

Dear colleagues,

The past few weeks have been particularly challenging for all of us at the University of Toronto as the unwelcome global spread of COVID-19 has significantly changed our world, bringing unexpected changes to our professional and personal lives. Amid the uncertainty, you have shown great resiliency and flexibility. For that, we thank you.

We understand that this has been a difficult month. The university closed its doors and moved classes online, cancelled numerous functions and events, and asked those staff who can, to work from home. Other staff – those involved in critical functions needed to keep the campus operating and safe, and residences open even in a situation like this – have continued to diligently come to campus every day.

This was – and remains – an enormous undertaking that required us to quickly reshape our daily lives in unanticipated ways. Despite the challenging circumstances, you remained focused on maintaining operational continuity, even as many of you found yourself juggling childcare, elder care, family issues and self-isolation. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering professionalism, creativity and dedication, particularly under such adverse conditions.

As we face this new reality together, it is reassuring to know we have committed staff whom we can rely on to come together and support our mission to foster an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish. We are grateful for your hard work and the extraordinary efforts you have made during this difficult time.

Thank you.

Best regards,



Ian Orchard
Acting Vice-President & Principal
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Saher Fazilat
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