

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Traveling blues

February 11, 2021

Colleagues,

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the long weekend – albeit another one at home! Before we get there though, I wanted to update you on a number of items.

- International travel and Reading Week
- Employment Systems Review
- Sheridan Creates
- Brand refresh

International travel

A recent announcement by the federal government about [changes to quarantine rules](#) is causing concern and confusion for our international students. Before flying to Canada, travellers must produce a negative COVID-19 test; they will be tested again upon arrival in Canada at the airport. Thereafter, there will be a mandatory, minimum three-day quarantine at a government-approved hotel until a negative test has been received, after which the quarantine would continue at a student-chosen destination for a total of 14 days.

We don't yet know when the mandatory hotel quarantine requisite will be launched. Nor do we know which hotels will be on the government-approved list. The cost of quarantining has not been determined.

As a consequence of these additional rules, some students are trying to move their travel dates while others are choosing not to travel to Canada at all. Sheridan is one of many postsecondary institutions advocating to ensure government representatives understand the significant impact of this new requisite.

Reading Week

Reading week at Sheridan starts March 1 and I know everyone will be ready for an extended break! Please be mindful, however, that Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health strongly advises that individuals and families not travel out of province unless it is essential. Anyone who does should be self-isolating for 14 days upon return to Ontario. Further, public health continues to recommend limiting close contact to only your immediate household or, if you live alone, one other household.

Employment Systems Review

Last July, Sheridan became a signatory to the [Black North Initiative](#) and in December we joined [Industry Canada's 50-30 challenge](#). The latter calls on organizations to diversify the members of their boards and senior management teams to achieve gender parity – or 50% representation - and to attain significant representation – 30% - of other under-represented groups. I'm tremendously proud that Sheridan has reached these targets on both our President and Vice Presidents Committee and our Board of Governors. There is, however, much more to be done.

To that point, Sheridan's Employment Systems Review is ongoing. It builds on the work we started with the Employee Diversity Self-Identification Census last spring and is an important step in identifying and addressing specific workplace barriers for employees.

I truly hope that **all** employees will embrace the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion and [take the survey](#) as the results will guide our Inclusion Action Plan.

Sheridan Creates

This annual event celebrates our commitment to research and is scheduled for March 3. As part of the celebration, I'm pleased to be introducing Ziya Tong from Discovery Canada's *Daily Planet*, who will be speaking about leadership and the role of science and technology in society. It's a full day of panels and presentations. [Registration is open now](#) and I hope to see you there!

Brand refresh



Finally, I was excited to spend time at our Screen Industries Research and Training Centre in Toronto last week to shoot a video to support the launch of Sheridan's refreshed brand, which delivers on the aspirations of our Sheridan 2024 plan. More to come next week!

In closing, many of you know that I don't like February; it's frigid, the days are short and there are insufficient opportunities to be active outside (which is crucial to maintaining my mental health). Every day, I'm challenging myself to seek joy, optimism and renewal. It's only February 11, but I'm managing well thus far. I hope you are too.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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