

A young woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark blazer over a white top and a gold necklace with a cross pendant, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is in a brick hallway with other people in the background. The word "PLATFORM" is written in blue serif font in the upper right corner.

# PLATFORM

**Kalkidan**  
**For VP Student Affairs**

# Letter to Huron

Dear Huron,

It is an honor and privilege to put myself forward as your candidate for Vice President of Student Affairs. Since arriving in Canada, Huron quickly became more than just my school, it became my second home. The warmth, community, and spirit of support that welcomed me from the beginning inspired me to give back and play an active role in enhancing student life.

My involvement across various campus roles, including Orientation Week Leader (SOPH), Chapel Assistant, and as a founding member of EcoPatriot and WUSC, has given me valuable insight into student experiences and needs. I've witnessed firsthand how impactful genuine leadership, transparency, and advocacy can be in fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.

My intention as your Vice President of Student Affairs is to build upon the strong foundations already in place, enhancing transparency, wellness, and career development opportunities while recognizing and empowering student leaders. Together, with your trust and support, we can turn our shared vision for an engaged and supportive Huron community into a meaningful reality.

Yours sincerely,  
Kalkidan

## What is VP Student Affairs?

The Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA) is dedicated to advocating for and supporting students across various aspects of campus life. Serving as a bridge between the student body and university administration, the VPSA works closely with student leaders, clubs, and organizations to create impactful programs, events, and initiatives that reflect student interests and needs.

Leading a dedicated team, the VPSA actively fosters student engagement, prioritizes equity and inclusivity, and promotes accessible wellness resources. By collecting and analyzing student feedback, the VPSA identifies areas for improvement and develops policies aimed at enhancing the student experience. Their responsibilities also include coordinating with committees to ensure that student voices influence decision-making and drive positive change throughout campus life at Huron.

# Pillar 1: Valuing and Recognizing Student Leadership

## **Purpose:**

Student leaders, particularly SOPHs and ISOs, make substantial personal sacrifices to ensure new students feel welcomed and supported during Orientation Week. These dedicated leaders often remain unnoticed once their primary responsibilities conclude. My vision is to provide ongoing recognition and meaningful support for these leaders, extending beyond Orientation Week to foster stronger campus connections year-round. Recognizing the significant personal and financial struggles these leaders experience at the start of each year—including leaving summer jobs two weeks early (approximately 80 hours of lost income) and paying an additional month's rent beyond the academic year, is essential.

## **Initiatives:**

- Introduce a Student Leader Appreciation Initiative that provides SOPHs and ISOs with a year-round 10% discount at the Beaver Dam as a consistent token of appreciation.
- By encouraging student leaders to frequent the Beaver Dam with their discount, their visibility among first-year students will naturally increase, fostering approachable connections throughout the academic year.
- Acknowledge that student leaders will face increased responsibilities next year due to the removal of Student Engagement Officers (SEOs). This initiative aims to support them as they take on broader roles in facilitating student engagement and campus life.

# Pillar 2: Enhancing Western University's Visibility

## **Purpose:**

Despite Huron students paying equivalent fees, many of the valuable resources and opportunities offered by Western University remain underutilized or unknown on our campus. My aim is to bridge this gap by significantly increasing Western's visibility at Huron, ensuring our students fully benefit from the partnership between the institutions.

## **Initiatives:**

- Provide Western University with designated tables and spaces at key Huron events, such as the Orientation Week Resource Fair, to directly inform and engage Huron students about available resources and opportunities.
- Facilitate regular booths for Western University representatives outside the Beaver Dam during major campus activities, allowing them to promote events, sell tickets, and share resources directly with Huron students.
- Advocate for improved transparency and communication from Western to Huron students, ensuring that information about resources, events, and opportunities is clearly and consistently shared.

# Pillar 3: Transparent and Accessible Wellness Support

## **Purpose:**

Effective wellness support is vital for student success and well-being. However, current communication gaps and accessibility barriers limit the effectiveness of wellness services at Huron. My objective is to enhance transparency, increase accessibility, and ensure wellness resources genuinely reflect and respond to student needs.

**Initiatives:**

- Expand wellness initiatives into residential areas and classroom spaces by regularly setting up wellness information booths and pop-up events, making wellness resources more integrated into daily student life.
- Develop a peer-led training program for Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV), facilitated by senior students trained by professionals, fostering a supportive and comfortable learning environment for incoming students.
- Establish clear and consistent two-way communication between Wellness House and the HUCSC Wellness Portfolio, ensuring feedback is continuously shared and implemented.

## Pillar 4: Clear Expectations in Career Development

**Purpose:**

Clear and accurate communication about career opportunities is critical for students planning their academic and professional futures. Currently, many students, particularly international and people who come from afar ones, have expressed disappointment due to misrepresented internship opportunities. My goal is to ensure transparency and realistic expectations regarding career and internship resources.

**Initiatives:**

- Clearly outline and widely communicate all available career resources, tools, and opportunities to students, ensuring they are fully informed and expectations are properly aligned.
- Improve transparency around internships and career offerings by ensuring accurate marketing and detailed descriptions of these opportunities.
- Actively collect and implement student feedback on career services to continually improve resource relevance and effectiveness, building trust and satisfaction among the student body.

## Closing Statement

These pillars are not just my ideas, they reflect the voices, hopes, and genuine concerns of our student community. From empowering our student leaders to clarifying career paths, increasing visibility and prioritizing sustainable and inclusive practices, every step is about making our collective vision a reality. I deeply value your perspectives and promise to passionately advocate for your needs. Together, let's nurture a supportive, vibrant, and united community, one where every student feels connected, involved, and proud to call Huron home.

**Thank you!!**