

## A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



### Bring on the fall

September 14, 2020

Dear colleagues:

Two milestones on the academic calendar continue to share equal billing as my favourite: convocation and the first day of classes each fall. After a mandatory six-month shuttering of our campuses, I can barely contain the sense of anticipation, optimism and joy that I'm feeling as some semblance of vibrancy returns.

As we ready ourselves for the new semester, I'm writing today about two things that are central to Sheridan's future:

- your health and well-being
- our year two strategic planning objectives

#### Your health and well-being

I continue to be inspired by the tremendous commitment you've shown to help Sheridan navigate the pandemic. The countless hours, ingenuity and creativity you've demonstrated— all while retaining your patience and composure in the face of uncertainty – have sustained our institution. Your actions provide an exemplar of leadership for our students and the broader community alike.

None of this is easy. Saying that the past six months have been tough would be an understatement. I'm also not naïve to the fact that the longer that the pandemic drags on, the harder it will be to stay motivated. Working from home — balancing obligations to care for children and elders — can be exhausting. For those of you with kids who have returned to in-person classes, as mine have, I understand the concerns that come with an increased risk of exposure.

Your health and well-being remains of paramount concern to me. Our learning community is not defined by its physical buildings or even its programs. Sheridan is all of us. I urge you to make self-care a priority and consciously make time to focus on mental, emotional and physical wellness. Please seek help if you need it. Under these very difficult circumstances, I want every one of you to invest in things that position you to 'flourish'; this, in my view, is the key to ensuring that our learners, and Sheridan as an organization, also thrive.

#### Sheridan 2024 Year Two Objectives

One of the things that helps me flourish is to focus on Sheridan's bright future. To that point, it's been a year since we publicly launched our Sheridan 2024 strategic plan. You'll recall that we committed to issuing annual objectives to keep our strategy actionable and sustain our tremendous momentum.

The year two objectives listed below are now final. They link to the priorities and enablers identified in our Strategic Plan and were used by administrators this summer to establish personal and divisional goals for 2020-2021.

##### The six objectives include:

- Promote the safety and well-being of the Sheridan community
- Drive academic innovation for a complex world
- Propel enrolment and the student experience
- Strengthen Sheridan as an anchor institution in our local communities
- Demonstrate our unwavering commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- Leverage our trailblazing ethos to enhance organizational effectiveness

[Thirty goals map to these six objectives.](#) These, in turn, link to the concrete initiatives that each of your areas are undertaking to propel Sheridan forward and realize our vision.

Colleagues: please take a moment to enjoy today. Pause, reflect and recognize all that we have done – collectively and collegially – to provide an extraordinary opportunity for students this fall. Together, in the face of extraordinary circumstances, we are continuing to foster the next generation of post-secondary graduates.

The start of the fall term is truly a moment to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD  
President and Vice Chancellor

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Sheridan

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