



NIKI
RECTOR **4**
2024

Campaign Platform

Vote Niki #1
on the ballot
Feb 6 and 7



I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee in whose territory I have found a home while attending school at Queen’s University. These lands surrounding the Great Lakes are immersed in thousands of generations of Indigenous histories, including languages, arts, celebrations, and resilience.

Founded in 1841, Queen’s has been steeped in settler colonialism and violence since its inception. It is now our collective responsibility to continuously reflect on, acknowledge, and call out the impact of this institution on Indigenous peoples while taking meaningful actions towards reconciliation that have been asked for by the community.

The Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples had a mutual understanding through the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt to share the land and resources peacefully with one another, long before settlers arrived. By living on this land, I strive to use this covenant as my compass to abide by the values that the Dish with One Spoon holds. It is important to me that my priorities and actions are aligned with ecological sustainability and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples. As the Rector is a member of the Board of Trustees, this role includes pushing for an increased commitment to responsible investment which combats the climate crisis.

As a student of Queen’s, I was fortunate to have spent a part of my undergraduate degree in Indigenous language and culture courses, and I am currently studying in the Indigenous Teacher Education Program. These classes have taught me about Indigenous ways of knowing and being. If I could recommend one (or two) courses for someone to take at our school, it would be ANSH 101 & 102. It was in this class that I learned about the Anishinabek approach to life: Mino-Bimaadiziwin. This teaching has stuck with me and continues to enrich my life.

There are at least 280 distinct Indigenous languages across Turtle Island, some of which are found in and around our campus. Indigenous peoples have a beautiful way of seeing the world, and I would like to highlight that in my platform through the addition of Kanyen’keha headings.

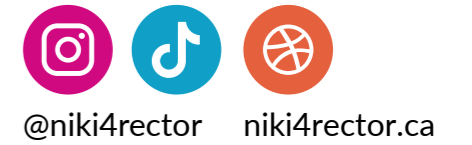
We all share the responsibility to leave the world, and Queen’s, better than when we came here. Similarly, I pledge to leave the Office of the Rector better than I receive it.

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Introduction / Enkatatená:ton'

I am humbly presenting myself as a candidate for the 39th Rector of Queen's University. I promise that you can count on me to be an agent of change. I will use this position to connect, advocate, and inform. I plan on achieving this by committing to understanding the student voice and experience, guiding students to and opening doors for conversations with the University, and supporting short-term priority goals and long-term institutional change.



Timeline / Tsi niká:wi yoterihwahténtyon

Rector Debate
February 1 at 6:00 pm

Voting Opens
February 6 at 12:00 am

Voting Closes
February 7 at 8:00 pm



A note from Niki / Tsi nahò:ten yakohyá:ton ne Niki



Hey, I'm Niki

I am running to be your next Rector.

I came to Queen's as an undergraduate student and completed a Bachelor of Fine Art that was focused on printmaking and digital media. I am now a graduate student doing a Bachelor of Education in the Indigenous Teacher Education Program.

I was born in Toronto and raised nearby. I am happiest outdoors, doing anything from winter camping up North to hammocking in Victoria Park. I love school and not a day goes by that I do not recognise how lucky I am to be able to access post-secondary education.

I have worn many hats on campus, and this has provided me with unique insights into the inner workings of student government and the University. Some of my favourite experiences have been my time as an orientation leader, working for Studio Q, serving as the AMS Director of Marketing, and supporting the University Relations and Sexual Violence Prevention departments. I am proud of what I have accomplished, but I am even more proud of my leadership philosophy: I am hard on ideas and easy on hearts.

I am grateful for the relationships I have built and the impact I have made - and I am not quite done yet!

This platform is dedicated to the countless leaders who I have learned from and aspire to be like. This decision to run to be the 39th Rector is an accumulation of the five years I have spent listening to, learning from, and working for our community.

My biggest promise to you is that I will show up with heart and will always be ready to put in the work.

Warmly,

Niki



Oil painting of me snowshoeing on Lake Temagami while camping near Rabbit Nose Island.



My first campus job was doing graphic design for Studio Q.



