

## **Remarks for the University of King's College Installation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Chancellor**

Debra Deane Little  
Chancellor of the University of King's College  
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Bishop Fyfe, Chair Ruck, fellow board members, President and Vice Chancellor Lahey, students, faculty, staff, alumni and distinguished guests, let me begin by thanking the University of King's College for the honour of serving as your 15<sup>th</sup> Chancellor. I am equally honoured to be the first woman to be the Chancellor of King's, knowing I am the first of many women who will serve the university in this role.

I am not accustomed to the spotlight, to being live-streamed, or to wearing these stunning robes. The fact that I am actively working to overcome my nervousness, speaks entirely to my deep and sincere admiration for the people who work here, for the students who attend, and for the quality of the programs you offer them. As is so often mentioned, King's is a collegial community that offers a style of education time-tested and increasingly rare. It is a community that cultivates the mind and the capacity to care, to care for one another and for things larger than ourselves.

I learned about King's the way many do, as a parent researching post-secondary options for her children. Our son's fiddle teacher is the son of Anita and Allistair MacLeod. Anita suggested that King's had a smaller learning program and the FYP would be good for Nicholas to consider. The same week, a fellow mother of adopted children who studied at Dalhousie spoke highly of the Foundation Year

Program, as well as the opportunities for students to benefit from the unique association between King's and Dalhousie.

In March of 2014, Bob and Nicholas visited the King's campus. They had the opportunity to attend a FYP lecture, the likes of which Bob had never experienced before and completely validated the recommendations we had received for Nicholas to attend King's.

Nicholas arrived at King's in September of 2014 and was able to join the Varsity men's soccer team. In many ways, our first impressions of King's were formed by the Athletics department. The personal attention the administration and staff of the Athletics program provided their student athletes was exceptional. This was the start of my coming to understand King's as a community. Over time, we witnessed this richness of experience in its academic programs and encountered considerable attentiveness in our personal interactions with staff, especially with food services when it came time to buy off-campus meal plans.

Through the years, my family and I have come to understand King's as a jewel in Canada's post-secondary landscape. Proof abounds that your thoughtful interdisciplinary curriculum, dedicated faculty and engaged student body translates into a growing alumni family who leverage their understanding and formidable communications skills to forge interesting lives—and careers. King's alumni appear to pursue their livelihoods in many disparate fields. And yet, what is perhaps most affirming, is that their divergent paths are very often united by the thread of civic responsibility, advocacy for social justice and service to community.

The pandemic we are living through has brought stronger focus on many of our global challenges: climate change, racial and gender inequity, exclusionary practices, economic disparity, repercussions of our technological advances and fragile democracies. ... And the list is longer than that. It can sometimes feel like optimists have a steep hill to climb.

And yet, we are surrounded and blessed by a new generation of leaders determined to shape a better world. I am reminded of this year's valedictorian, Sarah Sharpe, whose video address from her kitchen was spectacular. Sarah spoke of King's nourishing and challenging her thinking, of learning with as well as from her peers. And she remarked on how "love and community are crucially entangled with responsibility." As I watched her address, my eyes filled with tears knowing Sarah and her fellow students at King's will make a difference in the world.

Our hope is with this generation, and those to follow, and it is they we all must unite to support.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to observe and on occasion participate in supporting the students of this extraordinary academic community.

Thank you again for the honour of being your 15<sup>th</sup> – Chancellor.