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Nipissing University Student Union

Vice-President Services' AGM Summer Report

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After being elected in February, then starting my term in May, the biggest project that I worked on has been Frosh Week 2018. I have also had the pleasure of attending some conferences, where I got to meet other student union executives and take back valuable knowledge from workshops and seminars. The clubs on campus have been working hard this year and we have been doing everything necessary to give them the opportunity to have a successful year. The student food bank has been in constant use and we have been lucky enough to have received many donations throughout the summer months. Our elections took place and I played a part in facilitating the executive by-elections. I have run some events on campus, as well as attended many in the community throughout the summer to help build connections with local businesses and community members.

This Report:

- Frosh Week
- Conferences
- Clubs
- Food Bank
- Elections
- Events
- Conclusion

FROSH WEEK

In February when I was elected, the first thing that I did with the help of Sarah McGowan, our Director of Communications, and J'aime Brunet our past VP Services was to plan and host Frosh Coordinator interviews. We had 13 applicants and chose Kayla Greenman, Latashya Bowen, Brody Laberge, and Sarah Carlton. The 4 coordinators then helped me to host Frosh Leader interviews along with Warren Lindsay our Director of Services and we chose our team of Frosh Leaders. The theme of Disney was chosen and the dates for training were set to start on August 22nd and Frosh Week was set to run from August 28th to September 2nd. A graphic design artist was chosen. This is Becca Watson who is a fine arts student going into



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her 4th year here at Nipissing.

Planning

Using the feedback in the response forms from last year, the list of events for Frosh Week 2018 was made. Notable changes are the removal of the scavenger hunt and the

food drive, which both had a lot of negative feedback. Both events are being reworked

so that the things they offered are not lost. The Frosh Kit was rebranded to become the Frosh Ticket due to feedback received about the Frosh Kits not reflecting the price that students pay. The Frosh Ticket granted access to the events of Frosh Week, transportation, food and the Frosh Kit. The hope was that now instead of feeling like students paid for the stuff in the kit, they will be paying for a week's worth of events as well as receiving the stuff in the kit along with that. Frosh Tickets were sold at \$120 including tax. Frosh Tickets were sold online and an order form will also be sent out with Frosh Mailouts to all incoming students.

TRAINING

The Coordinators arrived for their training on Monday August 20th and we spent 2 days preparing them for the week, and also planning Leader Training. We were also asked to speak to the Residence Life Team about the upcoming Frosh Week. Our Frosh Leaders participated in Leader Training from Wednesday August 22nd to Monday August 27th. During this time we had 3 full days of training, as well as assisting with residence move-ins, showcasing our shine stunt, and attending a flag raising ceremony at city hall. Training was successful and the guests we brought in to deliver training sessions were all helpful. We had the Equity Centre give a presentation on Conscious Talk. Margi from the Military Family Resource Centre presented on mental health. Amy Raymond, Kate Smith, and Dakota Heon, the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education team, presented Consent ++ as well as Bringing In The Bystander. Paul Courville from Student Accessibility Services presented about supporting students with accessibility needs.

FROSH EVENTS

Frosh Week started on Tuesday August 28th with Opening Ceremonies, and finished on Sunday September 2nd with Closing Ceremonies.

The week ran smoothly thanks to the help of all of the leaders, the coordinators and everyone in the office played a role in helping the week to run without too many bumps.

Warren Lindsay and Sarah McGowan, spent a lot of time during the weeks of Leader



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Training and Frosh Week helping to execute the week. Without the two of them it would have been overwhelming, and would not have been as successful.

Tuesday the 28th we had many guests speak at our Opening Ceremonies. We had: Alison Jackson from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Mayor Al McDonald, MP Anthony Rota, Police Chief Shawn Devine, President Mike DeGagne, Chancellor Paul Cook, and Interim Dean of Arts & Science Dr. Pavlina Radia.

Wednesday the 29th we had the Speak About It performance talking about consent, and our Amazing Race where we bussed students around the city so that they could learn about the community and some local businesses. The stops were: The Algonquin Regiment, Yogurtz, Twiggs, Grounded Studios, Burger World, Popeye's, Rebuilt Resources, gd2go, Moose's Cookhouse, No Frills, The Health Unit, and Duchesnay Falls.

