

### **OPIRG YORK ACTION GROUP POLICIES**

- The OPIRG York office is an open, public and accessible space. Please keep it tidy. Clean up after yourself and after your group. Additionally, please be considerate of space and resources while others are conducting meetings in the office.
- Please keep the door code private. Please select two (2) people from your Action Group to have access to the office and who will act as point people for the rest of the group.
- The Radical Reading Room is a Resource Centre. We ask that all Action Groups respect this and keep it clean and keep their materials in an ordered fashion as people require regular access to the books, cabinets and photocopier.
- OPIRG York is continuously working on being an inclusive and anti-oppressive space. We ask that you keep this in mind every time you enter the space and do your best to respect this mandate. This includes using respectful language, being aware of power dynamics, no personal attacks, and general friendliness.

- There will be a mandatory anti-oppression training at least once a year. All Action Groups must send attendees. We welcome input into this training and want to hear what you would like to see covered.
- Action Groups, once approved, are Action Groups of the 2024-2025 academic year, up until the end of the fiscal year on April 30th, 2025.
- All Action Groups funds must be used by the end of April 30th, 2025, with receipts for expenses submitted on or before that date.
- The Action Groups will maintain the OPIRG York mandate at all times and avoid and address any and all racist, sexist, classist, ableist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic and/or any other oppressive language or actions in meetings, at events, and so on.
- OPIRG York is nonpartisan (not biased toward or part of any political party)? We cannot fund groups/organizations that are affiliated with political parties.
- Action Groups will work on a decolonial framework that strives to do and support work that is strictly anti-oppressive, anti-capitalist, anti-colonial and fights against ongoing displacement and occupation of Indigenous land.

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**Group's Name:**