About VIPIRG

The Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) is a student-funded 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 (UVic), VIPIRG is a place where students and community members connect to work together on social and environmental justice issues.

VIPIRG Grants Program

The purpose of the VIPIRG Grants Program is to support grassroots action-based projects at UVic 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 papers, events, workshops, publications, multi-media presentations, performances, or other means of sharing and displaying the work of the grant recipients. Projects should increase knowledge, awareness, and dialogue on a given topic, with a particular emphasis on poverty, decolonization, and/or student engagement.

VIPIRG is specifically interested in projects that might help us fill a gap in topics that are not being significantly covered at this time through local organizing or research. Preference may be given to proposals contributing to ongoing campaigns.

The Financial Support Committee is made up of coordinating collective (board) members and staff members. VIPIRG is currently accepting grant applications throughout the year.

Grants & Criteria

- Applications for grants must demonstrate a commitment to education, advocacy, action, training, and/or research that aligns with VIPIRGs mandate and ethical guidelines.
- 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.

Applications for grants will fall into one of the following categories:

- Small Grants
- Large Grants
- Conferences and Workshops
Small Grants

Small grants are for amounts up to $500.00. Applications can be submitted by organizations or individuals. This funding is available for small campaigns, one-time events, art projects, publications, and other forms of social justice organizing. Newly established groups are welcome to apply.

Large Grants

Large grants are for amounts up to $3,000.00. Applications are for organizations/collectives only. This fund is for large projects and campaigns led by established community groups. Groups must have previous experience organizing events or campaigns, and must have a bank account in the organizations name. Two individuals from the group requesting support must be designated primary contacts responsible for follow-up and report-back with VIPIRG.

VIPIRG staff will meet with recipients of Large Grants at the beginning, middle, and end of their projects to provide guidance, input and support as needed.

Conferences and Workshops

Financial support is available for students presenting at conferences and/or workshops that align with VIPIRG’s mandate, up to a total of $200.00. This fund is designated for University of Victoria students only.

Commitment from VIPIRG and Expectations of Recipients

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

- Financial grant: VIPIRG will provide up to the limit (explained below) 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.
- 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 VIPIRG’s name and logo on their posters and advertisements.
- Co-organizing: Groups or collectives may wish to collaborate with a current VIPIRG campaign or working group on a project. VIPIRG may be able to provide limited assistance with organizing, outreach, logistics, and room bookings.
Application

Grantee Information

Name of grant applicant:

You are a (choose one):  _ __ individual  
  _ __ group  
  _ __ collective

Does your group/collective have a website? If so, please share here:

Name of primary contact:

Phone:  Email:

Name of secondary contact (in case of large grants):

Phone:  Email:

Project Information

Project Name:

Anticipated start date:

Anticipated end date:

1. Are you applying for a:  _ __ Small Grant (up to $500.00)
   _ __ Large Grant (up to $3,000.00)
   _ __ Conference/Workshop Grant (up to $200.00)

*If you are applying for the conference/workshop grant, you will be asked to confirm your status as a registered UVic student at the time of application.*


2. Explain the purpose and rational of the project/conference/workshop:

3. Explain the objectives of the project/conference/workshop:

4. Describe the major project activities and timeline:

5. How does your project/conference/workshop address social and environmental justice issues, particularly related to poverty, decolonization, and/or student engagement?
VIPIRG Community Grants

6. How does this initiative benefit the communities you are working with?

7. How will your project strengthen community involvement on social and environmental justice issues, particularly poverty, decolonization, and/or student engagement?

8. How does this project/conference/workshop adhere to VIPIRGs ethical guidelines (www.vipirg.ca/research/ethical_guidelines.html)?

9. What kind of assistance would you require from VIPIRG (grant funds and other)?
10. Please provide a budget that outlines how grant funds will be spent (eg. expenses, hours, etc.):

What to Expect Next?

1. The VIPIRG coordinating collective/board and staff will review your application to ensure it is complete.
2. The Financial Support Committee (FSC), which is comprised of at least one staff person and one volunteer coordinating collective/board member, will review the large grant application. The purpose of this “first pass” is to see if your proposal fits within VIPIRGs focus and available resources. In this review the FSC will consider the elements described in the criteria section.
3. If the FSC has enough information to make a decision based on the above questions, they will submit the application to the coordinating collective/board for the “second pass.”
4. You may be asked to sign an agreement if your request involves equipment rentals.

Please email your completed form to info@vipirg.ca as a word or pdf file, OR print it and drop off at the VIPIRG office (Rm B120, Student Union Building, UVic) or mail it to VIPIRG, PO Box 3035, STN CSC, Victoria BC, Lkwungen & WSANEC Territories, V8W 3P3).

A staff member will contact you within 2-3 working days to confirm receipt of your grant application. If you don’t hear from us within a week, please email staff@vipirg.ca to make sure your proposal was received.

Please refer to VIPIRGs Financial Support Policy before submitting your application.

For more information on action research see: www.vipirg.ca/links/research_links.html