

Gardens Coordinator - Ontario Public Interest Research Group Kingston

About OPIRG Kingston

OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group) Kingston is a local, student-directed, and community-minded group focused on social and environmental justice. We strive to create meaningful transformative change to benefit our local Queen's University and Kingston communities by facilitating education, research, and action for pertinent issues.

For over 30 years, we have initiated and/or supported numerous community groups/projects, such as ReelOut Queer Film Festival and Queen's Backing Action on the Climate Crisis; organized inclusive programming; empowered and educated students to take action on various topics; and facilitated connections between student and non-student community members. We offer various kinds of support to local activists, including information, funding, and administrative functions.

Much of our programming is educational in nature: we bring diverse scholars and activists to host talks; host reading and discussion groups on various topics such as allyship and solidarity; screen films; and give workshops.

We hold weekly office hours and queer and trans co-working sessions. Our office is meant to be a space for student and non-student community members to connect on matters of social and environmental justice, bring up issues they care about, vent, engage in conversation, and learn amongst each other.

Our current working groups include Mutual Aid Gardens (volunteer-run gardens that distribute free produce), Roots & Wings (social justice group offering workshops for racialized youth), Umbrella Academy (transgender advocacy association), the Gender Affirming Assistance Project (supports Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender diverse community members), the Queer Muslim Resistance podcast (social justice conversations from queer Muslim perspectives), and Cinema Politica OPIRG Kingston (independent, political film screenings about social and environmental justice issues).

Visit our website and social media for more information on who we are, what we do, and our values as an organization: opirgkingston.org, @opirgkingston on Instagram and Facebook

About Mutual Aid Gardens

Mutual Aid Gardens, a working group of OPIRG Kingston, is entering our fifth season of growing and sharing food. We are a volunteer-run network based in and around Katarokwi/Kingston. We aim to improve access to fresh food and create stronger community bonds in the context of ever-increasing capitalist individualism/nuclear family structures. We don't rely on those in power to fix things for us – instead, we come together and share space, harvests, and learn new skills.

Visit our website and social media for more information on who we are, what we do, and our values: opirgkingston.org/mutual-aid-gardens and @mutualaidgardens on Instagram

Canada Summer Jobs Youth Participant Eligibility

This position is funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program. This program has certain eligibility criteria for youth participants. Eligible youth must:

1. be between 15 and 30 years of age at the beginning of the employment period*;
2. be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act for the duration of the employment**; and,
3. have a valid Social Insurance Number at the start of employment and be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial or territorial legislation and regulations.

*The youth must be 15 years of age at the beginning of the employment period. The youth may be more than 30 years of age at the end of the employment period as long as the youth was 30 at the beginning of the employment period.

**Unfortunately, international students are not eligible participants. International students include anyone who is temporarily in Canada for studies and who is not a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person who has been granted refugee status in Canada. Youth awaiting a refugee status ruling, as well as those who hold a temporary visitor visa, youth visa or work visa are ineligible.

Job description and application details

The Gardens Coordinator will plant, harvest and care for small-scale plots in and around Kingston, ON and Wolfe Island, ON. They will coordinate volunteer work days, Really Really Free Markets, and spearhead other initiatives as required.

Tasks and responsibilities include:

- Planting, harvesting, weeding, watering, and other gardening tasks as required
- Setting up Really Really Free Markets for food distribution
- Regularly updating volunteers about how the gardens are doing, work that needs to be done, etc.
- Volunteer coordination for workdays
- Collaborating with diverse community volunteers
- Implementing organic farming strategies
- Logistics and planning of food distribution
- Other duties as required.

The ideal candidate is someone with:

- Physical strength and endurance to effectively complete manual labour tasks
- The ability to work outdoors in many different weather conditions
- Experience in agriculture or in a related field an asset
- Access to own transportation an asset - a car is ideal, though longer bike rides may be possible
- Strong organizational and time-management skills
- The ability to take initiative and work independently with minimal supervision, asking for clarification when necessary
- Flexibility to work weekends as required

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This position is **30 hours/week** at **\$16.55/hour** from **June 24** to **August 26, 2024** (9 weeks). **In-person work is required** in various locations around Kingston, ON and Wolfe Island, ON.

OPIRG Kingston welcomes the contributions that individuals from marginalized communities bring to our organization, and invites Indigenous people, Black people, people of colour, poor and working-class people and those on social assistance, women, members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, single parents, immigrants, and people with disabilities to apply.

We encourage applicants to describe the contributions and experiences they would bring to Mutual Aid Gardens in their cover letter.

Please send along your **cover letter and resume** to kingston.pirg@gmail.com by **Friday May 10, 2024 at 11:59pm**. **Interviews will take place in person or online from May 21-22, 2024.**