

Fellow Trustees,

Midterms are in full swing and a seat at the library has become almost as sought after as a spot in the Starbucks line before the 8:30 class rush.

**Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award** | Named in honour of Queen's 10th and first female Chancellor, and fellow Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Benidickson, this peer nominated award recognizes distinguished service, leadership, character, and community impact. As chair of the committee, I had the pleasure to learn more about the incredible work students at Queen's do, and ultimately recognize four very deserving inductees into the Tricolour Society. I look forward to sharing more about the four inductees in March.

**Housing** | Data collection is still underway as we continue to encourage students to share their experiences and thoughts on student housing in Kingston. Conversations with University administrators and those in housing and ancillary services continue to be positive but I do hope we as an institution can continue to think of innovative and industry leading ways to ensure we are putting students first and continue to meet the changing needs of the students we serve.

**Round Table with MPP Natalie Pierre** | I had the pleasure of participating in a round table about student mental health with MPP Pierre and colleagues from student affairs, AMS, SGPS, and students here on campus. We discussed what general and specialized supports Queen's and student governments currently offer, where gaps may lie, the impacts of the pandemic on mental health, among other things. It was a great opportunity to continue to advocate for more mental health supports for students and to hear the many ways Queen's and student groups continue to be there to care for our community.

**Equitable and accessible access to health and dental insurance** | Recently, I have been the main contact office for distance students in BHSC and Arts and Science Online programs who are interested in accessing the AMS' health and dental plan. Historically, these students have been excluded from the insurance plans offered to on-campus students. The increase of remote offerings and the continued emphasis on creating equitable and accessible practices into the structures we operate in has meant the status-quo is no longer acceptable. This will be a team effort as the AMS, University Registrar, respective faculty representatives as well as students are involved, but I am

pleased with the progress thus far and will stand with students and advocate for inclusive practices across the University.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to send me an email at [rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca) or give me a call at (343) 363-2150.

At your service,



Owen Crawford-Lem  
University Rector