



Vanier College
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Good day fellow colleagues of the VCSA Executive Council,

Today marks the end of a chapter in our lives as we conclude our time together as Executives of the Vanier College Students' Association. Despite the different times in which we might have joined the team, we end this journey together; and my, what a journey it has been. Having gone through this last year, I can confidently say that this Council has really faced it all but together we remained strong in our convictions, determined to improve our community. Now must come the end of one mandate and the start of the next as we hand over the reins to an entirely new group of students: a new group of leaders.

Last semester, in March, we were all faced with an impossible reality; one that brought with it all imaginable struggles whether personal or professional. Despite the everlasting pandemic, this team worked together to defend the many concerns of students. We spoke out against unjust practices during these unprecedented times; we were firm in our stance on the need for more clear communication to students and we stood by *all* students in our persistent plea for an improved quality of education.

Over the past year and a half, I have had the great honour and privilege of serving as a fervent advocate and representative for Vanier students within the four walls of the College and externally. My journey on this Council began on June 1st, 2019 and from the very start of my mandate I tried my best to contribute as much as I could to my school: to my community. In reflection of my time on this Council, I can only hope that I did right by our students. I am proud of our work together and of the projects we successfully accomplished. Being on this Council, working alongside all of you, gave me an opportunity to realize many projects that had long been dreams of mine. Initiatives that went beyond just the Welcome Back BBQ, or the Winter Wonderland Carnival or even some of the famous free breakfasts. I could never have envisioned being able to see most of these dreams come to light and yet together we managed this. Among some of these projects was the foundation of the *VCSA Humanitarian Aid Committee* and the creation of the *VCSA Ambassador Program* which, if not for the pandemic, would have financed the trip of 12 students to Tanzania, Africa to assist local doctors, nurses and educators in the region.

Another one of these projects was the creation and establishment of *Vanier College's Chapter for Medicine Education and Development for Low Income Families Everywhere (MEDLIFE)*. This had long been a goal of mine and I am proud that while on this Council I was able to work with an incredible group of colleagues to make it happen. The Vanier MEDLIFE Chapter allows for the unique opportunity for students to volunteer both locally and internationally and I am pleased to see the Chapter continue to grow. I have the utmost confidence in the new team's future success.

The *VCSA Food Pantry* was yet another one of these projects, which began like many others: hearing the concerns and worries of fellow students. In my time, I noticed many students going to class hungry and embarrassed of the empty fridge that was awaiting them at home. It was in realizing this that I noticed how important it was for us as the students' Association, as the students' voice, to speak out and do our part in helping *all* members of the Association. The *VCSA Food Pantry* would allow for students on campus to have easy and discreet access to frozen meals, healthy snacks, as well as hygiene products. The implementation of this, although a seemingly small step on our part, could make the world of difference to some of these students. It is my profound wish that this mission is not lost and that the project continues from Council to Council for years to come.

Finally, the last of these last projects was the *VCSA Student Insurance Plan*. Making an affordable plan available to students at Vanier remains one of the Association's greatest missions. I am pleased that in our time in office, students were able to not only have a plan presented to them but also have a referendum on its implementation. The recent passing of the referendum highlights the need for it on campus and I am pleased that this initiative will continue to grow as is necessary until the day comes where any student at Vanier who seeks insurance coverage is able to receive it.

Thus, to conclude, I send to all VCSA Executive Council Members from 2019 – 2020, past and present, a sincere and heartfelt valediction. It is no simple task managing and overseeing the affairs of an Association with nearly seven-thousand members but having a united aggregate like the one we had, made it all feasible. For some, your time on Council was short for others, maybe longer, nonetheless, together we collectively played a pivotal role in the great achievements seen this year. You should all be immensely proud of the work you helped realize. I wish you all the best in whichever paths you decide to embark on next and look forward to hearing of all of your destined accomplishments.

With admiration, and profound appreciation,



Kareem Brochu

PRESIDENT

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