

November 2020 news & updates

Pension rate of return: 7.7% for the 12 month period ending August 31, 2020



The view from Watts Hall: A first-year student's perspective on living and learning in a pandemic

In the last newsletter, we described Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, Ann

Tierney's views about how Student Affairs and Queen's had prepared for incoming first-year students, given the challenges of Covid-19.

Recently, RAQ president Diane Kelly spoke with a first-year student who was lucky enough to have been accepted at Queen's and into residence to get his views about the first few months at Queen's.

See [here](#) for the full interview.

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Update on RAQ strategic planning exercise

Alistair MacLean reports that over 200 responses have been received on the survey circulated earlier this month. As a reminder to those who have not yet had a chance to respond, RAQ is interested in views on your current level of engagement with RAQ, how you rank the importance of current programming, services, and advocacy priorities, and which activities RAQ might consider offering in the future.

The survey is open until Friday,

Virtual Speakers' Series still going strong this fall

Please join us on December 8, 2020 at 1:00 pm to hear Dr. Stephen Archer, Head, Queen's Department of Medicine, speak about ***The mighty mitochondrion – watch them move and learn that they are much more than the power house of the cell.***

Registration is needed if you want to join the live Zoom session and ask questions but a recorded version will be available for those unable to join online.

Recent consultations at Queen's

As RAQ members may be aware, the Board of Trustees recently approved removing the name of Sir John A. Macdonald from the building that houses the Faculty of Law. This decision was based on a **recommendation** from Principal Patrick Deane, following conclusions reached by **Mark Walters**, the Dean of the Faculty of Law (posted on the RAQ web site), and **the report** from the Building Name Consultation Advisory Committee. The decision was grounded in the university's commitment to honour the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and act upon the principles enunciated in the university's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Task Force Final Report, ***Yakwanastahentéha Aankenjigemi Extending the rafters.***

The next steps for naming the building have not yet been announced.

And Principal Deane's *Conversation* with the Queen's community is ongoing, after the release of his **12-page report**, *Components of an emerging strategy: A report on the Conversation*. RAQ members may provide their thoughts on this report through **a feedback form** found on the Office of the Principal website.

RAQ has posted recordings of guest speakers from October (**Bhavana Varma**, KFL&A United Way) and November (**Tricia Baldwin**, The Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts).



Membership update

We are getting closer to our goal of 1,000+ members - over 70 new members have joined since the last newsletter.

Please remind your colleagues to sign up with RAQ for free!

Pension and benefits update

In the next few weeks, Human

Resources will send out their annual letter on the pension adjustment. It is anticipated that many retirees will receive a small increase in their pension.

We also remind retirees that under our Manulife coverage, accessing your drug, health and other optional benefits has never been easier. Remember to keep your "pay direct" drug card on hand so that you can use it at the pharmacy and simply submit other claims, as necessary, through the Manulife on-line portal.

All of this information is contained



in the package you received from Queen's Human Resources and can also found **on their website**.

