



It has been 1 week since I started my Rector campaign and I am grateful for the deeper connections this experience has brought me.

While this is a longer message than traditionally conveyed on social media, I have the utmost confidence in the student body to take the time to read about my values, goals, and beliefs so you can understand why I would be an excellent Rector for you.

As part of my Bachelor of Education degree, I recently submitted my Statements of Professional Beliefs to demonstrate my philosophy to the Ontario College of Teachers. I would like to do the same for the Rector role as these beliefs have strongly impacted my campaign priorities.

These are based on teachings I have received from Professors who have given me permission to use this as a framework for organizing my thoughts.

Why this? Why Now?

I decided to further my career in student leadership because I want to continue creating an environment that is safe, enjoyable, and free from barriers where students are able to be their best selves. I seek to build connections with everyone and help facilitate the development of peer relationships to allow every student at Queen's to feel a sense of belonging. My beliefs are built on the foundation of holism. I believe in meeting the four areas of the person, as reflected in the Medicine Wheel: intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual.

Intellectual

As the Rector, I will work to understand the educational gaps that you are facing at Queen's by being attentive and doing my research. I believe in providing students with choice and uplifting their voices to encourage agency and better learning outcomes. This starts with our voting systems which allow our students to have an equal opportunity to cast a ballot. Go vote on Feb 6 – 7.

Emotional

I believe that meeting the emotional needs of students is crucial to the success of our schooling experience. I

subscribe to the approaches outlined in Trauma-Informed Pedagogy. It is crucial that we are offered a predictable educational environment to support nervous system regulation.

I have seen and experienced the challenges that women face when obtaining and holding positions of leadership and I seek to set new expectations to improve access to leadership opportunities for the young women who will come next.

Physical

I believe that physically accessible spaces matter and that it is important that students hailing from equity-deserving backgrounds feel safe to occupy them. I will work with you to establish safe spaces for discussions to ensure that there are opportunities for those not comfortable reporting to or within the structure of our AMS Assembly and SGPS Council.

The Rector should be seen and heard, as a mirror and microphone for students. I will always show up to represent us so that our voices cannot be ignored.

Spiritual

I believe in being a spiritually engaged leader to meet the needs of students. Acknowledging cultural and spiritual values helps create belonging and community. My mission is realized through the framework of culturally responsive pedagogy where I seek to have a deep understanding of and integrate lived experiences into closed-session meetings to ensure students feel represented.

Ongoing Learning

I understand that my beliefs as a Rector can only be realized through continued learning. I commit myself to ongoing and self-directed learning. I recognize that we must be the best versions of ourselves in order to show up in the best way for one another. It would be a disservice to my community to not update my knowledge based on research and student voices, which will inevitably evolve over my time in office.

The logo for Niki Boytchuk-Hale, consisting of the letters "NBH" in a stylized, bold, black font.

Niki Boytchuk-Hale, ArtSci'23, Ed'24