Welcome Day

Remarks by President Tim Vine
Delivered Sept. 6, 2026

Thank you for your kind words, Elder Ann. Thank you for all you do to support and encourage indigenization at King's. I so look forward to collaborating with you on this essential work. In these early days on campus, I have personally felt so warmly welcomed by you and by Emily. For anyone who doesn't already know Emily Pictou Roberts, you will soon come to know her well. She is King's Indigenous Student Support and Outreach Coordinator who guides our work on decolonization, Indigenization and Reconciliation.

Many of us here today are newcomers to this territory called Mi'kma'ki. And so, on behalf of King's, I acknowledge that this land is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw, who continue to care for and protect these lands and waters. We acknowledge the treaties signed between the Mi'kmaw and the British Crown, where each party agreed to live in peace and friendship, and commit King's to remaining dedicated to these principles and living as a treaty community.

On behalf of the university, I also acknowledge the distinct African Nova Scotian communities that have contributed to the vibrancy of Mi'kma'ki' for more than 400 years. King's is grateful to grow in partnership and allyship with Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian communities.

My name is Tim Vine, and I have the distinct privilege of being the 26th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of King's College. My pronouns are he/him, and please feel free to call me Tim or President Tim (we have at least three other Tims on campus!) so the "president" part can help with some of the confusion. Like many of you, I am new here, having only started on July 13th, and I live on campus over in the President's Lodge, with Crystal, my wife, Henry, our nearly-four-year-old son, and our two quite friendly dogs. My office is on the 2nd floor of the A&A building. and you will, no doubt, see me wandering around, still getting my bearings as a newcomer to King's. Please feel free to stop by the office or come and say "hi" while I'm walking the dogs in the Quad.

Those little moments of connection are so important and they're how we make this place a community. And it's community that makes us so special. We will do lots of things together in this

place—learning, growing, discovering—but I think the most important "work" is living in community. Author, activist and scholar bell hooks reminds us that "Communities sustain life — not nuclear families, or the 'couple,' and certainly not the rugged individual."

It is in community that we learn from one another, formally and informally, creating meaningful moments through conversation and writing. We learn who we are partly by talking with others, especially those with a different point of view and different lived experiences. It is in this community that we can make ourselves intelligible, to ourselves and others. Education at King's is a formative one in the fullest sense of the word. You will learn through a methodology of close reading, deep thinking, and lively conversations. But that feels like interesting conversations with new friends, breakfasts at Prince Hall, and a game of pool in the Wardroom, as much as it does lectures, late-night essay writing, and last-minute study sessions. The goal is to prepare you to weigh evidence, to ask deep questions, and speak hard truths.

These skills may feel very urgent, and, in truth, they have always been needed. These skills are what alumni consistently tell us have made all the difference in their lives and their professional success. In essence, it's what we've been doing here this whole time, since 1789. Here you will join generations of King's students and later, graduates, who are making—and have made—our shared lives a little better, not just here on campus, but in our extended communities.

New places and new experiences tend to come with thrilling trepidation. Firsts can be difficult. The first time being away from home, the first time living with a roommate, the first time getting a C on a paper. Life is full of first drafts, but no great work ends there. As you experience this community, I hope you will see not only how your individual experiences will form you, but also how the community will support you, whether it's by helping you study, or by celebrating that hard-earned A as your writing improves—and by sharing with you all the joys and challenges that life brings.

I hope you will see this as a place where we are honing not only our skills, but our place in the world—the kind of work we do best together. What I hope more than anything is that you don't wait until you've figured out exactly who you are before sharing yourself with this community. Those in upper years, and perhaps more so, those in middle age will, no doubt, tell you this time here is short and precious. I have yet to talk to someone who wished they had been themselves later.

You have arrived. Don't feel like you must know where you are going next. Participate fully. Let King's change you, and you, in turn, will change King's. You are here and belong here. Welcome, and welcome again.

There are teams of people here to help support you, some who you'll come to know, and some working behind the scenes. I'll take a moment to introduce you to just a few of them:

- Another Tim! Vice-President Tim Currie
- Chief Enrolment and Student Life Officer Kutay Ulkuer
- Director of Equity and Community Supports Karen Mutyabule
- Members of the faculty and staff here today
- Our Chaplain, Father Ingalls

I also want to say thank you to the many people on the Welcome Day subcommittee and everyone who has worked so hard to bring us all together today, including:

- Dean of Students Katie Merwin
- Ashley Nixon, Assistant Dean of Residence Life
- The Housing Team, the Dons and RSA teams
- Kelly Duong, part of our ESLO team who may ask you for a photo— she's documenting the day for our social media channels
- The Chartwells Team in Prince Hall who served us lunch; and
- Orientation leaders, all the students here to help, the King's Students' Union, including, of course, KSU President Gale VanAmburg, who will now come up here to say a few words.

Thank you all for making this choice to join the King's community!

WELCOME TO KING'S!