

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Update on government supports for students

April 24, 2020

Dear Sheridan Students,

Among other updates, I'm writing to provide a summary of the important government announcements that were made this week.

New government support for Canadian students

On April 22, the federal government announced \$9 billion in new financial support for Canadian students, including:

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which will support students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit will provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students, and \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit will be available from May to August 2020.

The Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.

More information about these resources, and the other programs announced this week, can be found [here](#).

Removing barriers for international students working in essential services

On April 22, the federal government announced that it would remove the restriction on how many hours per week an international student can work while classes are in session for those working in essential service areas like health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This temporary rule change will be in place until August 31, 2020.

International students and their employers should refer to the government's [Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) to determine if they are temporarily eligible to work more than 20 hours per week. Learn more about this announcement [here](#).

Implied legal status extension for study and co-op permits

The Government of Canada recently advised all international students who are in Canada, and whose temporary resident status will soon expire, to apply online to extend their status. This will allow them to maintain their temporary resident status and study permits, and ensure they continue to have access to social and health benefits while in Canada. If you have questions about how to apply, please connect with a member of our International team by emailing askanadvisor@sheridancollege.ca.

Learn more about this announcement [here](#).

New government survey: Impact of COVID-19 on Postsecondary Students

Statistics Canada has invited all postsecondary students to share their perspective on the current crisis and offer insights about how their studies, financial situation and day-to-day lives have been impacted by the pandemic. This data will help the federal government and other supporting organizations to better understand the need for services and assistance programs. Learn more and access the survey [here](#).

Sheridan students complete virtual production of new musical

Finally, I'd like to leave you with this outstanding example of our learners' ability to

create something beautiful, innovative, and very memorable in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Under the guidance of director Ann Hodges, fourth-year students in the Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance program recently completed a virtual production of *In Real Life*, a new musical that was scheduled to be performed this month. Quite fittingly, the musical is set in a not-so-distant future in which isolated students communicate and interact entirely via technology.

Watch the full [video of the musical's opening number, "A Million."](#)

I know it can be hard to stay energetic, focused and optimistic under these circumstances. As always – I urge you to take care of yourselves, focus on the factors within your control and reach out for help if you need it.

Sincerely

Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor

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