



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **QMS MODEL UN TEAM EARNS NATIONAL HONOURS**

*Debaters Step Onto SSUNS Stage*

**November 16, 2022 - Duncan, BC, Canada** – For members of the QMS Model UN team, their participation in the [Secondary School's United Nations Symposium](#) (SSUNS) in Montreal, Quebec was years in the making.

“Of the five students who travelled to Montreal, four have been working towards this level of Model UN event since Grade 7 at QMS,” explains QMS teacher, Kimberley Chapman. “These passionate debaters have been taking part in local Model UN events such as ShawMUN, the Global Goals Conference and VMUN as delegates for years, and this year, they had all advanced to become dais members, or leaders at the local level. Montreal was their opportunity to experience Model UN at a national level.”

The purpose behind Model UN is to help students develop public speaking, writing and research skills in an engaging space where they enter into diplomatic debate on international affairs, peace and security treaties, human rights, rule of law and more. Participants connect with other young people, mentors and leaders in simulation while working towards solutions for real-world issues. Chapman has led the QMS Model UN team for several years and has always had the SSUNS event as her goal.

“As SSUNS is organized and run by university students, it is the perfect way for high school students to see how their passion for international diplomacy can inspire their post-secondary studies or extra-curricular activities,” shares Chapman. “This particular group of students stepped up to display incredible poise and professionalism, I couldn’t be more proud.”

QMS team members Maya Harbo (Grade 12), Alexander Munro (Grade 12), Kieran Denny (Grade 11), Maia Cassie (Grade 11) and Cadan Ritter (Grade 11) were all assigned to advanced committees, which are small, competitive and fast paced. “I’m not sure I can adequately communicate the level of concentration and dedication it takes to debate at a conference like this,” adds Chapman. “They completed nearly 20 hours of debate!”

At the final awards ceremony, Maia Cassie was awarded the Viola Desmond Award for Advocacy and Kieran Denny earned the Hide Hyodo Shimizu Award for Peacemaking. Each was presented with a certificate and ceremonial gavel in recognition of their efforts. Team QMS also took first place in the entertaining SSUNS Amazing Race, a scavenger hunt led by McGill University students in downtown Montreal.

### **About Queen Margaret's School**

QMS is a university-preparatory, all gender day and boarding school. Our purpose is to “prepare young trailblazers” recognizing that “no two journeys are the same.” With an emphasis on experiential learning and character development, we promote being curious, being brave, being kind and being strong individuals in the context of a very supportive community, aware of the world outside and involved in trying to make it better for all.

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**For more information or to arrange a QMS interview please contact:**

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**Photo caption:** Members of the QMS Model UN team earned impressive hardware at the national SSUNS Model UN event in Montreal last weekend. *(Left to right: Kieran Denny, Cadan Ritter, Alexander Munro, Maia Cassie and Maya Harbo)*

*Photo by Kimberley Chapman*

