A Note from the President

As we move into November, I want to begin by drawing attention to something incredibly important happening across Ontario: the upcoming province-wide student walkout on **Thursday, November 5th**, organized by the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario (CFS-O) as part of the *Hands Off Our Education* campaign.

This is an opportunity for students across the province to come together, stand in solidarity and make our voices heard about the future of post-secondary education.

From reductions in non-repayable OSAP grants and increased student debt to rising tuition costs, threats to student services and government interference in our educational institutions, the decisions being made at the provincial level have very real consequences for students. These aren't simply policy discussions happening somewhere at Queen's Park. They affect whether students can afford to attend university, whether they can remain enrolled, whether they can access the services they need and ultimately, what opportunities are available to them after graduation.

Bill 33 and the broader changes to Ontario's education system also raise important questions about student representation, institutional autonomy, campus services and the future of accessible education. The *Hands Off Our Education* campaign, led by CFS-O and supported by student unions and organizations across Ontario, is bringing students together to demand meaningful change. The November 5th walkout is part of that collective effort.

Why should you participate?

Whether you're a full-time student, part-time student, continuing education student, graduate student, domestic student or international student, these issues affect our broader student community. At TMAPS, we represent students whose educational journeys and circumstances are often different from the traditional university experience. Many of our members are balancing employment, families, caregiving responsibilities, financial pressures, disabilities and other commitments alongside their studies. Accessible and affordable education isn't an abstract concept for our membership. It is fundamental to our ability to participate and succeed. We cannot afford to have conversations about the future of education without including the students who are directly affected by those decisions.

Join Us at Lake Devo — November 5th!

TMAPS is proud to stand alongside TMSU, TMGSU, the Student Mobilization Committee, and our fellow student organizers in bringing this action to Toronto Metropolitan University.

We are inviting all students to join us:

Thursday, November 5, 2026

- **11:30 AM – 1:00 PM:** Coffee, snacks, and sign-making at the Thomas Lounge, 55 Gould Street.
- **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** Rally, speeches, music, and activities at Lake Devo, at Gould and Victoria Streets.
- **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Free lunch and debrief at The Met Campus Pub, 63 Gould Street.

Lunch will be provided for participating students following the rally.

I encourage you to bring a friend, invite your classmates, make a sign and come be part of the conversation. You don't need to be an experienced activist to participate. You simply need to care about the future of your education.
If you're concerned about missing class, please reach out to your instructors in advance to discuss arrangements for any missed academic activities. Student unions are also providing resources to help students navigate participation.

October at TMAPS: Learning, Advocacy & Community

While much of our attention has been focused on organizing for the upcoming walkout, October was another incredibly busy month for our team. We continued to create opportunities for students to learn, connect, have fun and engage with issues that matter to our community.
We kicked off the month with **Menstrual Equity 101**, in partnership with Free Periods Canada. This interactive workshop explored menstrual health, challenged stigma, and helped participants build the knowledge and confidence to advocate for menstrual equity. Access to menstrual products and education is an issue of dignity, health, and equity, and we're proud to continue building on the work of our Period Project.
On October 13th, we brought a little friendly competition into our advocacy work with our **Hands Off Our OSAP! Kahoot Trivia Night**. Students had the opportunity to test their knowledge, learn more about the provincial campaign and better understand how proposed changes to OSAP and post-secondary funding affect them.
October 21st brought two exciting opportunities for learning and community engagement. We began with a **Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop with PinkDetect**, exploring early detection, accessible and culturally sensitive health education and the importance of ensuring that underserved communities have access to information and tools to make informed decisions about their health. That same evening, we launched our **Indigenous Futurism Book Club**, facilitated by Ash Courchene. Exploring the work of Anishinaabe author and scholar Grace Dillon, this initiative invites students to engage with Indigenous storytelling, knowledge, culture and visions of the future.
As we continued our *Hands Off Our Education* organizing, we hosted **Hands Off Our Education Bingo Night** on October 27th. These events leading up to the walkout have been a great opportunity to connect with our distance education students. We welcome any feedback on how we can better include students who aren't on campus regularly.
We wrapped up the month with our **Halloween Movie Night** at Oakham Lounge! It was wonderful to bring students together for an evening of food, popcorn, a community-selected movie and a little Halloween fun. These opportunities to simply spend time together are just as important as our educational programming and advocacy initiatives. Building a strong student community means making room for connection, friendship and enjoyment along the way.
We also continued our work on menstrual equity with **Menstrual Equity 102**. Building on the foundational knowledge from our first session, this workshop focused on practical ways to promote menstrual equity, engage communities and take action.

As I reflect on October, I'm reminded that student advocacy takes many forms. Sometimes it looks like attending a workshop, learning about your rights or participating in a community discussion. Other times, it means organizing, speaking out and showing up alongside others to demand change. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our TMAPS team, our volunteers and the students who continue to participate in our programming. Every conversation, every event and every campaign helps strengthen the community we are building together.

As we head into November, I want to leave you with one important reminder: **Your education is worth advocating for, and your voice deserves to be heard.**
I hope to see many of you at Lake Devo on November 5th. And, as always, if you need support, have questions about your student rights or want to get involved in the work we're doing, please don't hesitate to reach out.
We are here to represent you, support you and work alongside you.
In solidarity,
Rose Finlay
President, TMAPS