



MEDIA RELEASE

MSVU and King's welcome first Auntie in Residence

November 23, 2022 – Kijipuktuk/Halifax, NS – Mount Saint Vincent University and the University of King's College are pleased to welcome Emily Pictou-Roberts as the first Resident Nsukwi' (Auntie in Residence) serving both universities.

Emily is from the Mi'kmaw community of Millbrook First Nation. She began in her new role at the end of October 2022, believed to be the first university-based Indigenous Auntie in Residence role in Atlantic Canada.

As Auntie in Residence, Emily provides cultural, emotional, and spiritual support for Indigenous students at MSVU and at the University of King's College. She serves as a mentor to students and ensures the application of Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and approaches in support of student wellness and community building. Through individualized and group programming, she also shares knowledge about Indigenous ceremony and culture.

Emily brings to her Auntie in Residence role a wealth of experience working with Indigenous youth. She prioritizes listening and is a skilled community builder. She works one day a week from each of the MSVU and King's campuses.

Emily previously worked at the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre and has experience working with Mi'kmaw youth. She is a graduate of King's (BA Honours in Early Modern Studies and History) and the Nova Scotia Community College (Library Information and Technology).

"Education is important in our communities today, but it is rarely accessible or safe for many of our people," said Emily. "As resident Auntie at MSVU and King's, my ultimate goal is to foster a safe and welcoming community for L'nu students by facilitating access to information and supports, sharing Indigenous knowledge, providing opportunity for ceremony, and serving as an advocate."

"As a university that prioritizes support for Indigenous students and the advancement of women, we are delighted to welcome Auntie in Residence Emily Roberts in partnership with King's," said Dr. Joël Dickinson, President and Vice-Chancellor, Mount Saint Vincent University.

“The idea to establish an Auntie in Residence program came out of conversations in truth and reconciliation with the L’nu Advisory Circle at MSVU and I am grateful to our Indigenous community members and leaders for their guidance. Emily’s deep knowledge and supportive approach will be of great benefit to Indigenous students at both MSVU and King’s. Welcome, Emily.”

“King’s is so pleased to welcome alum Emily Roberts to this shared role,” said University of King’s College President William Lahey. “One of the key themes of our consultations with Mi’kmaw leaders is the importance of providing support and encouragement that affirms Indigenous identity. Indigenous students attending King’s and Mount Saint Vincent University will benefit from the guidance, support and caring that Emily will offer and we are very grateful for this opportunity to collaborate with MSVU in making things better for Indigenous students at both of our universities.”

Additional Indigenous student support staff at MSVU include: an Indigenous Student Services Coordinator and Special Advisor on Indigenous Affairs (both at MSVU), while King’s students have access to the Indigenous Student Advisors at neighbouring Dalhousie University.

MSVU and King’s are located in Mi’kma’ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi’kmaw People.

About Mount Saint Vincent University

As a leader in online and experiential learning, and based on a strong tradition of social responsibility, Mount Saint Vincent University takes a personalized approach to education to nurture socially responsible global citizens. Founded in 1873, MSVU has been nationally recognized for having one of the lowest student-to-professor ratios, for providing students early access to valuable research opportunities, for its legacy in the advancement of women, and for facilitating critical advancements in food security, healthy aging, literacy, and childhood development. msvu.ca

About the University of King’s College

Established in 1789, King's College is Canada's oldest chartered university and is associated with Dalhousie University. A small and extraordinarily lively academic community located in Halifax (Kjipuktuk), Nova Scotia, King's is known nationally and internationally for its highly acclaimed interdisciplinary programs in the humanities, including its renowned Foundation Year Program, its professional programs in journalism and its fine arts programs in creative writing. ukings.ca

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