

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Executive Committee

The call for the 2026 Distinguished Service Awards is now open! Do you know someone who has made Queen's a better place and deserves to be recognized? Inaugurated by the University Council in 1974, this award recognizes individuals who have made Queen's a better place through their outstanding contributions. Each year the University Council Executive Committee invites nominations for up to six DSAs, which may be extended by an additional two to a maximum of eight to recognize exceptional alumni contributions. Additional details can be found [here](#). The deadline for nominations is April 27 at 4 pm. All nominations will be considered by the Executive Committee in June.

Executive Committee: Patrick Deane (Chair), Doug Bruce (Vice-Chair), Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, Heather Black, Mary Drinkwater, Letitia Golubitsky, Chessa Jope, Yanique Williams

Nominating Committee

Elections to the [Board of Trustees](#) by the Council

Heather Black and Doug Bruce are the successful candidates in the recent election of University Councillors to the Board of Trustees. 91% (41/45) of Councillors voted in this election. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Doug and Heather (re-elected to her third term on the Board) will serve three-year terms beginning June 1, 2026.

2026 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ELECTION:

Available Positions (10 total)

- 10 positions: Four-year term (Sept. 1, 2026, to Aug. 31, 2030)

The following Councillors will reach the end of their terms as of August 31, 2026. All are eligible for re-election, should they choose to run again: John Armitage, Elena Christopoulos, Kieva Hbranchuk, Chessa Jope, Erin Polansky, Saara Romu, Frannie Shen, Amrita Singh, Susan Smith, Elaine Wu.

Process:

March 17-31, 2026 – Call for nominations

- All Queen's alumni are eligible to nominate fellow alumni to run for election to the University Council and will receive an email on March 17 with details on how to nominate
- Candidates must be nominated by at least two (2) alumni
- Nominations must be submitted online by Tuesday, March 31 at 4 pm ET
- All Councillors will receive an email when the nominations period is open and are encouraged to **amplify this process within their respective networks and nominate fellow alum**
- An online election will be held from May 13-27 to select the ten new, or returning, Councillors



Elaine Wu, Chair, Nominating Committee

On behalf of your Nominating Committee: John Armitage, Alexander Lam, Irene Mukasa, Colby Pereira

[Program Committee](#)

Alexi White was acclaimed as the Program Committee Chair.

June 3 - Orientation: As we head into Councillor elections, Orientation details are being compiled. If you could offer a piece of advice to yourself as a newly elected University Councillor, what would it be? What do you wish you had learned during orientation that would have assisted you in your role? Please send feedback to ucouncil@queensu.ca for consideration for this year's Councillor Orientation.

Mark your calendars:

- October 13 (**11:30 am-1:00 pm**) – Virtual AGM
- November 13-14 – In-person Retreat
- If you have a topic/presenter for consideration, please forward to ucouncil@queensu.ca

Questions? Contact ucouncil@queensu.ca



Alexi White, Chair, Program Committee

On behalf of your Program Committee: Yinka Adegbusi, John Armitage, Leo Bailey, Heather Black, Letitia Golubitsky Colby Pereira, Chris Polson, Susan Zhang

Governance Updates: As an advisory body, the University Council participates in Queen's governance processes along with the Board of Trustees and the Senate. Councillors can stay informed of recent governance activity at the University by reviewing open session materials from both the Board of Trustees and the Senate on the [Governance Portal](#).

- **Board/Council Trustees:** The next regular Open Session of the **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on March 6 (meeting dates can be found on Board [website](#)). You can check out the Board agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend the Board's Open Session, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat](#).

University Council Trustees: Heather Black, Samantha Cheung, Jeremy Gooden, Alison Holt, Chessa Jope, Yanique Williams.

- **Senate:** The next Senate meeting will be held on March 25 **at 2:30 pm** (meeting dates can be found on the [Senate website](#)). You can review the Senate agenda/minutes on the [Governance Portal](#). To attend any portion of the meeting, please submit your request in advance to the [Secretariat's Office](#).



