August 28, 2020 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Our hard work has paid off thus far. I’m pleased to report a smooth start to the 2020 fall semester.

The best way to honor this early success is to remain focused on and committed to the health and safety of our entire campus community. So much time and energy has gone into getting to this point, and it will require an equal measure of focus and dedication to prevent these efforts from being in vain.

Regardless of whether you are studying on campus or remotely, we need to stay ever vigilant about protecting ourselves, friends, and our community from exposure to and spread of the virus. Continue to follow all of the health and safety rules that are outlined in the new Social Contract. I know it’s not always easy, but it is necessary. Violations of the Social Contract, such as gatherings of more than 10 people or not wearing your mask as required on campus, will meet with harsh repercussions.

Many other college campuses have had to shut down in the past two weeks. I’d like for Centre to be able to stay open for those of you who want on-campus learning and living. Please do your part to make that goal possible. If we have a significant virus outbreak on campus, we will have to return to remote learning for the semester.

As shared yesterday in an email message from Kathe Andrews, we achieved a low positivity rate through our move-in testing. With final results from our lab just received by Kathy Jones, I’m pleased to report that the remaining 103 move-in tests came back negative. Our positivity rate now sits at 0.35 percent.

Early next week we will have an additional dashboard on our website launched to keep tabs on campus testing as we begin our surveillance phase and conduct symptomatic and contact tracing test as needed, along with isolation and quarantine information. Look for it on the COVID-19 Information Center.

Be assured that our focus on health and safety in the face of this pandemic remains foremost on our minds. However, I hope this will be my last campus update specifically focused on the virus. While our task force continues to meet regularly, I will shift my weekly messages to
broader campus updates, since there is so much else going on in the life of this amazing college. I remain grateful to join all of you in writing the next chapters in the continuing saga of our centuries-long commitment to making a positive impact on our world.

When we see each other on campus in the coming days and weeks, be sure to say hello and introduce yourselves. This community of learning is all about the people, and we are one large family. Dina, Blue, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Milton