

2022/23

# General Annual Report



QUEEN'S PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Introduction

The 2022-2023 school year was QPID's first year fully back in person since the disruption of COVID in 2020. All our regular programs were conducted in person including the internship program which saw 10 students volunteer at 5 different organizations around the world. It was a very successful year where we were able to continue our mission of spreading awareness through the Kingston and Queen's community.

## About QPID

Queen's Project on International Development (QPID) is a student-run organization that has been operating out of the Queen's University Engineering Society since 1990. QPID has four branches: Campus & Community, Internships, Finance & Sponsorships, and Marketing, each as critical as the last. Together, we host a variety of events on and off campus to promote a development consciousness within the Queen's and Kingston Community, as well as the Global Community.

On campus, we host monthly forums in which Queen's students engage in discussions with guest speakers and with one another about various development issues. Our annual Collecting with QPID Campaign aims to raise awareness for youth homelessness in Kingston, while raising money for the Kingston Youth Shelter. We also organize student-run workshops in Kingston schools and an annual Youth Conference to engage local youth in similar discussions and to educate them on fundamental concepts of local and global development. To promote global change, QPID runs international summer internships, in which volunteers intern for organizations to fulfill the needs of the host communities using a holistic and teamwork-based approach.

## QPID's Mandate

### *Vision Statement:*

To foster a development consciousness in the Queen's community as a catalyst for local and global change.

### *Mission Statement:*

QPID is a venue for collaboration among students and members of our host communities to share knowledge and promotes development consciousness. QPID uses a holistic approach to development through engagement in critical thinking and informed action.

## Portfolios

### **CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY**

This year, Campus and Community continued to develop and improve in-person events as we moved into our second year without COVID. Through the Campus and Community, QPID event participants heard from renowned educators, local activists, and passionate students. Fundraisers broke club records and our volunteer network continued to grow. For the campus and community portfolio this year was a huge step back to pre COVID QPID.

#### *Community Outreach*

Collecting with QPID (CWQ) is an annual fundraiser we run to help the Kingston Youth Shelter and this year was one of our best yet. Over the 5 days of volunteers collecting money at the corner of University & Union along with online fundraising, we collected a record breaking \$12,023 which was \$2,023 over our initial goal.

The 5-day long campaign began with an informational workshop delivered by the Kingston Youth Shelter, educating attendees about youth homelessness in Kingston. Over the 5 days of fundraising, there was live music, visits from many pups and other themed days to catch the eyes of passersby. Our team also ran a 'candies in a jar' guessing competition throughout the week. This encouraged students with limited capacity to donate, to put their \$2 towards a prize.

From last year's hybrid format, 5 days of in person fundraising was not only much more effective but much more meaningful. While the success of this year's fundraiser raised the bar quite high, the incoming team is eager to raise it even higher.

#### *Youth Conference*

QPID's annual youth conference remains a free, one-day conference for students in Kingston, invited to engage in critical thinking about global development issues and topics. The day featured keynote

speakers, workshops, and a fully catered lunch at the Tett Center on Kingston's waterfront. This year the conference was titled *From the Ground Up* and focused on sustainable agriculture in today's society.

The conference is run by a four-person committee composed of two executives, who work all year long to ensure its success. The conference is an important event for QPID because it allows community outreach that is beyond a short visit to a classroom, it is an entire day field trip. Due to the COVID infection rates last year, the in person portion was only open to university students so it was refreshing to see local high school students back in participation this year.

The speakers of the day featured Farm to Cafeteria advisory council member, Eric Payaseur; Loving Spoonful Community Harvest Farmer, Marie Bencze; Queen's University Global Development Studies Assistant Professor, Reena Kukreja and Mycelial Cultivator Regenerative Agriculture Expert, Deb Mckee Kelly. Throughout the day, participants heard a variety of presentations surrounding sustainable agriculture, participated in a dumpling making workshop led by Miss Bao employees and were able to contribute in many ways through group wide activities/discussions.

