

# History of LPIRG

Public Interest Research Groups were first organized in the United States in the 1970s. They have their roots in the philosophy (articulated by Ralph Nader and others) that active, participatory citizenship should be an integral part of post-secondary education. Over 200 PIRGs have been established in the United States, and over 20 organizations can be found on Canadian university campuses. PIRGs are student organizations based on the premise that students are citizens, and as such, part of their education should include recognizing and engaging the problems of society.

PIRGs exist to provide training, support, and opportunities for students to be active citizens in their communities. Through involvement with PIRGs, thousands of Canadian students have learned skills in consensus decision-making, group facilitation, events organizing, media relations, and community-based research. These skills help individuals to act effectively in the public interest.

LPIRG was founded in the fall of 2002 after students successfully organized a referendum campaign to create a Public Interest Research Group at the University of Lethbridge. LPIRG opened its doors and began funding student research and projects in the autumn of 2003. Since then LPIRG has been providing funding and support for student research, events, projects, and working groups. LPIRG is always open to new ideas, volunteers, and working group proposals.



## Contact us at:

[facebook.com/lpirg.org/](https://facebook.com/lpirg.org/)

[pirg@uleth.ca](mailto:pirg@uleth.ca)

[www.lpirg.org](http://www.lpirg.org)

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# LETHBRIDGE PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP



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## What is LPIRG?

LPIRG is a student-funded, student-directed, not-for-profit organization providing resources for students to engage with environmental and social justice issues.

LPIRG embraces plurality and participation, and encourages students to critically evaluate the institutions and systems in which they take part. LPIRG assists students in translating their knowledge through research, education, and action to serve public interest.



## How is it funded?

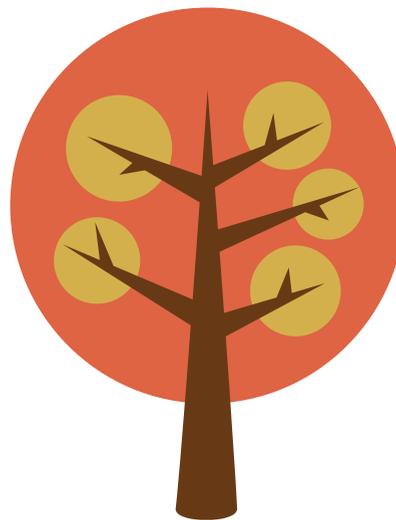
LPIRG receives \$5 from each U of L undergraduate student in the fall and spring semester (fully refundable if a student so chooses).

LPIRG uses this money to fund student research, events, and projects demonstrated to be in the public interest, as well as providing additional administration, organization, and information resources to empower students to become engaged citizens.

## How is LPIRG accountable?

LPIRG is a democratic organization that is accountable directly to University of Lethbridge students in the following ways:

- Any student can run for election to the LPIRG board.
- All board meetings and general meetings are open to students.
- Students are encouraged to volunteer with LPIRG.
- LPIRG keeps financial records and produces an annual report, both of which are available to students.
- Students can opt out of the LPIRG fee and receive a full refund.



## What does LPIRG do?

LPIRG provides funding, administrative assistance, meeting and storage space, and information resources to students who have projects that are in the public interest.

Funding can be accessed for:

- Research
- Special Events
- Working Groups (collectives of students and possibly community members who work together on a public interest issue. Groups may focus on research, events, action, publications, or other activities; and have long-term goals.)



LPIRG also facilitates opportunities for skill development through educational events, public campaigns and partnerships with community organizations.

LPIRG has an alternative resource library, including books, films, and magazines, a PA system, a button maker, a camera, voice recorders and student research.

Come check it out!

All application forms are available online at [www.lpirg.org](http://www.lpirg.org)