

As we reflect on the month of July, I am reminded that community is often revealed most clearly during times of both celebration and challenge.

Before reflecting on the work of TMAPS this month, I would first like to acknowledge the devastating weather events that affected many communities across Ontario, particularly those in Northern Ontario. Many families, businesses, and communities are now facing the difficult work of rebuilding after significant damage after wildfires. On behalf of TMAPS, I want to extend our thoughts to everyone impacted. If any of our members in those communities need assistance or support, please let us know. We recognize that recovery is about more than rebuilding infrastructure - it is about supporting one another, strengthening communities, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

July also marked Disability Pride Month, an important opportunity to celebrate the disability community, recognize the contributions of disabled people and reaffirm that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity. Disability Pride is about embracing identity, challenging stigma, and continuing the work toward a society where accessibility, inclusion and equity are not afterthoughts, but expectations.

At TMAPS, we were proud to celebrate Disability Pride Month with a fun and engaging evening of Kahoot hosted alongside our special guest, Rebecca F. Smith. Events like these remind us that community building can happen through learning, laughter and shared experiences. Thank you to all of our members who attended with open hearts and open minds. Allyship is a very important part of our culture, together we rise!

This month also marked an exciting milestone as we hosted Menstrual Equity 102 and officially launched The Period Project and our new menstrual supply locker in the TMAPS office. Access to menstrual products is an issue of dignity, health, accessibility and equity. We are proud to offer this resource to students and remain committed to reducing barriers wherever we can. Please see the TMAPS website for more information on how to access free menstrual products through our office.

Another highlight from July was joining the Toronto Metropolitan Graduate Students' Union (TMGSU) for a wonderful social evening. Opportunities like these remind us that while our student groups may serve different communities, we all share a common goal of fostering connection, supporting student success and building a stronger campus community. It was a pleasure to connect with fellow students, strengthen relationships across our organizations and celebrate the spirit of collaboration that makes TMU such a vibrant place to learn.

While building community on campus remains one of our priorities, our work extends beyond TMU. Throughout July, TMAPS continued to advocate for students through campaigns including Hands Off Our Education, speaking out against Bill 33 and cuts to OSAP, while continuing our advocacy surrounding Bill 5. We know that decisions made by governments have a direct impact on students' education, accessibility, financial security and overall well-being. Student

voices deserve to be part of these conversations, and we will continue advocating alongside our members and community partners for policies that support equitable access to education.

As we move through the final weeks of summer, our team is already preparing for an exciting fall semester. Orientation is quickly approaching, and we look forward to welcoming both new and returning students to the TMAPS community. Whether you're looking for advocacy support, opportunities to get involved, or simply a place where you belong, our doors are always open. Noting that we do still have reduced office hours as the SCC operates on summer hours - please reach out to us directly if you would like to stop by.

Thank you to our executive team, volunteers and members for your continued passion, commitment and willingness to make a difference. Every event we host, every campaign we support, and every conversation we have is made stronger because of this community.

I hope you continue to enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I look forward to connecting with many of you in the weeks ahead.

Warmly,

Rose