Thursday, the 30th, saw our Muddy Olympics and we had community members join us once again. We had the fire station arrive to help us soak the field, and we had the Algonquin Regiment once again to run an obstacle course.

Friday the 31st was our Beach Day at the North Bay Waterfront.

Saturday the 1st was our Shine Day, which Xander took the lead on and it was a great day out in the community once again, this time raising money for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Sunday the 2nd we brought students up the the school to learn a bit about the campus, then brought them down to the Thibeault Terrace for a Community Clean Up.

We also ran evening events together with residence throughout the week, which were successful collaborations. They were: Movie Night, Outdoor Yoga, and Sexy Bingo.

DEBRIEF AND FOLLOW-UP

I met with the coordinators to debrief from Frosh Week. We completed and updated our reviews from each day and on the week as a whole. We also completed a review on each Frosh Leader and made suggestions for next year's team. We sold 350 Frosh Tickets this year. Attendance for many events was great throughout the week, though there were some days towards the end of the week where attendance was lower than expected. I worked with the coordinators to make feedback surveys. One for the Frosh Leaders, and one for the Froshies (students participating in Frosh). These surveys ask about the cost of participation, the events, the people involved, and how the week could be improved moving forwards. So far, we have received 153 responses! I will use the feedback from the feedback surveys to add even more suggestions and complete the review. After working with Samantha Fraser from



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SDS and with help from Allie our Office Assistant, Frosh Leaders and Froshies will be automatically approved for their RSD for events that took place during Frosh if they submit the request.

CONFERENCES

Shinerama National Leadership Conference

The Shinerama National Leadership Conference was held at McMaster University from May 18th - 21st. In attendance were delegates from universities across the country who were the leading planners of their shinerama campaigns. Other attendees were Cystic Fibrosis Canada (CFC) Staff and the Shinerama National Leadership Team, who planned and facilitated the event as well as leading many of the sessions. This conference was held to teach the student delegates about Cystic Fibrosis (CF), and how to run a successful Shinerama campaign. Shinerama is the largest post-secondary fundraiser in support of CFC with over 35,000 students at more than 45 Canadian universities and colleges each year working to raise money and awareness for CF. This conference was full of learning which came from the sessions we attended but also from interacting with members of other student unions, or shinerama committee chairs.

From the formal sessions we learned about CF as a disease, how many people it affects, how likely someone is to be born with CF, and what treatments are currently available for CF patients. We also learned about the history of Shinerama and how to run a successful shine campaign. This included how to plan large events, how to run social media accounts for a fundraising campaign and how to raise awareness for CF.

When we had time to socialize we took advantage of being able to connect with people in our positions from other universities and colleges. We learned a lot about how different other schools run their shine campaigns. Some schools run it through their student union like we do, but others have a shine committee which is solely volunteer based. These shine committees, clubs, or groups, main focus for the year is to be dedicated to raising funds for Shinerama. We also got to learn about how the student unions run at other universities, how they run their major events, cool initiatives on their campus, issues on their campus, and what they have been successful and unsuccessful with in the past.

COCA National

From June 11th to June 17th we travelled to Fredericton, New Brunswick to attend the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) conference. The conference was attended by numerous student unions from across Canada with the furthest



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group being from British Columbia. This report highlights the educational sessions we attended, the speakers we heard and the connections we made that will benefit our students and this year. COCA for me was a great opportunity where I could learn a lot and build a lot of meaningful connections to other student unions and potential partners. I would say that a lot of the information learned about programming and running events was taught to me by Warren prior to attending this conference. I still gained a lot of knowledge from this, but if there was not a returning director of services this would have been even more beneficial. The price to attend was high since we had to travel all of the way to Fredericton and if the travel is ever this far away in the future that sending two students and potentially one staff should be the maximum, whereas if it is closer like it will be next year it could be beneficial to send other execs such as our VP Finance. This is because there was a lot of valuable information to be learned about sponsorship and because the relationships that I was able to build with potential partners could have been made even better if they were made by a VP Finance. The connections made during social events and afterhours have been long lasting and I have benefitted from them already by being able to talk to others in my position to brainstorm and gain feedback.

