

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Taking time to celebrate

February 18, 2021

Colleagues,

If you follow the news it's hard to believe there is anything to talk about besides COVID vaccines and new variants. In keeping with our practice of relying on science to guide us through the pandemic, I'll leave those topics and discussions to others. Instead, I'd like to use this chance to draw your attention to some exciting things happening at Sheridan this week.

- Open Innovation Challenge
- Halton in the Red Zone
- Birthday party

Open Innovation Challenge

I am very excited to attend the Open Innovation Challenge phase two [launch event today](#) with our guest speaker [Zahra Ebrahim](#), co-founder and CEO of Monumental and an established strategist and leader whose focus is cities, equity and design.

You'll recall that we started the challenge by asking the question:

How might we collaborate within our communities to reimagine learning and education so that no one is left behind and all youth and adults can realize their full potential?

human-centered approach, grounded in collaborative and inclusive participation, is the key to bringing forward meaningful solutions.

To that end, five themes emerged from the first round of participants:

- **Access and representation:** Addressing the issue of unequal access to education to ensure underrepresented groups have a place in the classroom.
- **Connecting learning to society:** Students want more practical and experiential learning that helps them navigate the workplace with agility and knowledge.
- **Guided exploration:** Guidance from trusted mentors, teachers and counsellors is fundamental to shaping a student's future.
- **Curriculum flexibility and innovation:** A flexible, accommodating approach to curriculum delivery and evaluation fosters inclusion, personalization and diversity.
- **Transforming remote learning:** Online learning has great potential in the hands of educators who are well supported to facilitate it and meet the needs of individual students.

These themes will be the basis upon which we move into the second round – or ideation stage – of the challenge, wherein teams will start developing solutions. You did not have to be part of phase one to be part of phase two so I will again encourage you to [share this opportunity with your networks and bring forward your own ideas](#).

Halton in the Red Zone

The provincial government has moved Halton into the Red Zone of its [COVID-19 framework](#). Although we expect regions to move from zone to zone regularly over the coming months, our commitment is to continue providing consistent, cautious, and clear advice for our community. To that end, we will continue with our current approach to scheduling on-campus activity and/or the number of people who can be in a room at any given time. Please rest assured that we are continually reviewing our policies as guidance changes. The most up-to-date information is always available on the [COVID-19 page on our website](#).

Shh... a birthday party

Hazel knows that we're throwing her a party so that isn't a surprise, but there will be a surprise at the party. Unfortunately, there won't be cake – which is usually my favourite part of any Sheridan event! But it will be fun and celebratory: it's not every day your Chancellor turns 100!

Hazel McCallion is a trailblazer, a celebrated community leader, a fierce champion of Sheridan and – most notably – an advocate and inspiration for our students. Please [join us](#) to celebrate.



I'm finding joy and rejuvenation in celebrating big and small things these days. I hope to see you at our upcoming events to think, talk and connect about an optimistic future.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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