



Beacon Hill Statement

The Rideau Students' Union

A Mission for a Generation

We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in schools, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit.

Our lifetimes, as all lifetimes before them, are filled with chaos, as those above fail to serve the citizens of their societies well, and those below are doomed to a life in lacking to what they are owed. The suffering of the populace has continued to, as it has for the past two centuries, create tensions within the groups, create fear within the people, create division, and anxiousness and pain and suffering. The toil of our protests and our petitions have not done much differently. We have been failed. And as division begets division, so does pain beget pain.

This cycle we reject. While plagued with many of the same issues as our parents before us, and their parents before them, we stand determined to solve the issues that we face as a society, be it those of poverty, or those of mental health, or those of disease, or those of crime. Tried as we had before to demand justice through retaliation, but little effect came of it. We now take a different approach, an alternative as our predecessors had put it too.

There is a yearning for alternatives to the circumstances in the school, the workplace, the bureaucracies, the government. To this yearning, we direct our present appeal. The endeavour for searching for alternatives to the systems we have now and for the social discussion and experimentation that comes with them is a worthy and fulfilling human enterprise. On such a basis do we offer this document of our convictions and analysis: as an effort in understanding and changing the conditions of humanity.

Our Efforts

Youth in the past have succeeded in their efforts to create change. Indeed, to discredit us for our age would be neglectful of the passions, the work ethic, the dreams and desires of the youth to have a change. One ought to remind themselves of their own youth and the passions that had once suffused their generations as had been done to all generations when judging our efforts. Even now, we live in a nation filled with those who can best be described as politically impotent, not only believing that they are unable to make change in politics but believing they are unable to make change in their own personal lives, instead ignoring the issue for their own loss. Again, this process we reject. It is our belief in ourselves that determines whether or not we succeed, and we have formed our Union because we believe.

As individuals, our voices may not spread far from the friend groups we have, but united our voices will be heard from Parliament Hill and every legislature and governing body in our regions. A school of many is a school to reckon. And so these fish that form our Union have come together to discuss ideas, conduct research, form policy and to take our quarrel to the Councillors, the Mayors, the Members of Parliament, the Premiers and the Ministers. We are determined to succeed and we will tire ourselves with the duty imparted upon us by the society that has been failed into believing that change is impossible without drawing hilts and letting blood spill. We are the ones awakened to a new day, united and committed to overcoming the hurdle that has made those before us fall to their knees.

These efforts are an endeavour to form, present and prescribe policy regarding the issues which are important to us, the students, today and to stand for the desire of a better tomorrow.

The Issues

Though our predicaments are plentiful and our answers are broad, we have formed 6 main committees within which we will focus our efforts. These are dedicated to the issues of Economics, Law, the Environment, Education and Mental Health, Science, Technology and Healthcare and Foreign Policy. Within each of these committees is a dedicated process to creating and scrimmaging for good policy.

Our plight must begin with the formulation of our policy which is not based on one perspective or another but taking into account the concerns of all. In their current state, our nations are divided deeply. Partisanship, populism and polarization have infected the minds of those who manage and those who live alike, they are a cancer that must be removed, else the results may prove fatal. Individuals must understand two fundamental points if they hold an inclination to achieve any change.

The first is that those who posture as wanting change are often wanting only of power, these individuals will promote and practice these three traits not because it will allow them to accomplish change but it will allow them to concentrate power under themselves. Heed those who hold this as their true intention regardless of whether or not they share their opinions with you.

The second is that those of the opposite isle are not evil, they hold no endeavour to destroy you nor the country you both so love. They have simply formed an opposing opinion on a subject, based on their own education, experience and aspirations. As have you. What must be done is that individuals of opposing isles must use their experiences, their education,

The Issues (Cont.)

their experiences to settle their differences and find a better solution. Individuals must be able to take criticism, opposition, concerns and difference not as a threat but as a means to find solutions. Humans are more alike than we are different, it must be understood that all humans share, their worrying, their troubles, their misery. Only with this knowledge will any gridlock be overcome.

With these truths in mind, we carry on our dream to form our policy, not in the interest of one or another, but based on the concerns of all. Our concerns, the concerns of our society, will be addressed, will be tackled, with the full force of the bright minds of the children that we are composed of.

Our Values

Though our histories are plentiful and our opinions are broad, we, as all humans do, hold certain values that serve as a basis for all we do and all we must try to do. Making values explicit - an initial task in establishing alternatives - is an activity that is a necessity in answering issues in a fruitful nature.

That all men and women and those of different races, religions, sexual orientation or other identities are equal in rights and dignity is a fundamental truth upon which all of our policy must rest. These requisite rights include the right to life, liberty, dignity, security and the pursuit of happiness and are applicable to all people without the obstruction of or impeding the rights of others.

Beyond these rights, it is also a held value of the Union that it is vital for collaboration and discourse to find solutions to common issues. Democracy is a key tether of the efforts of the organization and in the creation of a better society, but one must understand that for effective collaboration, there must be mutual comprehension of the humanity of other individuals. To this extent, the Union will also hold value in fostering fraternity, honesty and compassion.

Violence and destructive behaviour is an intolerable and ineffective method to accomplishing change and so this Union will instead form a coalition of individuals to rally for change through dialogue, peaceful activism and an incessant desire to see a world in which collaboration and solicitude triumph.

We, the students of our generation, form this Rideau Students' Union in an endeavour to see a better tomorrow.