

Report to SGPS Council

Hello Councillors,

As we move into October, I hope we can hold onto the attention given to Truth & Reconciliation on campus in September. Thank you to all who participated in Queen's first Heart Garden. You can learn more about it by watching [this video](#), amplify it on [Instagram](#), and if you haven't already, visit the garden for a space to quietly reflect on the impacts of Residential schools, remember the lives lost and families impacted, and (re)commit to reconciliation.

Office | We hosted the Student Leader Development Conference on October 4. It was heartening to see so many student leaders from all faculties, years of study, and areas of Queen's governance gather together to develop skills and build a foundation for a good year ahead. We also raised \$419 for the [United Way KFL&A](#). The next big area of focus is the [Agnes Bendickson Tricolour Award](#). Currently, I am forming the Selection Committee, which is made up of the presidents (or delegate) from the AMS, SGPS, and each Faculty Society. That means there are 3 seats for graduate students (SGPS, Law Students Society, and Aesculapian Society). Once the Selection Committee is formed, I will open up the Nomination Form and promote the Award on social media, through an email to the all-students list, and with a drop-in booth at the JDUC.

Community Engagement | Recently I had the pleasure of [celebrating the JDUC donors](#) and their families at an event run by the Office of Advancement, attending the annual [Queen's Scholars event](#) hosted by Student Affairs, speaking at the [Community Engagement framework](#) launch, and watching the women's rugby and men's football teams complete on campus. The AMS and I are looking forward to celebrating the grand re-opening JDUC one more time, this time with students and alumni on October 17. [The event](#) is free and open to all, and will feature a student band, *The Last Call*, a photobooth, and lots of cake.

Board of Trustees | The Board of Trustees met over the week of September 22 for committees and for open session on September 26. During the open session, trustees and guests heard an educational presentation about understanding Queen's financial statements, and heard updates from the committee chairs. The Board also approved the audited financial statements for the April 2025 year end, a decrease in Faculty of Arts and Science international tuition (effective next academic year for all years) and an increase in Bachelor of Health Science (on campus) tuition (effective next academic year for incoming students), and the updated policy statement on student health and wellbeing. During my open session remarks, I urged a review of the JDUC project to understand the lessons learned, highlighted students concern about Bill 33, and shared some initial feedback about the Bicentennial Vision draft.

The Board has regular Open Session meetings four times per year, and community members can request to join in-person or online by sending an email to trustees@queensu.ca. Anyone can also access the [Governance Portal](#) to view the agenda by clicking on the calendar date of the meeting.

Committees | Here are all my available committee updates:

- **Tricolour Award Selection Review:** The new terms of reference have been posted [online](#) and announced via [social media](#) and [news post](#). I also sat down with [the Queen's Journal](#) for an interview.
- **Rector Election Policy Review:** [the committee](#) has completed its work and is now seeking feedback from the AMS Assembly and SGPS Council this month. After implementing any suggested changes that the groups would like to see, the Policy will come back as a motion for approval in November.

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:** It was a pleasure being a member of this group through the summer and leading up to September 30.
- **NEW: Housing Demand and Housing Strategy Oversight Committee:** this new committee (run by the Office of the Vice Principal, Finance & Administration) is leading the creation of a comprehensive housing demand survey and a housing strategy. Some of you may be aware of this if you were contacted to participate in the qualitative discussion in September. We are now moving into the quantitative survey stage, and I highly encourage you to complete it if you are contacted. The results from undergraduate and graduate students will be translated into actionable recommendations that align with Queen's strategic priorities and student needs.
- **NEW: Indigenous Research Collaboration Day:** I have recently joined a committee to help plan the upcoming Indigenous research collaboration day. We are in the very early stages of this work, and I look forward to providing more event details once confirmed.

Rector's Digest | In September's column, I wrote about a [duty to carry](#) Truth and Reconciliation, and highlighted resources for respectful engagement on campus.

That's all for now! Please reach out to me if you have any questions, need support, or would like to share an experience that can help me convey student voices to the administration. If you'd like to book a meeting or send an event invitation, please contact rector.assist@queensu.ca

At your service,



Niki Boytchuk-Hale (she/her)

University Rector
Office of the Rector

Princeps Servusque Es (Be a Leader and a Servant)

T 613-533-2733

rector@queensu.ca | queensu.ca/rector