### *Workshops*

The workshops team was composed of two executives and two committee members who were eager to collaborate with other portfolios. Particularly successful partnerships were found with the Community Outreach team and Youth Conference. At the Youth Conference, the team ran a special workshop focused on sustainability in agriculture designed to spur the students' engagement and participation with the content.

Building upon the relationships from this year will set the Workshops and Youth Conference team ready for success this coming year.

### *Forums*

Forums remained a venue of community togetherness throughout the pandemic for QPID. The forum team put in an exceptional amount of effort this year in maintaining QPID as a place for critical reflection and learning. Each month the team chose a new topic, contacted engaging speakers, and accommodated the online delivery format. Our forum topics and speakers included:

- Trellis HIV Centre and Social Justice
- Climate Change Adaptation by Dr. Marcus Taylor
- Leave No One Behind: Disability and Social Justice by Rayona Silverman
- Youth Homelessness in Kingston by The Kingston Youth Shelter
- Improving Life for People Experiencing Homelessness by Tony D'Amato Stortz

Finally, all forums were able to happen in person with streaming available for those who could not attend. Moving back to in person drastically increased participant numbers and helped speakers reach new audiences. While the team still hoped to see more engagement outside the QPID community, this year was a large step in the right direction. As part of QPID's mission to decolonize

and diversity the perspectives, we are exposed to and amplify, care is being put into regularly hosting speakers from outside of the Queen's community. Forum will no doubt continue to be an engaging and critical part of QPID that will continually spark interest in Global Development in the minds of youth in Kingston.

## **EDII**

This new team took up the role of advising, providing feedback, and hosting their own events for QPID internally. The director worked closely in conjunction with the Monitoring and Evaluations executive to ensure that QPID could provide a safe space for all students. They were also responsible for implementing new training, including anti-racism, bystander intervention, and accessibility training for QPID members. The new equity team delivered on the responsibilities of addressing barriers to inclusion in club activities, consulting with external organizations to introduce new training opportunities, and supporting the M&E executive when dealing with any equity-related concerns.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATIONS**

Monitoring and Evaluations played an important role this year in collecting feedback as the club transitioned back into pre-covid practices.

Projects that the Monitoring and Evaluations executive ran included goal setting, and December and March reviews. The brief goal-setting workshops at the beginning of each term encouraged setting expectations for the self, the portfolio, and QPID as an organization. Reflective questions encouraged acknowledging successes and areas needing improvement. As a mid-year feedback and morale booster, committee members, executives, and directors received stars and a wish, completed by their peers. This helped to remind the team that their efforts were appreciated and that their contributions were recognized by others.

The monitoring and evaluation position was created within QPID to mitigate conflicts and serve as a source of critical reflexivity for the organization. Documentation from Monitoring and Evaluations protects the institutional memory of QPID. Moving forward, it has been decided that the Monitoring and Evaluations executive will work alongside the Equity Diversity Indigeneity and Inclusivity Director while remaining accessible to the General Director.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

For the first time since 2019, the QPID internship program was finally able to run at full capacity. Before winter break, the team had 10 interns hired to volunteer with partnerships including Ecology North in the Northwest Territories, VIDYA in Mumbai India, Parabukas in Manila Philippines, Starfish International in The Gambia, and Travel for Impact in Botswana.

A feature on each of our Partners:

**Ecology North - CANADA**

<https://ecologynorth.ca/>



Ecology North was founded over 50 years ago by a group of volunteers wanting to take action on arsenic pollution in Yellowknife. Their efforts have expanded to support climate change, waste reduction, food sovereignty, and water quality.

#### **VIDYA - INDIA**

<https://vidya-india.org/about-us/programs/mumbai/>



VIDYA Mumbai's mission is to provide holistic education to children, youth, and women through schools and community programs. Some initiatives that they lead include programs for youth programs, digital empowerment, and women in school empowerment. Their goal is to ensure that every child and woman in India has access to quality education, opportunities to succeed, and economic and social independence.

