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**Nipissing University Student Union**

## **AGM Report from the President**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Since taking office on May 1st, I have been continuously learning about my role as the President and how I can maximize my abilities to accomplish the tasks that are set out for me to be a successful executive and to represent the student membership in the positive and progressive way. The role of the President covers three areas that I must interact with: within the NUSU office, on campus, and in the community of North Bay. The ways that I interact with each differs due to my professional relationship with each. Within the office, I act as a supervisor that manages the corporation making sure that the other executives as well as the staff are accomplishing their tasks. On campus, I am the spokesperson of the organization and I advocate for students while listening to their needs and bringing them to the office. Lastly, I act as a community figure within North Bay through my interactions with community groups and working closely to see how the city and what it offers can positively impact the student experience. Through these three areas, I hope to best represent the students and make sure they are getting what they need to enrich their experiences here at Nipissing. The summer was quite busy and that stands true for the first two months of the academic year, but I will try to outline the major topics and projects that I have had a hand in for the past six months so that you are aware of the work I have been linked to.

### **TRANSITION**

To start off my term, I went through a transitional phase that included a strong learning curve. Being in this position, I needed to learn to delegate and allocate tasks while continuing to be a positive presence within the office. The work starts from inside the NUSU office and making sure that the culture and the environment at NUSU was positive. Listening to the tips that the incumbent staff had and implementing a good routine so that the structure was set and a precedent for a positive working culture was laid out accomplished this. The staff really helped in my transition by giving me the tools to ease into my position including a transition binder and templates for both reports at an executive and conference level as well as agendas and minutes. I also began meeting with the many different departments throughout the university to familiarize myself with the any people I will be working with this year.



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### **IN-OFFICE**

To have a successful year at NUSU, there needs to be a good culture within the organization. Starting on the first day, both myself as well as the other executives set an office culture that emphasizes a positive work environment while focusing on the importance of teamwork. I want the students to be looked after and for them to be successful, we at NUSU need to be a strong force in student life, advocating for students on all topics including academics, on campus, and in the community. Creating a strong work environment and a positive culture within the office will have a major impact on the students as they view NUSU as the voice on campus to bring attention to student issues and interests. By being a strong team within the office and working alongside our great staff, we hope to continue having that culture be emphasized in our work for students. As of today, the office environment has been positive even with all of the moving pieces surrounding us. With a dedicated staff and an executive team that seeks to be a strong presence in the student experience, our ability to achieve that is intact and booming, and I am looking forward to what we can do for students for the rest of the academic year.

### **FROSH WEEK**

So one of the biggest events that was held is Frosh Week. Frosh Week this year was amazing and it was great to be part of it in an administrative capacity. With being a Frosh Leader last year, I had an idea of what to expect but it was vastly different than from the previous year. Having the responsibility of the running of certain aspects rather than being a team leader was quite eye-opening and very rewarding. The goal was to make a great Frosh Week for incoming students to enjoy and the Services department did a great job orchestrating the whole thing. Nicolai, Warren, the coordinator team, all the leaders, and the rest of the office covered many aspects of the week and it went off with some real positivity. In my role, I was mostly a driver of a rental vehicle, handing out some spirit points, helping students and leaders when needed, and ultimately just being a support for those who needed it. In this role, I was able to be aware of everything that was going on during the week, getting updates from other executives and giving updates to Nicolai so that he could coordinate the week to be the best experience for first-year students. I am very pleased with the results and the feedback from Frosh Week and future teams would benefit from looking at the great work the services department was able to do with Frosh Week.

### **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS**

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a organization that advocates



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## Nipissing University Student Union

for students issues across the country. Student Unions who join CFS act as members of the Federation and the representative from each “Local” is tasked to attend the general meetings and conferences and implement the initiatives that they run on their respective campuses. For NUSU, I act as the Provincial Executive representative so I attend these conferences and bring back the things that I learn to the office to plan how we can use those campaigns to best represent and advocate for the students on campus who deal with these issues. So far, I have attended four conferences: the first Ontario Executive Committee meeting in May, the National General Meeting in June, the Ontario Skills Symposium in June, and the second Ontario Executive Committee meeting in October. I look forward to returning any and all information that I have obtained from CFS to our campus if it will support our students and address the issues that they deal with so that they know NUSU is working to be the best advocates for students that we can be.

### **GOOD NEIGHBOUR**

The Good Neighbour project is something that I have inherited from the term before mine. It is a project that produces messaging to students about being a “good neighbor.” What this aims to do is show students the importance in appropriate behavior in the community and to respect their surroundings. We as students are fortunate to share this city with the current homeowners and we as a collective need to exhibit good behavior while also continuing to enjoy the student experience. This collective consists of representatives of NUSU, Nipissing University, Canadore College and the CSC, as well as the police and fire departments. As a group, we intend to continue working alongside the groups intent on making North Bay a shared community where students continue to be integral components of growth.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

My level of community involvement has been one of the biggest things that I have done since being elected into this position. I have been attending many different events to show that we at NUSU are trying to build a relationship within the community. When it comes to community involvement for students, it is hard for students to get into the city to participate in community events whether it is travel, interest, or accessibility. By attending these events and partaking in philanthropic initiatives, NUSU is looking for ways to get students more involved in the city of North Bay as we want to show that this community has the potential to be full of opportunities for students both during their studies and after convocation. This was highlighted with my meetings with the municipal candidates ahead of the



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municipal elections. We discussed student retention, accessibility issues around North Bay, and general topics regarding the community and what they hope to bring if elected. Now with the council and mayor elected, I plan to continue meeting with them and seeing what we can do to keep students in North Bay after graduation. I also have attended events that bring focus to important causes that affect both members of the community and our students on campus. This includes the CIBC Run for the Cure, Walk for CF, the Pride March, Habitat for Humanity, and other philanthropic initiatives. With my involvement in North Bay, I have been able to outline some of the areas that affect students like retention, accessibility, and community involvement. By working alongside community members and being present and up-to-date on pressing municipal issues and events, I will be a voice for students in the community while bringing back what I can to campus to build a relationship between the university and their students with the city of North Bay and their many groups across the city.

### **PLANS MOVING FORWARD**

Moving forward, the biggest event we are excited for is our Groundbreaking Ceremony which will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. With this event, we take this long project to the next stage and one step closer to it being available to the students. I will also continue to work with the Good Neighbour committee to find the best avenue and the right people to propel these talks and messaging to best take care of students within the community while promoting positive and appropriate behavior within North Bay. I will also be on campus, talking to students and listening to their comments and concerns so that I can best address them in my meetings with representatives at Nipissing to show that the focus of the student union is to promote academic excellence and social growth.