Queen's University
Alumni Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[Queen's University Alumni Association \(QUAA\)](#) President Update

Hello Councillors,

I hope you are well and perhaps some of you have some fun March break plans this month. The QUAA is busy as always – with lots on the go!

QUAA turning 100

The QUAA turns 100 this year! In 1926 Queen's grads returned to campus for the very first Homecoming, and over the course of the weekend formed our alumni association by a unanimous vote.

This year, the QUAA Board is working with the Office Advancement to share stories in honour of this milestone, to help celebrate the alumni who continue to strengthen Queen's!

You can read a little more about the founding of the QUAA in the article, [A century of connection: The story behind the founding of the QUAA](#)

Branch Recruitment

A few of our Board members are pitching in to support the recruitment and hiring of new branch leadership in Calgary, Vancouver and London, UK.

Applications are still open for the hiring of volunteers in each of these locations until March 10th, 2026. If you know of any Queen's alumni residing in Calgary, Vancouver or London, UK who might be interested in getting involved, please encourage them to take a look at the opportunities to see if they might be a good fit!

[Alumni Branch Leadership Volunteer Opportunities | Queen's Alumni](#)

QUAA Board Director Hiring

We received a strong pool of applicants for our four open QUAA Board Director roles. Interviews take place this month, and I look forward to announcing and welcoming our new members later this spring! We thank our outgoing Directors, Sarah Virani, Kahir Rahemtulla, Sc'17, Ghazal Abdullah, MIB'23, and Simon Marmura Brown, MA'18 and PhD'24.

Marty, Royce Bader Fellowships

Another opportunity to highlight to your networks is the application cycle for the Marty, Royce, Bader Fellowships, which has opened. These fellowships for Queen's University alumni who identify as women provide grant funding to support the pursuit of advanced study, research, or transformative endeavours that advance knowledge, contribute to society, or enable creative expression.

While often the fellowships support people doing academic research, Ani Colekessian recently used the funding to support her to take the time to write her first novel. See: [Alumnae fellowships open: One recipient's experience and how to apply | Queen's Alumni](#)

For Q & A and how to apply, more information is available on the Queen's Alumni website. See: [Apply to the Jean Royce Fellowship, the Marty Memorial Fellowship, and the Alfred Bader Fellowship in Memory of Jean Royce | Queen's Alumni](#) Applications close March 16th, 2026.

Reminder to make your Annual gifts

As the last quarter of the fiscal year is upon us, please remember to make your annual gift. There are so many wonderful ways to give through Queen's. I recently made a small donation to the [Rector's Bursary](#), in honour of this year's Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award recipients. The bursary provides emergency assistance to students, in any year of study or faculty. Our Rector speaks so eloquently about the unique needs this fund meets, and its value to students as a fast and flexible support. I encourage you to ask her about it, if you are curious if it might be a good fit for your giving interests.

Wishing you all well – take good care!



[Allison P. Williams](#), Artsci'09, President and Chair, QUAA Board of Directors

QUAA Assembly Members [appointed by the University Council](#): Bittu George and Erin Polansky

UPCOMING EVENTS – Be an Ambassador!

Councillors represent University Council and Queen's University by attending, participating in, and/or promoting various events. Please check the [Alumni Events calendar](#) for a list of all upcoming alumni events (including branch, reunion, etc.). Consider participating and/or learn more to share with your alumni networks.

March - #SDGMonthCanada



SDG Month Canada is a national collaboration that invites universities and colleges to organize workshops, panels, and interactive programming to increase awareness of and engagement with the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. At Queen's, the Principal's Office organizes an **SDG Month at Queen's Event Calendar** to promote learning, teaching, and networking opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the month. Learn more and see details on the [Office of the Principal's website](#)

March 3 (7-8 pm) – A Queen's Conversation: The University of Today and Tomorrow (Virtual)



Join [Chancellor Shelagh Rogers, Artsci'77](#), for a timely conversation with [Principal Patrick Deane](#) as he shares his perspective on the evolving role of universities in a period of rapid change and uncertainty and how Queen's is leading the way with focus, integrity, and impact.