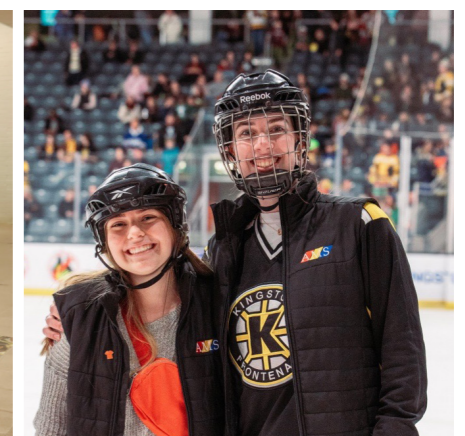
My mural, *A Love That Clings*, promotes a campus of consent culture.



On shoot for the video series I created, *AMS asks U*, which reached over 250,000 accounts.



My undergraduate thesis examined the identities of Missing and Murdered Indigenous peoples using digital and print technology.



On ice at the Kingston Frontenacs game fundraising for the AMS Foodbank.

Consultations / Enkhe'nikonhrí:sake'

I spent over 25 hours meeting with students and employees. I listened to them and found the most salient issues facing our community right now. Thank you to everyone who offered their time to meet with me.

Adam King, Community Housing Manager
Alejandro Arauz, BFA Undergraduate Chair
Alex da Silva, 36th Rector
Alison Holt, Board of Trustee
Amaiya Walters, ASUS President
Ashley Canete, QBAC VP Sustainable Investing
Baraa Abuzayed, SPHR Internal Director
Barb Lotan, SVRP Coordinator
Barbara Crow, Arts & Science Dean
Cynthia Gibney, SWS Executive Director
Devin Fowley, SGPS President
Dreyden George, AMS Clubs Commissioner
Emily Broitman, Hillel Ontario in Kingston President
Gilli Golan, Queen's Hillel Chair
Hannah Bathurst, QUIC Programs Coordinator
Hannah Latimer, NSS VP University Affairs
Holly Burrows, NSS President
Julian Mollot-Hill, AMS External Affairs Commissioner
Kate McCuaig, AMS President
Khadija Farooq, AMS Social Issues External Commissioner
Kyle Deverell, WiSE President
Kyle Goldenberg, Hillel First Year Representative
Lauren Alward, QBACC Co-President
Leah Wales, Housing & Ancillary Executive Director
Mahir Hamid, ComSoc President
Matthew Evans, Provost and Vice Principal (Academic)
Melinda Knox, Thought Leadership & Strategic Initiatives Director
Michelle Hudson, AMS VP Operations
Mika Henry, Office of Indigenous Affairs Project and Communications Coordinator
Nati Pressmann, Queen's Hillel External Relations Director

Owen Crawford Lem, 38th Rector
Patrick Dean, Queen's Principal
Phoebe Starnino, Hillel First Year Representative
Preston Harrison, ASUS VP Society Affairs
Rebecca Rappeport, SVPR Student Support Worker
Reem Al Rawi, Undergraduate Trustee
Ryan Kuhar, AMS Environmental Commissioner
Sara Pollen, HSS President
Siena Margorian, QBACC Co-President
Terri Flindal, Governance Engagement Officer
Therese de Rivera, ASUS VP Operations
Victoria Mills, AMS VP University Affairs
Vitoria Mihaylova, NSS VP Operations
Yara Hussein, SPHR Chair

Campaign Team / Akaonèn:ra'

This campaign was made possible because of the efforts from the following people.



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Social Media Administrator

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Rector Explained / Tekerihwathè:tha ne Rector

The Rector is elected by the student body to serve as the third officer of the University, after the Chancellor and Principal. As taken from the Rector website, the following points serve to describe the role and its duties.



a. Serves as a student representative of the university's Board of Trustees (and associated committees of the Board) and as an official observer of the university's Senate. The Rector also manages invitations to university-wide task forces, advisory committees, and working groups.

b. Participates in many ceremonial functions, including Convocation and the conferring of awards. In concert with the Chancellor and Principal, the Rector presides over all convocation ceremonies at Queen's. The Rector leads the Chancellor's procession, delivers brief remarks to the graduating class. Additionally, the Rector participates in photographs with each Honorary Degree recipient and attends convocation luncheons with distinguished guests and convocation speakers.