#### **PARABUKAS - PHILIPPINES**

<https://www.parabukas.com/team>



Parabukas works to advance the interest of the environment and sustainable development. It is run by women, based in Asia, to empower those who are affected by environmental problems. They work to make legal language and concepts accessible to stakeholders, for their inclusion in

advocacy. Their areas of practice specifically are in legal and policy, and sustainability communications.

## **TRAVEL FOR IMPACT - BOTSWANA**

<https://travelforimpact.com>

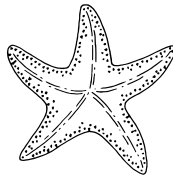


**CHANGING LIVES FOREVER THROUGH TRAVEL**

Parabukas works to advance the interest of the environment and sustainable development. It is run by women, based in Asia, to empower those who are affected by environmental problems. They work to make legal language and concepts accessible to stakeholders, for their inclusion in advocacy. Their areas of practice specifically are legal and policy, and sustainability communications.

## **STARFISH INTERNATIONAL - THE GAMBIA**

<https://starfishinternational.org/>



Starfish International is focused on providing education focused on service to others. Their programming emphasizes a mutually beneficial system of growth whereby the girls receive a practical education and the community benefits from the skills they acquire. They operate small business programs, library and adult literacy programs, and sports programs.

## **FINANCE & SPONSORSHIPS**

The QPID Finance and Sponsorship team worked under the Finance Director of QPID and experienced great success this year! The team continued running the Community Development Fund (CDF) which allows the club to make monthly donations of \$500 to charitable organizations that align with QPID's values. \$6,000 total was donated across organizations that aid in areas such as food insecurity in Kingston (Lunch by George), professional training services (Transaid), transitional housing for youth homelessness (Eva's), and more! Being able to vouch for charities to receive funding was a rewarding learning experience which had a real impact.

The team also took great strides to increase QPID's fundraising capability by investing in bluetooth card readers. These devices eliminate the need for cash transactions which is often an element that prevents people from making quick in person donations. These devices were no doubt a contributing

factor to the success of events like Collecting with QPID which raised more than \$2,000 over the initial \$10,000 goal.

The finance portfolio also began their own new initiative called the Benevolent Development Pitch competition as a way to further divest funds that have been collected over the years in our bank accounts. The competition offered \$7,000 in donations for university clubs who pitched a charity of their choice. This was the first year the competition ran and while there was some solid engagement, we hope to run the event at a different time this coming year when students are less busy. With internships back in person this year, the finance portfolio was also tasked with managing each intern's fundraising. QPID covers all the cost of each intern's trip except for \$2,500, so as a portfolio the goal was to have each intern raise that amount. In collaboration with the internship managers, multiple fundraisers were planned and executed. These included a Tarot card reading, valentines day candygram, and personal gofundme campaigns. Overall, the fundraising went exceptionally well and most people were able to embark on their journeys having spent no money from their pockets.

## **MARKETING**

Transitioning back to in person events did not have much of an impact on the marketing team as their responsibilities were largely online to begin with. This year the marketing team placed a major focus on using QPID's social media as development-focused, inclusive spaces. The team ensured that all provided resources were well-researched with sources attached. Once it became safe to do so, QPID's social media began to post photos of the QPID family reunited in in-person activities. The marketing team expanded to additional marketing channels such as CoGro TV and the Queen's Gazette to increase reach on campus. Other platforms like TikTok were used for the first time to share short, lighthearted videos to get people more familiar with QPID as a club. Over the summer months, the club's social media platforms have remained active, with a QPID-led Pride Campaign

## **CONCLUSION**

Despite ups and downs, we feel like this year was the first that felt normal since the outbreak of COVID. The past years brought many challenges and the growth from those circumstances was truly felt this year. As a group we became closer and as a club our reach spread further. We thank everyone who volunteered their time as a member, attention as an event participant and money as a supporter of our fundraisers.