

Fellow Trustees,

School is in full swing, and the lines at Starbucks are back. September is always an exciting month. Students are back in the classroom, club activities are starting to pick up, and the new cohort of first-year students are excited to begin their journey at Queen's. Despite not being physically in Kingston for the summer months, I had the pleasure of returning to Kingston for Convocation in May and June as well as continuing my engagement with the Queen's and Kingston community throughout the summer.

Queen's Lobby Day | At the end of May I travelled to Parliament Hill in Ottawa with a delegation from Queen's. We met with Queen's graduates working on the Hill as well as key decision makers to update them on the significant progress Queen's has made in contributing to social impact and research, and to better understand the Government's priorities as it aligns with our strategic vision for the University. The Government Relations team also coordinated a very well-attended reception where Members of Parliament and political staff were able to connect with each other and the Queen's delegation in a more informal setting.

Tricolour Awards | This year, the Tricolour Awards and the QUAA Alumni Awards Gala were held together on the same evening in June. It was a great opportunity for distinguished students and alumni to connect, and each recognize their respective contributions, for which there were many. Queen's Geography and Planning Professor, Dr. David Gordon, and member of the Tricolour Society was present to say a few words about the society and welcome the four newest members into an illustrious group of alumni.

Convocation | June Convocation was back again in the Leon's Centre and a resounding success. The feedback I received from both students and parents was exceedingly positive and being able to celebrate this exciting day with the graduating class is something truly special. Various faculties and the Queen's Student Alumni Association also complimented the ceremony with their own programming both on campus and on-site at the Leon's Centre. I look forward to my final convocation ceremonies in November.

Engagement with the City of Kingston | I have continued to keep an open dialogue with the City Councillors that represent the University District and areas students

frequent most. I am encouraged to see the formation of a new working group proposed by the Councillor from Sydenham that looks to improve student-community relations across the three post-secondary institutions located in Kingston. I emphasized the importance of moving past perceived issues of student behaviour, despite being an important topic, and ensuring a more holistic view of the student-community relationship is explored. These topics include the attraction and retention of students in the Kingston area once they have graduated, ensuring positive collaboration between students and community organizations, and taking a more proactive approach to student-community relations recognizing the needs and interests of all the parties involved.

Looking Ahead | As many of the student leadership positions have now been filled, I have been scheduling introductory meetings with campus leaders to get a better understanding of their vision and plans for their organizations and ensure they are aware of the resources my office can provide. I also look forward to continuing the positive relationships I have created with students, staff, and faculty over the last year and ensuring I continue to be accessible to all who need me.

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

At your service,



Owen Crawford-Lem
University Rector