This event invites members of the Queen's community to:

- Learn about the challenges facing universities today
- Discover how and where Queen's is leading
- Explore how alumni and supporters are essential to our future

Participants will have the opportunity to listen in on an open and forward-looking discussion about the values and aspirations shaping Queen's future.

Free virtual event. For more information and registration, click [here](#).

March 5 (5-6 pm) – Leading with Purpose: Women and the Evolving World of Business (Virtual)



In celebration of International Women's Day, you are invited to this special **virtual event**, bringing together voices from across the Smith School of Business community. This gathering will highlight the growth, achievements, and lived experiences of women at every stage of their professional journeys — from student leaders and young alumni to established professionals shaping their industries. Moderator: Dr. Lynnette Purda, Dean (Interim), Smith School of Business. A panel of inspiring leaders, reflect on the evolving landscape for women in business, and celebrate the strength and diversity of our community. For more information, panelist bios

and registration, click [here](#).

Until March 10 - Queen's Alumni Calgary, Vancouver and London (UK) Branches Recruitment:

Roles we are recruiting for (Calgary, Vancouver and London, UK)

- Branch Co-Presidents
- Communications and Marketing Lead
- Young and Recent Alumni Engagement Lead
- Volunteer and Operations Lead
- Philanthropy and Partnerships Lead

These roles were intentionally designed based on the new Alumni Branch Strategy. In particular, they operationalize the strategy's shift toward:

- Year-round, intentional engagement (moving beyond ad hoc, event-by-event outreach)
- Branches serving as the local hub in key markets, connecting and mobilizing alumni through a small leadership team with clear responsibilities
- Campaign readiness by strengthening belonging and purpose, and increasing opportunities for alumni to contribute their time, talent, and treasure
- A more sustainable, accountable model where volunteer leaders are well-supported by Queen's staff, with manageable scopes and clear handoffs

Request: Assist with promotion and make introductions

Share this opportunity within your networks until **March 10**. The easiest ways to help are:

- Share the application link directly with alumni who may be a fit
- Repost from Queen's Alumni LinkedIn

Application link: [Alumni Branch Leadership Volunteer Opportunities | Queen's Alumni](#)

Social posts:

- LinkedIn (Calgary): <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7429588198525337600>
- LinkedIn (Vancouver): <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7429588832863391744>
- LinkedIn (London, UK): <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7429589413283897345>

For more information or to make a direct introduction, please contact [Lindsey Kull](#).

Winter 2026 Elder Talks



OFFICE OF
INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

Elder Talk sessions are an opportunity to learn from our Cultural Advisor Te ho wis kwûnt - Allen Doxtator. Al originates from Oneida Nation of the Thames and is a member of the Bear Clan and explores Indigenous worldviews, with a safe space to ask questions after each session. Join virtual bi-weekly on Thursdays (**12:00 to 1:00 pm**).

[Register today](#) for the following sessions:

- Thursday March 12, 2026: TBD
 - Thursday March 26, 2026: "Inclusion" with Special Guest, Patrick Deane, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
 - Thursday April 9, 2026: Open Session/Question Period
 - Thursday April 23, 2026: TBD
 - Thursday May 7, 2026: Open Session/Question Period
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March 20 (11 am- 3 pm) – Culture Connect market at Yellow House



Culture Connect is a community-centered initiative created by the Yellow House centre for Student Equity and Inclusion at Queen's University. The program is designed to affirm, uplift and celebrate the diverse identities and lived experiences of black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) students through cultural programming, creative expression and community care. Check out the [Culture Connect Booklet](#) for BIPOC businesses in town and cultural clubs on campus. And join [Yellow House \(207 Stuart Street, third floor\)](#) for the Culture Connect market on March 20, 11-3! Follow on Instagram: [@queensuyellowhouse](#)

March 26, 2026 (11 am-3 pm) Celebrating Tom Courchene at the University Club (George Teves Room)



The inaugural director of the School of Policy Studies, [Tom Courchene](#) (1940-2025) and [Distinguished Service Award](#) recipient (2021) was a master at bridging scholarship and public policy. He made striking contributions to Canadian policy debates, and his contributions were recognized with the highest honours the country can give. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a recipient of the Canada Council Molson Prize for lifetime achievement, and a winner of the Donner Prize twice.

