

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Persistence and endurance

September 24, 2020

Colleagues:

As we near the end of week two of the fall term, I find myself torn. While I'd like to spend every ounce of my energy celebrating what we've done to enable teaching and learning to flourish, I'm deeply troubled by the recent surge in COVID cases, especially in our home communities and among young adults – a demographic central to our mandate.

In the face of this formidable and persistent threat, I'd like to focus today's update on:

- October Town Hall
- Sheridan's framework for recovery
- Navigating the unknown

October town hall

Please hold the date for our next employee Virtual Town Hall, scheduled for October 14 at 11 a.m. (an invitation will follow shortly). The agenda will include an update on Sheridan's fall enrolment, our fiscal health, and any new directives we're receiving from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and/or our public health partners.

The session is also your chance to ask questions. As always, I'm committed to leading Sheridan through this pandemic with integrity, transparency and accountability.

Sheridan's framework for recovery

While our efforts this past spring were focused on immediate pandemic response, and our summer was spent recalibrating our operations to prepare for the fall and winter terms, we now find ourselves immersed in what's clearly going to be a long and non-linear road to recovery.

I continue to believe that navigating this disruption demands that we all pull in the same direction and stay focused on the vision and mission we co-created last year. Success will be achieved through the cumulative effect of many small wins that drive us toward the Sheridan 2024 priorities and enablers.

Our Sheridan Start and Learn Well programs, the Virtual Internship Program, and our new micro-credentials in Continuing and Professional Studies are exemplars of innovation and resilience. The pandemic response advisory committee and the Galvanizing Education Hub continue to discuss other emerging opportunities. This is a marathon, not a sprint.

Navigating the unknown

As the pandemic wears on and the rules about everything from testing for COVID-19 to the size of permissible social gatherings continue to change -- we all need to become increasingly comfortable with uncertainty.

Sheridan is resting its value proposition on an ability to teach learners to pivot, adapt, and be resilient. If there ever has been a time for us to model that mindset ourselves, this is it.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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