CFS Skills

This conference provided the executive team with important information on many topics. Allyship, accessibility, lobbying, and sponsorship are just some of the topics that were covered. Overall the conference was very beneficial, was well worth attending for the majority of the sessions. This took place at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus from June 18th to June 20th. This conference was once again a great opportunity to learn new things and also to make connections to other students in similar positions at their schools. I think that bringing other students from outside of our executive team and board is a great idea and we should continue to do it. This helped the other student leaders to get to know us better, and helped them to learn a little bit about what we do as well. I had learned a lot of this information doing Residence Don training in the past, so keep in mind that Dons may not be the best people to bring as they will have learned many of the same topics already. Bringing someone from the Equity Centre was great, as well as some summer student employees at SDS.

CLUBS

New Club Updates

There are 3 new clubs at Nipissing University! We are happy to welcome the Nipissing University Badminton Club, NUFaith or the Nipissing University Interfaith



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Society and the Chemistry Society which have all been officially approved as NUSU clubs. Courtney Ivany, our summer office assistant helped to create online versions of all of the clubs forms. They have all been made into google forms so that less printing is required and to make it easier for clubs to access the forms.

Club Summit and Club Days

Clubs attended the Club Summit meeting held on Wednesday September 12th, where I provided updates on how to plan events, advertise, recruit members, and run their club within the regulations of our Clubs Policy. Club Days took place from September 17th - 20th. Erin Edge helped with the planning and execution of Club Days. Clubs booked tables outside of the bookstore and used them to advertise their clubs and what they plan to do this year to students. This year there were also many community organizations who wanted to attend Club Days. Since we didn't have enough space for everyone, we made sure that Club Days was only for clubs. We instead booked the community organizations for the following week of September 24th - 28th. We have had: Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Algonquin Regiment, Community Living North Bay, St. John's Ambulance, the Human Evolution Lab, and Plan A Nipissing.

FOOD BANK

Warren and I picked up a food donation for our student food bank from Andrea Kozuskanich from Chancellors and Founders House residences from their end of year food collections from students moving out in April. We collected food donations for our food bank during our Community Clean up as a part of Frosh Week. We also received food donations from the Men's Volleyball Team from their Hunger Spike event. The West Ferris Lions Club made a donation to our food bank. Jean Wednesdays took place throughout October. Traci Malkowski from HR at the university approached Warren with a fundraising opportunity for our food bank. This idea was allowing Nipissing University employees to wear jeans to work if they made a monetary donation, or left food donations to our food bank. This took place first on the 10th and we raised \$79.50 for the food bank. On the 17th we received food donations. We are expecting more donations this week and next week on Wednesdays.

ELECTIONS

I was the DRO for the executive by-elections. I ran the all candidates meeting on Friday September 14th along with Parker and Charlotte, The candidates, or their delegates, came to learn about the rules of the campaign for them and their



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campaign teams to follow during the coming weeks. I reached out to Gerald Gallinger from Canadore to ask about a livestream of the debate, but they were unable to assist us with this event. I worked with Roger Dupuis from Technology Services to set up the online voting through blackboard. I worked with Scott Graham from the Registrar's Office to confirm the nominations. I arrived on Monday morning when the campaign period started on the 17th and worked with Erin to get all of the supplies ready for the candidates to start their campaigns. I was a member of the elections committee for the Director/Senator elections that took place this month, alongside Dan, Hannah, Parker, and Charlotte. Both elections went well and we were happy with the number of students who participated

EVENTS

NUSU Events

Movie Mondays took place on September 25th and October 15th in the student lounge and movies were played, and popcorn provided to students. The events were underattended and a different approach will be taken moving forwards.

Halloween Haunt took place on October 20th. 35 students registered for this event and 34 attended. Students arrived at the Nipissing entrance just after 3:30pm and we were all on the bus and ready to leave before 4pm. The bus driver stopped at the Tim Hortons on Highway 11 in Gravenhurst on the way to Wonderland just after 8pm. Everyone got on the bus and we left Wonderland around 12:15am and stopped at the King City ONroute on the way back to Nipissing. We arrived back before 5am. This event offered our students the opportunity to attend Canada's Wonderland with a direct bus from Nipissing's front entrance to Canada's Wonderland, and a ticket to attend Halloween Haunt for \$65, or \$75 for friends of students or Canadore students.

