

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Fall Term Updates

May 12, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Following my emails last week, which addressed a number of items pertaining to our Spring/Summer Term and broader recovery efforts, I'd now like to turn your attention to the Fall.

Province-wide Approach

Every day, I'm reminded that recovery is a process, not a one-time event. In the face of complexity and factors that are beyond our control, **Sheridan is planning a phased re-opening of academic, research, administrative and student support activities.** Our plan aligns to the framework that was collegially developed by Ontario's 24 colleges and is currently under review by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

As you would expect, the plan calls for a gradual lifting of restrictions (consistent with announcements from the government of Ontario that we are moving to different stages on the roadmap to re-open the Province), while watching closely for any resurgence of illness -- which will signal a need to adapt. The college sector framework places the responsibility on each college to have an operational plan that

outlines how they will manage the safe opening and operation of their campuses.

Sheridan's Plan

For the foreseeable future, all areas that can function remotely will continue to do so. That said, my email on April 30 outlined the many health and safety considerations we're working through to allow for a safe return to campus when public health officials deem it safe to do so.

With specific reference to the fall term, Sheridan will offer a full suite of academic programs. We are also committed to delivering the remainder of any courses that were suspended in March and April as a consequence of those courses not being able to be offered in a remote format.

We anticipate that many of our fall programs will continue to be offered in alternate formats during the Fall semester. Face to face learning will be reserved for those courses where experiential hands-on learning is required. We will continue to look for ways to take advantage of any easing in public health restrictions that may occur.

Each program area is working out the details of their plans, which will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Work is underway to ensure that our programs – regardless of their delivery mechanism - remain grounded in learner-centred pedagogies and incorporate materials that are accessible to a diversity of learners. We are also creating resources to help learners thrive in remote or alternate delivery environments. From more robust virtual pre-arrival and orientation experiences to online and text message-based learning supports, we are shifting services and co-curricular programming to ensure that all of our students feel well supported.

Colleagues: I know how uncomfortable it is to live with uncertainty and appreciate people's desire to have firm answers about the fall term, especially when students, parents, industry and community contacts and even your own family and friends are asking.

Rest assured that – notwithstanding how much remains unknown and uncertain -- we are working hard to be prepared and deliver on our mission this fall.

Sincerely,
Janet Morrison
President and Vice Chancellor