



Report to SGPS Council

Hello Presidents,

I hope you all had a fulfilling summer, wherever you were and whatever you did. I wish you the best of luck as many of you transition back to campus, classes, research, and other grad student duties. Here is a recap of what my team and I have been up to since we last met in May.

Office | Third Student Leader Development Conference (SLDC) is happening on September 18 and 19. Registration is open (and free), so check your inboxes for the event info, or email rector.assist@queensu.ca if you can't find it and would like to attend. Highlights of this year's program include media and communications training with Dan Tish (President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce) and a session on leadership and moral courage with Bob Rae (former Premier of Ontario and Canadian Ambassador to the UN). Our municipal election awareness campaign also launched. Thus far, there is [a video](#) on how to register and [an infographic](#) outlining high-level roles of the positions up for election. All this info and more can be [found on my website](#).

Community Engagement | Spring/summer convocation was a beautiful 1.5 weeks in May and June. We [celebrated four graduating Tricolour Award recipients](#) on stage and Queen's presented [David Robertson](#) with an honorary doctorate. Also in June, the Queen's University Alumni Association celebrated two students, Yehonatan Shakarghi (QSAA Volunteer of Distinction Award) and Natalie Kearn (Outstanding Student Leader Award), at the [annual gala](#). I supported recent Queen's alumni in securing funding for a new event, [Black at Queen's Post Grad](#), which had a great turnout of over 100 alumni spanning many generations. Coming up soon, we will share messaging about the [University District Safety Initiative](#), which is in effect August 28 – September 13. During this period, the City of Kingston bylaw and police officers can issue fines and court summons for nuisance parties, alcohol use, and noise. Finally, I [sat down with the Gazette](#) to speak with them about my decision to remain Rector for a third year. I shared reflections about the last two years, goals for the next several months, and some thoughts up the future of Queen's.

Board of Trustees | The next regular meeting of the Board is in October, and I look forward to providing an update after our session.

The Board has regular Open Session meetings four times per year, and community members can request to join in-person or online by sending an email to trustees@queensu.ca. Anyone can also access the [Governance Portal](#) to view the agenda by clicking on the calendar date of the meeting. You can learn about the basics of the Queen's Board by [watching this playlist](#).

Committees | Here are all my available committee updates:

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:** [an event submission form](#) is now open. Please complete it if your organization/club is hosting an event or activity related to NDTR, and it will be included in the [OII website](#).
- **Housing Demand and Housing Strategy Oversight Committee:** this committee has now wrapped up its work, and the university will publish a report in the fall. I will follow up here and on my website/social media once it is available.
- **Indigenous Research Collaboration Day:** we are currently confirming a date for the fall and session speakers. I look forward to sharing more when these details are confirmed.

- **Remembrance Day Planning:** our small planning group meets throughout the summer and early fall to coordinate this important ceremony on campus. Student leaders were recently sent a calendar invite to attend and we are looking forward to including student voices, connected to military service, during the program.
- **Brand Strategy Steering Committee:** For the first time in history, Queen's is creating a brand strategy. As students, you would have received some information about this when contacted to complete online survey and/or participant in a focus group. Phase I of data collection is now complete and Mammoth, a consultancy specializing in higher education brand strategy, presented their findings to our committee.

Rector's Digest | May's column spoke to the [business of Queen's governance](#), including the responsibilities held between Senate and Board, and how decisions are made. My [June column](#) spoke about my hope for humanities, inspired by convocation speeches. And for the [First Year in Focus \(July\) issue of The Journal](#), Arabella took over the column to provide her recent insights after completing her first year at Queen's.

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. If you'd like to book a meeting or send an event invitation, please contact rector.assist@queensu.ca

At your service,



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