
Subject: Keeping you informed during the strike

Dear Sheridan Community,

We're now reaching the end of week two in the academic strike facing Ontario's 24 colleges. I wanted to take the opportunity to share some updates and let you know what Sheridan is doing to support its students during this difficult period.

As reported in the media, the College Employer Council (bargaining agent for the colleges) and OPSEU (faculty union) have not yet been called back to the bargaining table by the mediator, although both sides have declared their willingness to continue talking. The Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development has also signaled that the Provincial government will not intervene and force the two sides back to the bargaining table. While I understand that this news is distressing to many, we continue to remain hopeful that this stalemate will be broken soon and talks will progress.

At Sheridan, we've begun significant work to determine how courses and programs may need to be adjusted, depending on how long the strike lasts, to ensure that we maintain the integrity, quality and accountability of our programs. Top of mind is our need to ensure that our students meet the learning outcomes associated with their courses and programs. Ideally, we would like our students to complete their current courses in the fall semester to avoid disruption in subsequent terms, but we cannot eliminate the possibility of an extended fall term as we examine all options in our scenario planning.

Our Student Affairs team is in the process of calling all of our students to ensure that they feel as supported as possible. We've made contact with over 3,100 students so far, beginning with new students. We will continue to work through the lists and are striving to reach everyone soon. To hear more about this effort as well as other supports and services available to students during the strike, please watch this [video message](#) by our Dean of Students, Maria Lucido Bezely.

Our [strike information webpage](#) continues to be updated regularly, particularly in the Frequently Asked Question section. The page has received 202,000 visits since it went live on October 11. Our voicemail and email hotlines continue to be answered – with 425 phone calls returned and 147 emails answered to date. Our social media team continues to reply to people's questions on Facebook and twitter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you about Strike Open Forums for Students, presented in partnership with Sheridan and the Sheridan Student Union, happening on the following dates and times:

- Monday, October 30, from 7:30-9:00 pm at The Den, Davis Campus, Brampton
- Wednesday, November 1, from 7:30-9:00 pm at The Marquee, Trafalgar Campus, Oakville
- Thursday, November 2, from 7:30-9:30 pm at A145, Hazel McCallion Campus, Mississauga

The forums are open to our extended community, including students' families. We're here to listen to people's concerns and answer as many questions as we can in real time. For those who are unavailable to attend in person, the sessions will also be livestreamed to the [Strike Information webpage](#). Questions may also be submitted in advance, by using this [form](#). For questions submitted through the form, priority will be given to answering those questions that are not already addressed on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of our strike information page.

Panelists at the sessions include:

- Dr. Janet Morrison, Provost and Vice President, Academic
- Maria Lucido Bezely, Dean of Students
- Dr. Mike Allcott, Dean of International
- Linda Dalton, Registrar
- Christine Szustaczek, AVP, Communications, Public Affairs and Marketing
- Ryan Piper, Director, Employment Relations and Partnerships
- Enrique Ponce, President, Sheridan Student Union

I realize that this is a stressful and difficult time for everyone and that people's frustration continues to build the longer that the strike progresses. Please be assured that we hear your concerns and we take all of your comments to heart. Thank you for your continued understanding.

Sincerely,

Mary Preece, PhD

President and Vice Chancellor