

# Billie Rose Owen

## *Female Head of NRA*

Dear members of Trinity College,

As my second year at Trinity College comes to a close, it has become clear to me that my experiences as a member of this college have been rather unique. The opportunity to experience life as a commuter student as well as a residence student has shown me the culture of tight knit relationships and residence orientated activities that Trinity College thrives on. This culture is vibrant and unique. Each individual member of this college deserves to reap the benefits of their proud contributions and participation within this community. However, at times the substantial emphasis on residence-oriented activities prolongs a sense of inaccessibility, particularly for commuter students. This presents an opportunity. **This is an opportunity to further lengthen our ties between residence and non-residence students, with our goal being to expand the strength of our community, generate communication within our college and bolster an array of diverse relationships.**

As a result of various circumstances, I entered Trinity College in first year as a commuter student without partaking in Frosh events. Regardless of these missed opportunities, it became a strong objective of mine to successfully integrate myself into this community that offered such an intriguing, unique lifestyle. Simply put, this was a difficult task. However, moving onto residence in my second year revealed clarity of underlying issues that commuter students face.

**As an electoral candidate, I strive to express the importance of face- to-face communication that is constant enough to create a welcoming environment at Trinity.** I strive to be an approachable, present leader on Trinity's campus who can communicate with commuter students, and provide them the opportunities to connect to the greater community. I believe I can create these connections through events that cater to the needs of non-resident students. I would like to include a spin on "Trin goes to..." events, that consist of events such as "NRAC goes to Saints Rush" or "NRAC goes to High Table." These events could be easily organized through active, constant use of the commuter student Facebook group, and could solve general anxieties commuter students face in terms of attending Trinity's events in solitude. Additionally, stronger execution of the commuter specific Facebook page is a platform where commuter students can have a presence that will unfailingly be reciprocated with enthusiasm and encouragement.

Through my participation with the University of Toronto dance team, Trinity intermural soccer, the University of Toronto's Food Policy Council; it is clear to me that feeling apart of community is not solely based on accessibility or every day interactions. It is based on enthusiasm and the general interest of staying in contact. **The value of simply reaching out personally to individuals within our community either through Facebook or in person can never be underestimated, and I aim to cater these interactions through awareness of the non- residence students within our community and their needs.**

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