

*The McMaster Students Union*

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



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In just a few weeks, advance polls will open ahead of the upcoming federal election on October 21. As a student, voting can be seen as a confusing and inaccessible process. I recall voting for the first time four years ago while I was living in Les Prince Hall. Between the lengthy platform booklets and my lack of knowledge about current issues in Hamilton, I felt that my vote wouldn't matter.

Looking back, I realize how wrong I was and now understand the important role voting has in making tangible changes at local and national levels. You don't need to have extensive historical knowledge about current issues to vote. You need only be a Canadian citizen at least 18 years old on election day. Along with proper identification, simply bring an idea of the direction you think Canada should move towards within the next four years. There are countless reasons to vote, so I encourage you to get informed and decide which candidate best reflects your priorities. The largest voting demographic in

Canada is comprised of Millennials and Gen Z. Therefore, students can make a tremendous impact on this election.

Working alongside student leaders on campus, the MSU will be running a MacVotes campaign. This campaign will include a series of events throughout the month to help inform and excite students about voting. We will have a booth set up in MUSC to field questions about the election, visit a few classes to speak to the importance of voting, and give away free prizes to first year students living on campus who visit one of our tables set up in residence lobbies.

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We have also organized two events that give students the opportunity to directly speak with those running for office. On October 2 from 5:30 PM to 7 PM, we are hosting a mixer called Politics and Platters at TwelvEighty, where students can come out to meet candidates and get to know who is running in our riding, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas. We will also be holding a Federal Candidates Debate on October 8 from 2 PM to 4 PM in the MUSC Atrium, where we will ask candidates questions on the future of work for students, support for Indigenous communities, and environmental sustainability.

Students need not be concerned if they don't have the time to vote on October 21, as Elections Canada is providing an advance voting location

on campus. From Sunday, October 5 to Wednesday, October 9, students can cast their vote in Celebration Hall, located in the basement of Kenneth Taylor Hall. Students will be able to vote in any riding across Canada at this poll during the following hours:

- October 5: 9 AM - 6 PM
- October 6: 12 PM - 4 PM
- October 7: 10 AM - 10:30 PM
- October 8: 10 AM - 10:30 PM
- October 9: 10 AM - 10:30 PM

Despite all of that information, if you are reading this and still feeling overwhelmed or unsure of where to start, I suggest checking out [msumcmaster.ca/macvotes](http://msumcmaster.ca/macvotes). The website has a few resources on candidates, voter information, and details about the election process to make it easier for students to get informed. I am happy to answer any questions about the election or MSU advocacy efforts via my email, [vped@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vped@msu.mcmaster.ca). I hope to see students at the polls!

## FEDERAL ELECTION

# MAC VOTES

OCTOBER 21, 2019

HOW | WHEN | WHERE

[msumcmaster.ca/macvotes](http://msumcmaster.ca/macvotes)

#MacVotes

The President's Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board's projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.



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