

Office of the Rector
Report to Assembly
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Hello Presidents,

Happy new year and new term! I hope your semester is off to a promising start. If it's not, please utilize the [resources](#) around you, including my office.

We have several projects on the go this term, including promoting winter elections, establishing a streamlined process for the Rector's Bursary, and planning the upcoming Tricolour Award reception. We will also keep up with our usual business, like committee work, attending events, collaborating with clubs, and making regular communications through social media and [The Journal](#).

Outdoor Indigenous Gathering Space | I am thrilled to be able to speak about the news that Queen's has honoured recently retired Associate Vice-Principal Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill), Ed'99. The gathering space, now called "Tsi Yakwanahstahsontéhrha – the place where we extend the rafters" is taken from the Haudenosaunee tradition of building good relations and refers to the practice of extending the rafters of the Longhouse to create room for newcomers, allowing the community to thrive. I had the great joy of writing a letter of support for the naming motion. I first worked with Kanonhsyonne when I was an assistant manager at the AMS and established the first land acknowledgement and training for our organization in 2022. As we are now fully into "election season" I share this as an example of how student leaders can work with the administration and Board.

Board of Trustees | The last open session meeting of the Board was on Dec. 7. The agenda for the Open Session can be found on the [governance portal](#).

As usual, I presented a report and speech to my fellow Trustees. My report highlighted work done through the fall semester, such as onboarding three students and community engagement activities. During my speech, I addressed how Queen's must bring people along and seek genuine input on our vision moving towards our bicentennial. Here is one small excerpt from my remarks:

"I have the upmost confidence that in 15 years from now, Queen's is going to be living our strategy, and we will come out the other side of things stronger. I do, however, have concern about the way we will come to it – who we bring along, whose voices we listen to and therefore value."

Our school's vision, as you know, is that "the Queen's community—our people—will solve the world's most significant and urgent challenges with their intellectual curiosity, passion to achieve, and commitment to collaborate".

Now, if we have that much faith in our people to solve the world's most significant challenges – and I know I do – then that leads me to say, as we are working towards a shared vision for our institution's future, one that will address the urgent challenges our university, and hopefully be a map for the post-secondary sector, how can we bring our people along with us? Not as an afterthought or once pressure is mounting. A genuine effort to take initiative. To open the circle. Extend the rafters. And build something we can all get behind."

Tricolour Award | Nominations for the award have closed and the committee is delighted to have received a high volume of submissions nominating undergrad and grad students for their outstanding contributions to the Queen's community. Over the next month, the committee will be engaging in a hard selection process, and we look forward to announcing and celebrating the 2025 recipients later this semester.

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.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niki BH' with a stylized flourish underneath.

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