

The McMaster Students Union

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



**SPENCER**  
NESTICO-SEMIANIW

*Vice President (Education)*

vped@msu.mcmaster.ca  
ext. 24017

Since my time with the McMaster Students Union (MSU) began two years ago, I've seen a steady push from students to make our organization and McMaster University more accessible. Last year, the MSU hosted its first Accessibility Forum, wherein students discussed several kinds of challenges on campus, including physical barriers and the need for academic accommodations. The Student Representative Assembly (SRA) passed an Accessibility policy afterwards, codifying the MSU's stance on improving both itself and the University.

As a way of continuing the MSU's work in this en-

deavour and welcoming a new cohort of students to McMaster, the MSU is excited to announce Maccess. Maccess is a week-long campaign designed to make students more cognizant about accessibility at McMaster, as well as to emphasize what is being done to eliminate barriers and how students can continue this work. Maccess will feature a variety of programming throughout the week. To see the entire week's schedule, visit [msumcmaster.ca/maccess](http://msumcmaster.ca/maccess).

One aspect of this campaign involves students helping to make physical accessibility issues more visible. Some areas and pathways on campus are

“ I've seen a steady push from students to make ... McMaster University more accessible. ”

more accessible than others. Throughout the week, volunteers will be chalking certain areas on campus according to their levels of accessibility. Blue chalk will designate the most accessible routes and red chalk the least. Yellow chalk will represent areas that fall in between. We hope this activity will highlight the lack of accessible pathways in many areas of campus.

In addition, Maccess

will feature programming that will include anti-oppression training, beginner sign language classes, and a session on low vision facilitated by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. There will be a speech given by David Lepofsky, a leading spokesperson on legislation surrounding the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. In addition, students will facilitate sessions in which they will share their experiences using wheelchairs on campus, as well as a session focusing on the impact of chronic illnesses.

Throughout the week, students can stop by the MUSC-Mills Plaza to talk to Maccess volunteers about the campaign and learn how to get involved with the MSU's work on accessibility. There will also be a banner inviting students to share their responses to the question "What Does Disability Mean to You?" Join in the social media conversation using #Maccess. Coming soon, the app Cartographr will also be available for Apple and Android, where anyone can tag accessibility concerns on a map of McMaster's campus and see others' tagged concerns as well.

Maccess will provide an opportunity for students to get more involved in the ongoing conversation around accessibility on campus.

During the Week of

**SEPTEMBER 21 - 25**

the MSU invites all **students, faculty, and staff** to attend

**maccess**

[MSUMcMASTER.CA/maccess](http://MSUMcMASTER.CA/maccess)

#maccess



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.



President

VP (Administration)

VP (Finance)

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