



Get to know University Councillor Colin McLeod, Artsci '10



Why did you select Queen's University?

I was debating between attending Queen's, McGill and Western, and the factor that led to me picking Queen's was the stunning campus. On university tours with my parents, Queen's was our last stop and I didn't think I'd be choosing it. But I remember walking around campus on a beautiful spring day, and it all just clicked for me. Grant Hall, Summerhill, the shimmer off Lake Ontario. It felt like home and where I wanted to be. The rest is history!

Most memorable moment as a student?

My most memorable moment as a student was the 2009 Vanier Cup in Quebec City, where the Queen's football team came back to beat Calgary. The weekend had all you could ask for – poutine, tailgating with Gilles Duceppe, and an epic second half comeback. This followed an impressive run of wins in Kingston that absolutely electrified campus.

Tell us a little about your career?

After I completed my Master's degree, I joined the Canadian federal public service, and have been fortunate to work on a wide range of files, including international climate change negotiations, economic sanctions and as Chief of Staff to the head of Canada's foreign, trade and development strategy policy. I'm currently a Canadian diplomat serving as the head of the political/economic section at the Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, covering Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

What's the career highlight you're most proud of?

Being able to represent Canada internationally has been the honour of a lifetime. I've been fortunate to have experiences negotiating on Canada's behalf for climate change negotiations, and now as a diplomat posted abroad, I get to represent Canada on a daily basis in the U.S. The pride of being able to represent Canada doesn't get old, and this career path is linked all the way back to when I

was a student at Queen's taking fourth year Political Studies seminars taught by retired Canadian Ambassadors. I give Queen's a lot of credit for influencing where I am today.

How do you spend your free time?

I'm grateful to have moved abroad as a diplomat with my wife Laura (ArtSci '10, MPA '11) and dog, Alfie (Basic Puppy Obedience '14), so have been spending lots of time exploring the US and the wonderful state parks in Minnesota. I'm also a fairly committed (read: obsessed) long distance runner, training for my first Boston Marathon in 2023.

Anything else you would like to add/highlight?

I would just encourage people to get involved in any way you can – whether it be attending events, volunteering, or attending a reunion, the Queen's alumni community will be stronger because of your engagement.

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