

## **Janet – Voice mail message for employees – March 17, 2020**

Hello Colleagues. It's Janet, your President and Vice Chancellor.

I know that yesterday's announcement by our Prime Minister and today's State of Emergency announcement by our Premier have made this pandemic feel even more urgent and real for many of us.

In the midst of those reports and updates - I hope that – just like me – you were heartened to hear medical officers of health report that the vast majority of people who contract the COVID-19 virus will fully recover.

Make no mistake - Coronavirus is a serious threat - but this is a time for precaution and prevention – not for panic.

In the days and weeks ahead – as we collectively navigate working and learning arrangements that are rapidly transitioning to something unfamiliar and new -- please remember – you are not alone.

I'm reminded that communities come in all shapes and sizes.

Even if we're no longer all on campus together, we can – and we should – stay connected via phone, email, WebEx and chat. Remember to check in on one another.

This is an experience that we are going to reflect back upon for years to come and the days ahead will require us to experiment and be flexible. We certainly won't get everything right on the first try.

It is incumbent upon all of us to focus on what we can control, to remain open-minded and positive, and to plan for various scenarios in a situation that is both disruptive and unfamiliar.

Now is the time for all of us to lead the way by engaging in evidence-based decision-making and by modeling resiliency, agility, and courage. That is what leaders and educators do. It's what we tell our students to do.

Thank you so much for doing your part to exhibit the kindness, care and commitment that is a hallmark of the Sheridan community. We all have a critical role to play to navigate the days ahead.

I have no doubt that we will all feel the impact of this pandemic for a long time – but I also have every confidence that we will emerge – stronger than ever.

Thank you.