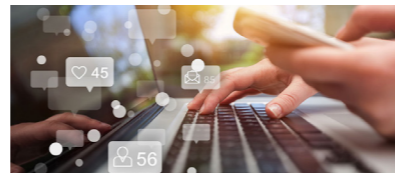
c. Serves as Chair of the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award Selection Committee and has responsibility for all processes related to the Award, including the nomination and selection process, the organization of the annual Tricolour Society Reception, and the presentation of the Tricolour Award to recipients.

d. Works with students' organizations and participates on numerous student government bodies, including AMS Assembly (non-voting observer), SGPS Council (non-voting observer), and Presidents' Caucus, as well as, round tables, advocacy summits, and public speaking opportunities.



e. Acts as a key liaison between students and the university's senior administration, articulating and amplifying important issues, opinions, views, and encouraging university wide dialogue on issues that are important to student success.

f. Manages the Office of the University Rector, including its budget, its website and social media accounts, its administrative records, and the Rector Bursary, with the support of staff in the University Secretariat.



Mission and Values / Tsi Nahò:ten Yonkwaterihwayén:ni



Mission

A Rector who represents the student voice fairly and elevates the Queen's experience.

Values

A large part of the Rector's role involves meetings and closed door sessions. I would like you to know what I value, so you can feel comfortable knowing what I will be working towards in moments that full-transparency is not feasible. My values are the foundation of my platform goals and the driving force behind my pillars.

Accountability

Inclusion

Sustainability

Background / Tsi niwakyé:ren

I am an inclusive, action-oriented, and people-centered leader. I plan to continue this personal mandate to drive my actions as the Rector. I believe that the current uncertainties in our school presents an opportunity for me to use my experiences to be the best advocate for students.

Recent Experience

Special Projects, Sexual Violence and Prevention

Queen's University / Dec 2023 - Present

- Aligning copy and design with recently updated policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Misconduct Involving Students.

Intern, Brand Communications and Insights

Queen's University / May 2023 - Dec 2023

- Support for the University Relations department mission in building Queen's global profile and reputation through developing marketing and communications strategies grounded in audience research and insight.

Director, Marketing Office

Alma Mater Society / May 2022 - April 2023

- Managed 10 direct reports and optimized the marketing office budget in excess of \$80k to create, deploy, and optimize authentic, relevant, and connecting experiential marketing through digital strategies, print advertising, and live community engagement.

Volunteering

Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors

Alma Mater Society / May 2023 - Present

- Provide strategic guidance, financial accountability, and human resources support through chairing the governance committee and serving on the Queen's Journal Advisory Board.

Treasurer

Fine Art Department Student Council / May 2021 - April 2022

- Developed a budget and maintained accurate records of all income and expenditures.

Orientation Leader

Concurrent Education Students Association / Feb 2020 - Sept 2021

- Planned and led incoming students in welcoming activities

Media

- [Four things I learned from four years at Queen's](#)
- [AMS sticker campaign supports Indigenous Climate Action](#)
- [Kingston Frontenacs team up with Queen's AMS](#)
- [AMS 'harm reduction' for Queen's homecoming](#)
- [Consensual Humans mural driving positive conversations about consent](#)
- [Drawing attention to the issue of consent through art](#)
- [Informed consent and the beauty of diversity](#)



Pillars / Onawa'a'shòn:'a



1.

Communication

Enhance the feedback loop between the Rector and students.

2.

Wellbeing

Improve the holistic safety of students.

3.

Collaboration

Amplify student advocacy goals.

Pillars: Communication

My goal is to enhance the feedback loop between the Rector and students.

In the ivy towers filled with the highest leadership at Queen's University, there is one student afforded the privilege to act as the student voice. Because the Rector is elected by the student body, you are my most important stakeholder, and you deserve to know how I am advocating for your needs. I promise to make the Rector a constant touchpoint during a student's time at Queen's, so that when I shake your hand at convocation, you will know who I am and what I have accomplished with this job funded by students.

I firmly believe that the Rector-student relationship should be reciprocal. As much as I will be transparent about my experiences, I would like to hear from you about yours. The Office of the Rector will be moving back into the JDUC this summer; this brings an exciting opportunity to re-center the role to be in the students' direct eye on a daily basis, and I hope students will view it as an opportunity to visit my office on a frequent basis. This will allow me to be informed on student voices when reporting to the Board of Trustees.

