



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Student Community Support Network**

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Daymon Oliveros  
SUBJECT: SCSN Report #4  
DATE: Thursday, October 8, 2015

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## **UPDATE**

Since our last report, we've had numerous calls sent in to us by Aidan Johnson's office regarding complaints about Homecoming festivities. All have been responded to and we're working on figuring out a meeting time between relevant stakeholders.

We also launched our Fall Passport initiative at Homecoming Expo. It's been a rocky start through promoting it via social media, but that can now begin now that we've gotten permission from The Silhouette to use their newspaper racks to distribute the passports.

## **SERVICE USAGE**

After Homecoming Weekend, we had a few calls related to festivities hosted by McMaster students. A few Westdale residents complained so we sent CAs to speak with these students and followed up with the Ward 1 office, as well as the residents themselves.

Due to these events, the City of Hamilton would like to call a meeting between MSU, the University, the City of Hamilton, and Hamilton Police Services about student behaviour. There's no set date, but it's looking to be near the end of October. Myself and Ehima will be attending.

## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

At our Homecoming Expo, we did a Hamilton trivia station to promote both our service and the City of Hamilton. Tourism Hamilton gave us free buttons, erasers, and guides for giveaways which we gave to students. Also at the Homecoming Expo, we also launched our Fall Passport contest. Students will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card to Earth To Table: Bread Bar if they take pictures with this passport, at certain locations in Hamilton and send the picture to our Twitter. The contest hashtag is #FallingForHamilton and it closes on October 31st at 11:59PM.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

The Student Housing Campaign will be launching on November 1st and will run over the course of a month. We chose the month of November because it's typically a time when students begin looking for houses. We are collaborating with Advocacy Street Team and

members from the External Affairs Committee on this campaign which will cover four major goals:

- Educating students about legal pieces related to off-campus living (Residential Tenancies Act, Hamilton Bylaws relevant to students)
- Advocate for Student Housing issues in Westdale and Ainslie Wood
- Educate and promote self-advocacy practices for students
- Transitioning into off-campus living

Furthermore, we'll be having our annual Pumpkin Hike on October 23rd. We'll be helping students from Cootes Paradise Elementary School to carve pumpkins after school between 3PM and 4PM, and then laying pumpkins out into Cootes from 5PM to 9PM. All are welcome to attend.

### **CHALLENGES**

Getting our promotions side off the ground has been challenging. There's been slow communication from certain partners to finalize details, and our Pumpkin Hike and Fall Passport promotions have suffered as a result.

In hindsight, earlier and quicker initiative from our end should have been taken to optimize the communication strategies of these events, and we'll definitely keep that in mind moving forward.

A future challenge we can identify is how to communicate with other community partners about events which have occurred over Homecoming weekend.

### **BUDGET**

Budget-wise, we're in good shape. Since our last report, we've spent money renting a plinko board, as well as on business cards for all of our staff. These cards are especially important for CAs if they ever need to communicate with people in Ainslie Wood and Westdale.

### **SUCSESSES**

The Community Assistants have been doing a fantastic job in writing their reports on their walks. Their reports after speaking to student homes have also been very detailed and much appreciated by the executive team, as well as other stakeholders.

Also, our executive team has been working very hard and doing an amazing job. Our Internal Coordinator deserves a nod for already fostering a great relationship with the Community Assistant team – hosting weekly meetings, and monthly socials. Our External Coordinator has also been doing a great job helping out with projects and has begun planning for our Leavin' The Nest workshops, as well as for Discover Your City week in February.

Lastly, our Facebook likes have gone up by 100 since hiring a Promotions Coordinator, so we've been making strides online as well.