



## The show must (and does) go on

**November 19, 2020**

Colleagues,

As we pass the nine-month mark of working, teaching, learning and living through a time of unparalleled change, our patience and endurance continue to be tested.

COVID cases and related deaths in Ontario are at record highs and hints of tightening restrictions in red zones like Peel and Halton Regions are looming. From the onset, and as evidenced by my regular emails, Sheridan has been committed to regular and open communication.

In that spirit and to be crystal clear, we have not yet received any new directives that would limit the in-person activity currently happening on our campuses. Should we need to alter our plans in any way, you can trust that we will share that news promptly.

In the midst of this highly fluid and very challenging set of circumstances, I want to shift gears and share examples of the progress we're making to offer standard-setting higher education that unleashes everyone's full potential. This week's news of two possible COVID vaccines has given the world much needed hope. Similarly, I hope that the efforts below provide an assurance that our commitment to academic quality and student success is unwavering – even in the face of a global pandemic. Borrowing a line from our colleagues in musical theatre: the show must (and does) go on.

### Open Innovation Challenge



Sheridan

Yesterday, I was thrilled to participate in the launch of Sheridan's Open Innovation Challenge – an initiative focused on the future and realizing potential. Participants from across Canada have been invited to participate in a three-stage challenge aimed at re-imagining learning and education in our communities by sharing their experiences, exploring ideas, and working with mentors to develop meaningful solutions. There are more than \$60,000 in prizes available to be won, including a \$2,500 prize available to a team involving Sheridan students. [Learn more here.](#)

### Helping Youth Drive Social Change

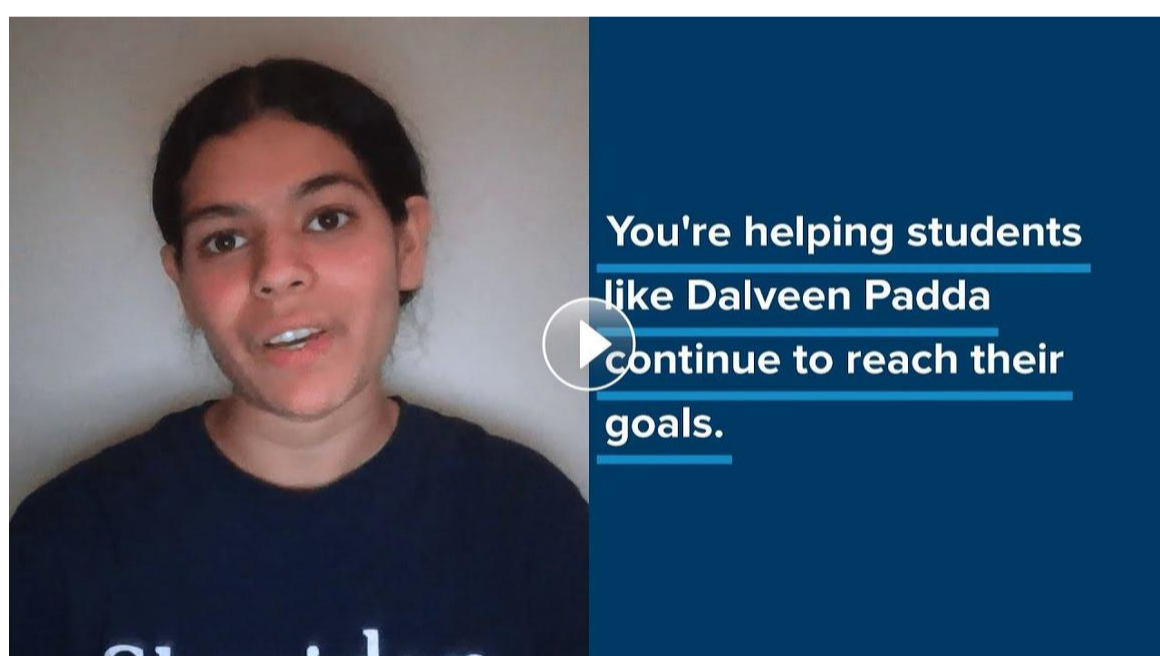


Today (November 19) is Social Enterprise Day -- the perfect occasion for Sheridan to accept a \$435,000 gift from RBC Future Launch to support social entrepreneurship, mentorship and enriched co-curricular learning opportunities. This new gift from one of our most loyal and valued partners will provide direct support to students and youth in our communities for the next three years. [Learn more here.](#)

### DLI Status and Winter Promise

Earlier this week, Sheridan was officially named a Designated Learning Institute (DLI) by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The designation permits Sheridan to welcome international students who aren't currently in Canada and who have been approved for a study permit. This status is critical to maintaining our winter enrolment, preserving employment and safeguarding Sheridan's financial health. As previously shared, we are also repeating our "Learning, Uncompromised" guarantee in January to give winter term students a full month to experience Sheridan (risk free) by offering a full refund if they're not satisfied. [Read more.](#)

### Recognizing Your Generosity



Last Sunday, November 15, was National Philanthropy Day. To mark it, I want to thank everyone – including many of you – who has made a donation to Sheridan. The COVID-19 Emergency Financial Aid Bursary alone (established at the start of the pandemic) has supported over 7,000 students at a time of urgent need.

The video above shares the gratitude of Dalveen Padda, a fourth-year Honours Bachelor of Business Administration student, who is preparing to complete her degree next spring.

Colleagues: To my immense frustration, the path forward right now isn't linear. As always, we will continue to rely on our Guiding Principles and advice from experts to inform our decision-making. It sounds trite, but I honestly believe that we will get through this and emerge stronger if we stick together, recommit to Sheridan's values, and stay united in our purpose.

Thank you for everything, colleagues.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD  
President and Vice Chancellor