This Symposium asks two questions:

- 1) Why was Tom such an effective contributor to policy debates?
- 2) Does his approach to public policy remain relevant today?

Confirmed participants include [Robin Boadway](#), [Kevin Lynch](#), [Lisa Powell](#), [Bob Rae](#), [Kyle Hanniman](#), [Olivier Jacques](#), and [Jennifer Ditchburn](#).

In-person event. Lunch will be provided. Open to all students, faculty, staff and members of the public. There is no cost to register. [Register here](#).

April 14 (4:00-5:30 pm) -University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE) Meeting



**HUMAN RIGHTS
AND EQUITY OFFICE**
at Queen's University

The [University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity \(UCARE\)](#) was established to coordinate, monitor, and report on the progress of university-wide initiatives to address racism and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Council helps to shape the vision and strategy of the university and serves as a critical voice

for diversity and inclusion at Queen's. UCARE invites the Queen's community to its next public meeting. This meeting will be held in-person with a hybrid option. Please email vpcei@queensu.ca to attend the Public Meeting and inquire about the [volunteering on UCARE or one of the Sub-Councils](#). And please feel free to share this invitation with others.

Spring Convocation - [Queen's Convocation](#) / [Summerhill Sendoff](#)



[Alumni Relations](#) will be looking for alumni volunteers to assist with Alumni pin distribution (Convocation) and to congratulate Queen's Class of 2026 at the [Summerhill Sendoff](#). For details, please contact jessie.mercer@queensu.ca

- **Grant Hall:** Thursday, May 21 to Friday, May 22 2026
Four ceremonies total: 2 per day, 10:00am and 2:30pm start.
- **Slush Puppie Place:** Monday, June 22 to Friday, June 26 2026
Ten ceremonies: 2 per day, 10:00am and 3:00pm start

LEARN AND SHARE



[Arthur B. McDonald Canadian Astroparticle Physics Research Institute:](#)

The McDonald Institute is Canada's network for astroparticle physics research, uniting researchers, theorists, and technical experts within one organization. Located at and led by Queen's University, the McDonald Institute is proud to have 13 partner universities and research institutes across the country, all of which are key players in Canada's past and future innovation in astroparticle physics.

- Watch the [2026 Ewan Lecture](#) by Prof. [Geoffrey Hinton](#), a 2024 recipient of a Nobel Prize in Physics on '[Living with Alien Beings: How we can coexist with superintelligent AI](#)'.
- Watch Dr. Art McDonald's [Canadian Science Policy Conference interview](#) with Dr. Encieh Erfani, addressing fundamental and applied science, Ontario university policy and international astroparticle physics progress.
- **McDonald Institute seeking new Scientific Director.** If you or someone you know is ready to shape the future of Canadian astroparticle physics and lead a national community of researchers toward new scientific frontiers, express your interest by submitting a curriculum vitae and a statement of scientific vision for the McDonald Institute through <https://boyden.thriveapp.ly/job/3099>

COUNCILLOR SPOTLIGHT

- Please ensure you [update](#) your contact information (mail, email, phone) to stay informed about Queen's.
- Get to know your fellow Councillor members by visiting their [biographical sketches](#) and submitting/reading profiles. Please contact ucouncil@queensu.ca to complete your online profile.
- Learn more about how you can [support Queen's University](#).
- If you have exciting personal or professional news you would like to share through your monthly newsletter, please send us details to ucouncil@queensu.ca. In addition, [please share](#) your participation with University activities to record the impact of Council.

