

## **OPIRG Brock Response to COVID-19**



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team at OPIRG Brock has cancelled and/or postponed all of our events. Any future dates will be dependent on the directives of the Public Health departments on the local and provincial levels, as well as the policies of our community partners and the different venues, such as Brock University.

A significant note is the 2020 AGM has been postponed until further notice, with the goal of hosting it in June. Nominations to the OPIRG Brock Board of Directors will also be postponed until this time. The OPIRG Brock Board of Directors continues to meet regularly online. While we navigate the new challenges and concerns brought about by COVID-19, the financial future of OPIRG Brock remains precarious. We continue to strategize on how best to keep our organization going in these times while also being able to plan for the future. Updates related to this matter will be released as they are available.

OPIRG Brock knows firsthand the generosity of our politically supportive community. We urge everyone to continue to show up for one another to the best of our abilities. In addition to doing whatever you can to support local businesses in our region, please consider supporting the work of the following groups who have dedicated themselves to supporting people and offering resources during this time:

- CareMongering-Niagara, Ontario: Niagara Community Response to COVID-19 (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1572136386271282)
- Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, Niagara Chapter (https://migrantworkersalliance.org/)
- Niagara Reproductive Justice (https://www.facebook.com/niagarareproductivejustice/)

At this time, we are working on an action plan for how our Free Store inventory can best support people in Niagara. We will put out any updates as we have them.

We would also like to call on our entire community to continue to focus attention on what is happening on Wet'suwet'en Territory. In addition to the fact Indigenous communities are at greater risks of harm during times of national health crises, there are continued efforts to push forth the Coastal Gas Link project and illegally infringe on Indigenous Rights. While meetings related to this matter have been postponed, continuing to stay up-to-date and provide support is essential. Updates can be kept up to date with this on the Wet'suwet'en Access Point on Gidimt'en Territory Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/wetsuwetenstrong).

We are holding everyone in our hearts at this time and will be doing our best to use the OPIRG Brock social media to provide resources and updates as we gain access to them. For example, we call on all supporters and partners of OPIRG Brock to sign the petition "Cancel rent and mortgage payments during COVID-19" (https://north99.org/campaign-cancel-rent-and-mortgage-payments-during-covid-19) to ensure housing safety for those currently paying these fees and likely subjected to reduced or lost income in this time. If you have resources you would like us to share, please send them to the OPIRG Brock Facebook Page or send us an email.

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