



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

October 1, 2021

Re: Students on top of ambulance identified, subject to StFX disciplinary process

To the campus community,

I am writing to report that the two individuals who climbed on top of an ambulance that was attending emergency services call on campus in early September were identified as students of StFX (not from MacIsaac Hall) and that they have been subject to the university discipline process. While I cannot disclose the outcome of the process due to personal privacy reasons, I will state that the university has zero tolerance for such behaviour, especially when it involves disrespect to our first responders.

Related, as we head into what would traditionally be our Homecoming weekend we are reminded of recent incidents in the media regarding poor judgment and unacceptable behaviour by students at another university 'celebrating'. As reported, students gathered by the thousands, leading to arrests by law authorities, a requirement to stay home from classes (risking academic success), and further conduct charges from the institution. This celebration also resulted in strained relationships and a loss of trust between the institution, its students, and the surrounding community. What may have started as an exciting party to some, wound up as an unnecessary disaster for everyone.

VIOLATIONS LEAD TO SUSPENSIONS FROM RESIDENCE & THE UNIVERSITY

If socializing this weekend, it must be done in a safe manner in accordance with provincial and local laws and our Community Code. Those found in violation will be subject to significant fines and to our disciplinary process. **In fact, within the last year the university has suspended nine students from residence and/or the university altogether, in relation to violation of COVID-19 protocols.**

Let's take this opportunity to learn from the events around us. **Large gatherings and parties are unsafe, and against the law during the pandemic.** COVID-19 is in our communities and fully-vaccinated or not, you can still catch the virus and it can still be transmitted, putting those who are vulnerable within our community at risk. This year we transitioned our Homecoming to online for one very simple reason: the safety of our community -- to avoid bringing masses of individuals together during the pandemic. While we understand that students have pent-up energy and enthusiasm after nearly 18 months of restricted conditions due to COVID-19 that does not mean we should socialize recklessly. Doing so risks the very ability for us to be here, in Antigonish, together.

We can do this. It's simple.

- 25 In/50 Out rule. Use it this weekend.
- If you are at a gathering that exceeds these limits, leave. The RCMP will be extra-diligent this weekend. Fines for violating gathering limits are \$2,000.
- If gathering outside, be respectful of your neighbours and surroundings. This is where you, we live.
- Take pride in behaving responsibly and understand that those around you will greatly appreciate it.

As Xaverians, we are rooted in our relationships – those in the classroom as well as those within the broader community. Please make a deliberate effort to stay safe and protect yourself (and your reputation). By focusing on your own actions, you keep us all safe.

Elizabeth Yeo
Vice-President, Students
StFX University