- Make frequent and comprehensive updates on progress and open session meetings via short and digestible video content
- Devise robust and creative experiential marketing plans with digital strategies, print advertising, and live community engagement
- Establish a safe space for discussion by hosting live in-person and asynchronous open forums for students to engage with topics such as safety on campus
- Build a paid student job in the Rector's Office to support the communication strategy and provide an additional opportunity to support experiential learning

Pillars: Wellbeing

My goal is to improve the holistic safety of students.

When choosing to attend Queen's University for our higher education, every student has hopes for their experience. We all deserve to feel safe, healthy, and fulfilled in our time in university, and as Rector, I hope to promote these values on campus. This promotion will involve ensuring the needs of students are met in different areas: holistic student safety (involving physical, psychological, spiritual, and other safeties), a feeling of belonging within the Queen's community, resources for students who need them, and more.

The past few years have brought many hardships to students; as an ArtSci alumnus, I personally experienced the fear and uncertainty when admissions were suspended for the Fine Art program last year. While we have seen the Queen's community come together to weather these challenging times, we cannot forget that everyone experiences hardship differently. Our support systems at Queen's need to be multifaceted, where you can turn to different resources with ease in order to match the dynamic challenges we face as students every day. Students' wellbeing must be considered so that they can perform at their best, in both academic and non-academic spheres. I have seen the data, and I know that significant changes must be made to improve students' quality of life at Queen's. As Rector, it is my goal to ensure that students not only have resources ready-at-hand, but also that incoming and current students are made aware that these resources exist. By advocating on both of these goals, I believe that we can make our university more resilient and more responsive to the everyday needs of students.

- Encourage the University to improve their communication and transparency to better align with students' needs (for example, clearer dissemination of I-EDIAA progress)
- Implement an AI chatbox to help students navigate resources
- Conduct a survey to analyze students' accessibility and community safety experiences on campus
- Press the University for a committed long-term plan for recovery after budget cuts and program changes

Pillars: Collaboration

My goal is to amplify student advocacy goals.

The best decisions are made by diverse groups of people. I aim to collaborate with student leaders to co-create outcomes with shared benefits and establish mutual responsibilities between students and the administration. Our communities - Queen's University and the City of Kingston - are facing challenges surrounding cost of living, funding sources, and difficult conversations. I know that our community is already mobilizing, and I want to amplify this with my position. Students are concerned about the quality, stability, and future of their student experience, and I fundamentally believe that these worries can be addressed by empowering students with concrete resources and a pathway to advocate for their needs at a high level in collaboration with University stakeholders.

With the help of my institutional knowledge, I seek to create collaborative spaces in which diverse groups can pool their skills to further strengthen communal advocacy on campus. Students at Queen's value respect, ingenuity, and diligence as tenets of their higher-education experience — these qualities are already present on campus, and as Rector, I will contribute to strengthening this foundation for student advocacy.

- Address housing and food insecurity
- Explore further fossil fuel divestment
- Lobbying alongside student and university groups to improve government funding for research, healthcare, and infrastructure
- Coordinate a professional development session for student leaders on AMS and SGPS Assemblies about having difficult conversations and responding to campus events
- Prioritize the relationship between and collaboration with student Trustees when appearing before the University administration



Voting / Tsi Ní:tsi Ensewará:ko

Who

Undergraduate or graduate students that have paid their mandatory AMS or SGPS student fees.

What

Voting is done using an online voting system. The candidate that gains 50% (+1) of the ballots cast will win the election.

Where

Vote at queensams.simplyvoting.com by signing in with your Queen's NetID.

When

Voting opens February 6 at 12:00 am and closes February 7 at 8:00 pm.

Why

Democracy demands passion and investment. It is for this reason that I am asking you to use your voice to vote on February 6 or 7. Then, tell your peers to vote. We should not be taking this choice, for a person that is responsible for supporting and voicing the needs of all students, for granted.

VOTE HERE

Thank You / Nyá:wen

Thank you for taking the time to explore my platform. I hope to continue these conversations with you throughout my campaign week. You can find me on campus booting or on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) @niki4rector.

VOTE NIKI #1 ON THE BALLOT



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