The University Council Bursary: The University Council Bursary was established in the 1990s by members of University Council. Councillors felt that providing assistance to Queen's students in financial need was a priority, and University Councillors over the past 20 years have continued supporting this bursary. The bursary is awarded on the basis of financial need to students in any faculty or school at Queen's. Thanks to all Councillors who have donated to date. [Check out the Bursary giving page with your new Council photo](#). For more information, contact [Lindsey Kull](#).

QSAA Volunteer Recognition Program: Thank you to **Sarah Virani** for having a chat with two QSAA Ambassadors.



Queen's Student
Alumni Association

Each week a [QSAA](#) student volunteer who has gone above and beyond will be provided a personal development opportunity by connecting with Alumni. Students will be provided with bios for University Councillors and the QUAA Board members and will select alumni whose faculty, work or experience interests them

for a virtual coffee chat.

[Allison P. Williams](#) – Volunteer QUAA President and Councillor, has started a new position as Acting Director, Student Programs at [Henry N.R. Jackman Faculty of Law, University of Toronto](#).

STUDENT LIFE

Student Leader Elections:

- [AMS Executive Team](#): Dreyden George, President, Avery Papoulidis, VP (Operations), Edward Sy, VP (University Affairs).
- [SGPS Executive Team](#): Tatyana Grandmaitre, ArtSci '24, JD '27, President; Olusola Akintola, PhD '29, Vice-President (Graduate). Mary Arakelyan, MD '29, Vice-President (Professional).
- For other student election results, check [the Journal Elections page](#).



The [Office of the Rector](#) hosts the [Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Awards](#) to recognize students for distinguished service, leadership, character and community impact during their time at Queen's. Please help us congratulate the following recipients who will be inducted into the prestigious [Tricolour Society](#) on March 27th. If you would like to send a congratulations note, please forward to terri.flindall@queensu.ca. And, watch your inbox for your invitation to the celebratory event.

2026 Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award Recipients

	<p>Emils Matiss, Artsci'20, PhD'26</p> <p>Matiss, a driven doctoral student in the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, currently serves as the Graduate Student Trustee. Matiss has championed key issues, including graduate funding, the completion of the JDUC redevelopment project, and timely support for Ukrainian international students. Matiss is widely recognized for his collaborative, solution-focused leadership style, effectively bridging dialogue among student groups, faculty, and the administration.</p>
	<p>Bisola Olaseni, BHSc'26</p> <p>Olaseni, a dedicated Bachelor of Health Sciences student, uplifts and inspires others with her unwavering commitment to access and mentorship. As Lead Equity Ambassador for Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment, coordinator for the Queen's Health Science Outreach and Summer Program, and research assistant, she has championed inclusive practices and crafted supportive programs that affirm diverse student voices.</p>
	<p>Oluwamisimi Oluwole, BNSc'26</p> <p>Oluwole, a passionate nursing student whose leadership is rooted in advocacy, equity, and community building. She co-founded the Queen's Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario and led a pioneering interprofessional simulation on sickle cell disease that has meaningfully impacted health education and patient care. Oluwole creates spaces of belonging for Black students and strengthens the Queen's community.</p>
	<p>Daniel Reddy, PhD'26</p> <p>Reddy, an inspiring PhD candidate in the Department of Chemistry, is the founder of the Queen's University International Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society (Q-ACS). Reddy has been passionate about making opportunities accessible for peers and has led Q-ACS in securing over \$50,000 in funding and establishing 30+ awards, making it possible for students to pursue research and extracurricular initiatives.</p>

Councillors are expected to subscribe, review, and share Queen's publications and social media to remain knowledgeable about resources, services, and benefits offered to alumni through the Alumni Association

[Principal](#)
[Queen's Strategic Goals](#)
[QUAA](#)
[Rector](#)
[Alma Mater Society](#)
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Questions: contact
ucouncil@queensu.ca