

A Note from the President

As June comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on just how much our community accomplished together over the past month. June was filled with opportunities to learn, celebrate, advocate, and stand in solidarity with one another. Looking back, I am reminded that the strength of TMAPS lies not only in the events we host, but in our collective commitment to creating a campus where every student feels seen, heard, and empowered.

Throughout June, TMAPS proudly celebrated and stood in solidarity with our LGBTQ2S+ communities in recognition of Pride Month. Pride is about far more than celebration, it is rooted in the ongoing pursuit of equity, dignity, visibility, and justice. It is an opportunity to honour the resilience of LGBTQ2S+ communities while recognizing that there is still important work to be done to ensure everyone can live authentically and safely. At TMAPS, we believe that equity and inclusion are deeply interconnected, and we remain committed to fostering spaces where every student is welcomed, respected, and valued for who they are.

As part of our Pride Month celebrations, we were thrilled to partner with celebrated host and producer Rush Kazi to offer TMAPS members the opportunity to attend GAYSIAN COMEDY: ALL-STARS at The Rivoli.

June also provided an opportunity to reflect on accessibility and disability inclusion through our National AccessAbility Week programming. We hosted a screening of *Access Matters*, a film developed in partnership with Academic Accommodation Support (AAS), followed by an engaging panel discussion featuring Jenny Sampirisi and Rachelle Bensoussan from AAS, alongside Adam Asmar and Julie Emeid. We are incredibly grateful to our panelists for sharing their knowledge and lived experiences, and we look forward to hosting a second screening featuring the next installment of this important project. Stay tuned for upcoming details.

We were also honoured to recognize Mzawe Kiing Anishinaabek Giizis (National Indigenous Peoples Month) by supporting events taking place across campus, including Indigenous Trivia in the Garden. These opportunities to celebrate Indigenous cultures, histories, and knowledge remind us of the importance of learning from one another while continuing to advance truth, reconciliation, and meaningful action.

Advocacy remained at the heart of our work throughout June. In recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Month and Juneteenth, TMAPS hosted a virtual phone and email zap as part of the #KillBill5/C5 campaign. Together, we encouraged students to contact their local MPPs to advocate for respect for Indigenous sovereignty, the repeal of Bill 5/C-5, increased investment in education instead of policing in schools, and the repeal of Bill 33. Collective action is one of the most powerful tools we have as students, and initiatives like these demonstrate that advocacy extends beyond raising awareness - it is about taking meaningful action together.

As I reflect on the last few months as President, I continue to be inspired by the passion and dedication of our executive team, staff, volunteers, and student members. Every event, workshop, advocacy initiative, and conversation reinforces that TMAPS is more than a student group - we are a community. We are at our strongest when students come together, share their perspectives, and work collaboratively to create positive change.

As we look ahead to the summer months and begin preparing for the fall semester, I encourage you to stay connected. Keep an eye on your inbox for upcoming events and workshops, stop by the TMAPS office, and never hesitate to reach out if you need advocacy or support. There are many exciting initiatives on the horizon, and I look forward to sharing them with you over the coming months.

Thank you for being part of our community and for helping make TMAPS a place where every student's voice matters. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together next.

Warmly,
Rose

