Principal’s statement concerning racist note

Thursday October 10, 2018

This morning, a racist, homophobic, and threatening poster was discovered attached to the door of a common room in one of our student residence buildings. There is no place at Queen’s for racism, hatred, or threats of violence as expressed in this poster.

I will not give voice to the message by repeating any of the language it contained. Suffice it to say it was a cowardly violation of human rights and the dignity of individuals, and sought to intimidate and foster hate toward, and fear in, Indigenous and Queen identified members of our Queen’s family.

The note was immediately removed after it was discovered, police were notified, and staff moved quickly to mobilize supports to assist students in the residence impacted by this event.

Queen’s has worked hard - and continues to work hard - to support and implement a wide array of initiatives aimed at increasing diversity and inclusion and combating racist hatred. Clearly there is more work to be done.

I know our entire campus and Kingston community will be saddened and deeply hurt to learn of this. Our community is one that strives to create a diverse, safe and inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff.

This incident is being actively investigated. Our students were notified and anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Campus Security and Emergency Services 613-533-6111 or Kingston Police 613-549-4660.

I would remind everyone that if you feel affected by this incident and require support, please do not hesitate to reach out to the support services available on campus, or the multi-faith chaplain. Additional resources after hours and over the weekend for students include EmpowerMe, Mi'a, GoodTalk, and Hope for Wellness Helpline.

- Principal and Vice-Chancellor Patrick Deane

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