



Fellow Trustees,

Life is back on campus, and I couldn't be more excited begin the year. I have been busy over the summer, drinking from the proverbial firehose while also planning for the upcoming year. I am thrilled to share my updates below.

Convocation | One of the best jobs of the rector is presiding over convocation in concert with Chancellor and Principal. Over 6,000 students came back to Kingston from three separate graduating years to celebrate their accomplishments at the Leon's center. While convocation wasn't on campus, the AMS and University Registrar did a great job ensuring hoods and gowns were available on campus for students to take that perfect graduation picture. This group of ceremonies was the final for Chancellor Emeritus Leech, and I was honoured to stand beside him as he sang O Canada one final time.

Housing | In campaigning for this role, I had the opportunity to talk to many students, from many different years, programs, and backgrounds, and one topic shone through much brighter than others. Student housing - everyone needs a place to live. For most students, first-year is spent living on campus in residence, which provides a supported transition from living at home to living alone. In second through fourth year, students typically decide to live off-campus in the surrounding neighbourhood, often called the 'university district'. While this offers a proximity to campus that is unrivaled and a community feel that is desirable, it creates an area where landlords know they can take advantage of students, keep property standards low, and charge above market value for units well below market quality. Finding housing has become increasingly difficult at the best of times, coupled with the unique challenges that face graduate and international students, it often becomes impossible.

It is for these reasons that I have made creating viable, sustainable, and long-term solutions that address both community and student concerns, a priority for me over the next two years. Working closely with the housing team here at Queen's as well as community members, I have come to understand some of the challenges and constraints that can plaque conversations around students housing and I intend to face them head-on starting with the largest data collection of student housing information to date. I have engaged a highly motivated and skillful group of student consultants to help me with this project and I hope I can update the Board of this progress at our December meeting.

Priorities |

Students and the University |

I am pleased to update the Board that I have been trained as a facilitator in Gender-Based Violence Awareness and Intervention. This training and learning about the programs available at Queen's will allow me to continue my conversations around toxic masculinity, sexual violence, and the role men need to be playing as active bystanders and in combatting gender-based violence. In November, I will be partnering with the Queen's Student Alumni Association, Varsity Leadership Council, Human Rights and Equity Office and, Student



Wellness Services to bring back former Rector Cam Yung to speak about positive leadership and navigating toxic masculinity. Through monthly meetings with Student Wellness Service and regular touchpoints with both the AMS and SGPS, I have continued to ensure that mental health and wellness services are continuously meeting the changing needs of students. Day-to-day, I have continued to be a confidential resource and support for students and ensure there is open dialogue between senior administration and students.

Students and the Community / As you may remember, the Principal's vision for community engagement is one that I share in and believe is one of the paths to transforming this institution and addressing some of the most significant challenges we face. I would like to draw the Boards attention to a task force struck by the Principal in response to the large gatherings that often occur when students are back on campus and around Homecoming and St. Patrick's Day. This taskforce, comprised of students, university staff and admin, and community members, aims to create recommendations and suggestions that can be published for community feedback. My role is to sit on the Enforcement & Policing and Scan of other Universities & Sector Approaches working groups to provide a student perspective and ensure that wellness and harm reduction are at the heart of all recommendations. As Trustees may also remember, my office has struck a partnership with the United Way in Kingston, and I have brought on two students that will focus entirely on connecting students with the United Way and volunteer opportunities off-campus. Three months ago, I was asked by Bhavana Varma, the President and CEO of United Way KFLA, to sit on the youth homelessness steering committee. It has been an eye-opening experience thus far and I look forward to seeing the continued positive impact that Queen's can have on the Kingston community and beyond.

Students and the Rector / My third priority is bringing life back into the Office of the Rector. In the last 4 months, the office's social media engagement has increased by 32,000% and the number of accounts reached has exceed 10,000, a 9,497% increase. I have been featured by the Queen's Gazette, the Queen's Journal, and the campus radio station. I hope to continue the positive momentum as the mandate of the office is to serve students, their concerns, and most importantly, their voice. I have also been reviewing the terms of reference for the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award to ensure it aligns with EDII principles and accurately reflects the students deserving of this honour.

Final Remarks | Thank you for taking the time to read my report and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, concerns, or with any ideas you may have. I can be reached at rector@queensu.ca or (343) 363-2723.

At your service,

Owen Crawford-Lem
38th Rector of Queen's University
Principes Servusque Es (Be a Leader and Servant)