



OPIRG Provincial



BILL 33

Impacts on OPIRGs and
Student Organizing

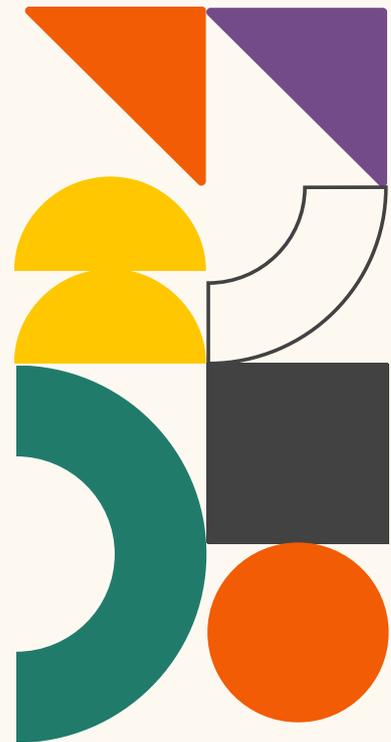
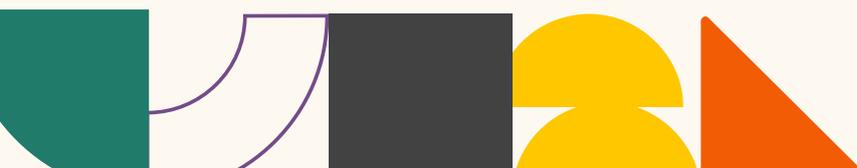




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Introduction

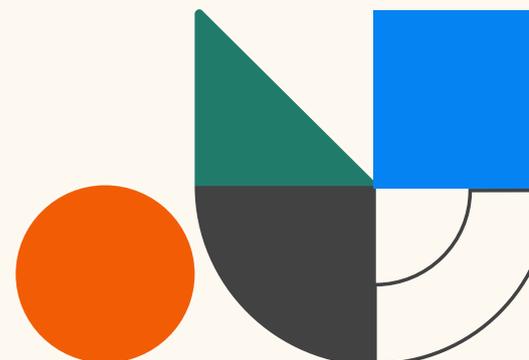


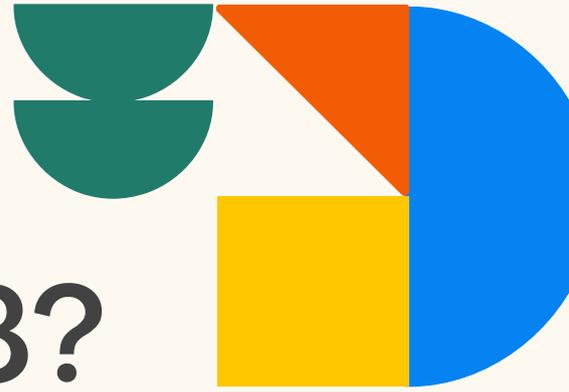
About Us

The OPIRG Provincial Network is a decentralized body that provides support for, and facilitates collaboration between individual PIRGs in Ontario. We are comprised of a series Public Interest Research Groups based in communities across the Province. These PIRGs share similar mandates and policies, but function autonomously in their everyday workings.

Rooted in the belief that we are strongest when we collectively work together,

the Provincial Network strives to facilitate communication, share resources, and build and strengthen relationships between PIRGs.





What is Bill 33?

Bill 33, the Supporting Children and Students Act 2025

is a piece of legislation introduced by the Ontario government that significantly expands provincial oversight of the education system.

The bill gives the Minister of Education new powers to investigate and take control of school boards, mandates the reintroduction of police officers in schools, and **imposes government regulation on student fees at colleges and universities.**

This includes authority over **ancillary fees**, which fund vital student services such as mental health support, food banks, and student advocacy initiatives.

With the **2025 Ontario Budget** confirming cuts to post-secondary funding, student-led services are more vital than ever. Limiting ancillary fees doesn't just restrict resources - it undermines student well-being and success across the province.





Overrides local decision-making

 **Bill 33 permits provincial officials to reinstate School Resource Officers (SROs) in schools**

even in districts that previously removed them due to equity and safety concerns. This top-down decision-making **undermines local authority** and ignores reasons SRO programs were ended.

 **A report prepared for the Ontario Human Rights Commission**

highlighted how school discipline policies **disproportionately affect Black, Tamil, Indigenous, and Latino students.**

Police in schools do not address safety concerns, it instead risks criminalizing young people in spaces meant for learning and growth.



Impacts on PIRGs

➔ **Bill 33 directly threatens the autonomy and sustainability of PIRGs**
by imposing government regulation on ancillary fees, which are critical to funding their operations.

➔ **These fees, typically approved through democratic student referenda,**
support a wide range of community-based programs and social justice initiatives led by OPIRGs.



➔ **Increased oversight and reporting requirements**
could create new bureaucratic hurdles for student-run organizations, making it more difficult to operate OPIRGs autonomously.

➔ **If student organizations lose funding and resources,**
students' collective voices on campus weakens. This impacts PIRGs and broader networks of student solidarity and activism across Ontario.



Status and Timeline of Bill 33 in the Ontario Legislature

Date	Bill Stage	Event	Outcome
June 5, 2025	Second Reading	Debated	Debate adjourned
May 29, 2025	First Reading	Ordered for Second Reading	-
May 29, 2025	First Reading	Vote	Carried

Currently, the Bill has reached **Second Reading**, which is the first **real debate** on the **bill's content**.

However, this debate was adjourned, and will continue at a later date **before a vote occurs to decide if it is carried to a Third Reading**.



What can PIRGs do?

01

Track Bill

Once Second Reading commences, staying informed on debates and the conversations happening around the Bill can help assess whether it is likely to move forward to Third Reading and potentially pass.

02

Build Student Awareness and Solidarity

Use social media, zines, or collaboration lunches to break down the bill for the wider student body and raising awareness. Making the content accessible and engaging can help students understand the content and potential impact of the Bill.

This ongoing tracking and raising awareness will allow the organization to anticipate outcomes, prepare timely responses, and plan advocacy strategies accordingly.

03

Scenario Planning

If the Bill passes unchanged, PIRGs should create a Defunding Plan to assess how long they can remain operational without core funding and prioritize essential expenses.

Connecting with PIRGs that have navigated similar challenges in the past can provide strategies and opportunities for resource sharing.

04

Connect with Those on the Ground!

There are organizations with larger capacities to monitor, challenge, and respond to this Bill. Uplifting, engaging, and offering support to these networks can strengthen collective advocacy, amplify student voices, and ensure PIRGs are part of a broader movement pushing back against harmful legislation.



So, who is on the ground?



Stay Connected



01

University Affairs/Affaires universitaires



02

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario



03

The Ontario Universities and Colleges Coalition



04

Ontario Human Rights Commission



05

Ontario Student Voices

These organizations are leading the conversation and can help guide student responses.