

Vancouver's Action Research Exchange at SFU

Posted by

Wednesday, 06 July 2005 15:19 - Last Updated Wednesday, 06 July 2005 15:19

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SFPIRG - This program connects Simon Fraser University students doing research in classes or directed studies with organizations that need research but have limited resources. ARX is designed to benefit non-profit community groups; as well as students who are looking to change the way they've always done university work. In the past year, PIRG partnered 16 community projects with SFU students.

www.sfpirg.ca/arx

From: Action Research Exchange [mailto:sfpirg-arx@sfu.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2005 6:02 PM

Subject: The Action Research Exchange

Greetings,

My name is Debora O, the Education Coordinator for the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group. I am emailing to invite your organization to participate in a program at SFPIRG called the Action Research eXchange (ARX).

ARX is starting its second year this September 2005. This program connects SFU students doing research in classes or directed studies with organizations that need research but have limited resources. ARX is designed to benefit non-profit community groups; as well as students who are looking to change the way they've always done university work. In the past year, we partnered 16 community projects with SFU students.

The deadline for community organizations and groups to submit their application proposals for research is quickly approaching: Friday, July 29, 2005. Please check out our website at www.sfpirg.ca/arx or read on for more details.

Your organization's research needs could be met by students in SFU's strong Resource and Environmental Management Department. Also, the participation of your group in this program would build the presence of community-directed

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research at SFU and - most of all - help support the further inclusion of environmental issues in the university curriculum in a progressive and responsible fashion. For example, just this past year, a partnership was created between a student researcher and the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society in order to find out whether woody debris build-up and development along the Fraser River Estuary is impacting aquatic and local wildlife habitat. Due to the success of this initial research partnership, the NWWPS has submitted another research proposal that will be posted on the ARX website (www.sfpirg.ca/arx) in September.

The 2004/05 academic year has been a very successful one for ARX and for community-based research. ARX is one of the most successful and popular programs at SFPIRG and SFU. Some of the organizations and groups that benefited from ARX in its first year are:

- Smart Growth BC
- Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society
- Bus Riders Union
- Fulcrum Project
- Dogwood Initiative
- Real Youth Power Society

These completed projects are available at the SFPIRG library and through the community groups who now own this work!

Check out our website to see current projects as well as those that were matched:

www.sfpirg.ca/arx

also, our website has all the information you need about the program and how to apply.

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How does ARX work?

We accept project proposals from groups working in the fields of community development, social justice, international issues, the arts, the environment, and health. We publicize the projects to the SFU campus community, then match them up with students who have the applicable skills, interests, and education to bring to the work. The student researcher receives course credit for their work, and the final product remains under the ownership and control of the community group.

In other words, at the same time students benefit from research experience that is community-based and practical, your organization gains accessible research that can be used in the way you decide.

ARX's larger goal is to put community needs and social justice concerns into academic work. We aim to connect with groups like yourself, who might be interested in taking on special projects but may not have the resources to do so.

If you are interested in participating in ARX:

.Visit our website at www.sfpirg.ca/arx for an extensive description of how the program works. Since your organization might not know what work students are doing on campus, we've listed all the types of projects possible under ARX, from formal reports and research papers, to video documentaries and web design.

.Submit a community application form online at www.sfpirg.ca/arx . THE

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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS JULY 29th (but the sooner the better!). This is in order to have projects posted in time for the SFU fall 2005 semester.

Proposals received past the July 29th deadline will run the risk of not being assessed and posted in time for student match-up this September. If you have any difficulties submitting the online form, please use the form as a template and email us your proposal as a Word Document.

. If your group or organizations has a research question or a research project idea, feel free to contact us about it (604-291-4360). The application process is easy and we can give you added support if you need. Please check out our website for more information and for an online application. The deadline for projects is July 29th.

.Call us if you need support with the application or have any questions along the way: 604-291-4360. Or email us: arx@sfpirg.ca . We're here to take your questions, suggestions, or project ideas.

Thank you! We look forward to a productive partnership with your organization.

Debora O

Research and Education Coordinator, SFPIRG

Action Research Exchange

~mobilizing academic resources for social justice and community action~

SFPIRG Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group Simon Fraser University

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Check out the Action Research Exchange online at www.sfpirg.ca/arx