



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Dear Faculty and Staff,

With the 2020-21 academic year now a few weeks behind us, I hope you have had an opportunity to catch your breath after this hectic and unprecedented time. What we achieved together this year is nothing short of remarkable including quickly developing and implementing robust COVID-19 response plans and learning to offer our programs and services safely and effectively to ultimately deliver more face-to-face classes than any other university in Canada. We should all be extremely proud of our accomplishments.

As previously communicated to the campus community, next week most campus offices will be closed from May 24-28 so our employees can enjoy a well-deserved break. Although provincial lockdown measures are still in place and the ability to travel outside one's community is limited, we are proceeding with these plans in recognition of the tremendous efforts over the last year and the need for rest away from the workplace. The expectation for these additional days off is simple – all employees should use this time next week to step away from our day-to-day work responsibilities and fully relax and recharge.

I would like to give special thanks to StFX essential staff whose offices will continue to operate next week. On behalf of the entire university community, thank you for your hard work to keep campus safe, clean, and running smoothly. I hope you all have an opportunity to soon enjoy your four days of lieu time.

Work-from-home update: Option to continue until Monday, July 5th

Related to our time away, we were originally scheduled to return to working from campus upon our return from our break on Monday, May 31st. Since then, the province has decided to extend its lockdown restrictions until at least June 9th. We appreciate that this and other measures put in place by the province have a very real impact on our employees and their personal circumstances. Therefore, **it only makes sense that we extend the option for colleagues to continue to work from home until Monday, July 5th**. Please remember that our campus remains safe and this extension is not due to circumstances on the university campus. For those who may wish to return to work on campus before July 5th, we will determine what that date will be as we move closer to the province's June 9th lockdown request.

In closing, please accept my gratitude and appreciation for your hard work, both this year and always. I remain grateful for the care, concern, and commitment you've shown to our students, your fellow employees, and the broader StFX community.

Take care and enjoy your time away.

Andy

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I acknowledge that StFX is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.