Community Events

We attended many community events throughout the summer to attempt to help build a name for NUSU in the North Bay community and to build connections with local businesses and organizations moving forwards. Here are some of the notable events I attended:

Thibeault Terrace Community Cleanup:

- May 5th, J'aime, Xander, Tyrel, Dan and I joined with community members and the girl guides to pick up garbage in the Thibeault Terrace. The community members were thrilled that we were participating and we got a lot of compliments and thanks from passersby.

Big Bike (Heart and Stroke Foundation)



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- May 23rd , Dan and I joined Nipissing University's team at the big bike event and helped to raise \$1470 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

TP North Bay Donation Event

- May 4th , the NUSU office attended and made a donation of \$100 worth of toilet paper to TP North bay.

Business After Hours (Community Living)

- May 17th , Andrew and I attended Community Living's business after hours event where we met with local business owners as well as representatives from the North Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

- May 5th , Tyrel and Nicolai attended the spaghetti dinner and silent auction for a local CF patient at École Secondaire Catholique Algonquin, where we participated in the silent auction to help raise money for a local CF patient.

North Bay Job Fair

- April 26th , Dan, Andrew, Sarah and I attended the North Bay job fair to represent NUSU and to help to build connections with potential sponsors.

Cupcakes for Cystic Fibrosis

- May 4th , the NUSU office attended the cupcakes for cystic fibrosis event held by the North Bay CF Chapter and made a donation.

Family Fun for Epilepsy Awareness!

- Mira, Allie, Sarah, Dan, Xander, Andrew and myself attended this event hosted by SugarDaddy Cupcakes & Catering on Saturday June 9th . At the event we volunteered overseeing inflatables and a bouncy castle that children were playing on.

Ignite North Bay 3

- Sarah, Xander, Courtney, Tyrel, Dan and myself attended this event hosted at the Capitol Centre on Thursday June 21 st . We saw local speakers perform on educational and inspirational topics and local sponsors from businesses in North Bay gave introductions.

Habitat for Humanity

- July 16th, Courtney, Warren, Dan, Xander, Tyrel, and I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity to help restore a house at 481 Algonquin Ave.

Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

- July 18th, Dan and I attended this ceremony at city hall. In attendance were community members Al McDonald and Anthony Rota. There were also employees of the university.

BioPed Chamber After Hours



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- July 19th, BioPed hosted a chamber after hours event which Dan and I attended to meet more community members and local businesses.

North Bay Pride March

- July 21st, Dan, Xander, and I participated in the march that went from City Hall to the waterfront. It was a great experience and we were proud to be there along side so many Nipissing employees.

Gathering Place

- July 24th, Andrew and I went to the Gathering Place and volunteered serving food to those in need.

Homecoming

- September 22nd, I volunteered at Homecoming helping the Alumni with set up and preparations of their BBQ, speakers, and signs for the day on September 22nd

CONCLUSION

Throughout my term, I have met with a lot of community members, staff and faculty of Nipissing University, and students. Through these meetings I have been able to build connections and learn a lot of valuable information on the role of a student union executive, as well as learning about issues that students at Nipissing Face. By attending community events, I have been able to build connections that will benefit NUSU and taken back knowledge on how to implement some of the ideas that others use into our own events on campus. Attending conferences this summer helped me to meet other student union executives who were facing a lot of the same work that I was and getting the opportunity to learn alongside them and have open discussions about ideas we all had was a great learning experience.

In the remainder of my term, I am looking forwards to continue working with the clubs on campus to help them run successful events and campaigns, managing the student food bank to provide that service to students, meeting more community members and attending events, and most of all running events for our students. I am open to receiving feedback and suggestions for events that students want to see on campus and would love to work with students on helping make an event happen that they feel strongly about. Some events that you can expect to see this year include: Photo Contests, Mental Health Coffee House, Wellness Wishes, Snow Fest, Roll UP the Rim/Please Play Again, and many more!

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, feel free to stop by the NUSU office to talk to me, message me on Facebook, send me an email, or stop me in the halls if you see me!



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