

## A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



### Taking Stock and Moving Forward

**June 16, 2020**

Colleagues: although things are beginning to open up again in the province, science-guided caution will continue to inform our actions and planning. Clearly, we are far from returning to the state of normalcy we took for granted just a few months ago. Today I'd like to provide a short update on our current state and some plans for moving forward.

#### COVID-19 Employee Survey Results

I want to thank all of you who took the time to participate in our COVID-19 Employment Survey. The results offer insight into how the pandemic has affected our employees and their work. Below is some of what we learned:

- Although the majority report a smooth transition to remote work, it has been a challenge for many employees, particularly for those with dependants. Academic staff were more likely to report that they felt less able to work as effectively during this period.
- Most employees remain engaged and feel their contributions are valued. For academic employees, the need to shift to remote delivery for the fall semester is a source of stress, and additional training will be necessary to assist them in this adjustment.
- Almost 70% of employees indicate satisfaction with the level and detail of communications from Sheridan.
- An increase in work-related stress is a factor across employee and demographic groups.

We remain focused on ensuring you have what you need to navigate this time of disruption and change. We will continue to review the data to better understand how we might extend and/or amplify existing supports.

#### Virtual Faculty Days

Over the past week, we hosted a series of Virtual Faculty Days. These were designed to give prospective students an opportunity to learn more about our programs and interact with program coordinators. Over 2,000 prospective students registered for these sessions, and 180 faculty and staff lent their support. The sessions gave students an opportunity to learn more about how remote delivery will impact their program delivery, hear about the financial aid and other supports we offer, and ask detailed questions that were answered in real time.

At the sessions, we also shared our ["fall promise"](#) which includes our commitment to high quality education, health and safety, affordability, student support and virtual campus life – all of which are backed by a risk-free guarantee that allows students to withdraw from the fall semester by October 9 and have their tuition, fees and deposit refunded if they're not satisfied. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these important efforts aimed at supporting enrolment for the fall.

#### Convocation 2020

At this time of year, we are typically in the midst of Convocation. I know we're all deeply disappointed about not being able to celebrate this momentous moment in our traditional fashion this June. The Office of the Registrar, Events, and Communications, Public Affairs and Marketing teams are, however, hard at work planning a virtual ceremony for each Faculty that will commemorate the achievements of our outstanding graduands. Links to view the ceremonies will be shared shortly.

Colleagues – as I've said repeatedly, this era we're in continues to prove that education matters deeply. It is our best hope for personal, economic and societal transformation. I am immensely grateful for your personal contribution to the students and communities we serve and for your efforts to support each other as we navigate these challenging times together.

Warmly,

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