



July 30th, 2020

Dear Students,

Thank you for your feedback during the Student town halls earlier this week. We appreciated hearing your questions and input on our return to campus plans. It was an opportunity for open and honest dialogue about important matters that are critical to student health and safety as we plan to welcome you back to campus in September.

For those who couldn't attend, last evening I provided the update that, after careful review and consultation with various stakeholders including the Students' Union, on Tuesday evening the StFX Board of Governors' Executive determined that the new Student Community Protocols and the legal waiver remain the best way forward and a necessity in order for the University to welcome students to campus in the fall. It was also recognized that, to date, we've engaged in a very open and transparent planning process but that we should have done a better job of engaging students before sending out the waiver. I can understand why students were concerned and why further consideration, including consulting with the Students' Union, was necessary before confirming a path forward.

Over the past several weeks, the University has developed a number of detailed plans to support the safe reopening of our campus and the return of students. They can be found on our website at <https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>. After much consultation with the Students' Union however, it was determined that another clear and concise document was needed – one that sets out the University's and the Students' Union's expectations and commitments for the overall health and safety of our community in a concise format that is more accessible for students.

Co-created with Students' Union, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to clearly articulate many of the items that students expressed concerns about. For example, it addresses the University's responsibility to provide increased supports and accommodations for students who are required to be absent from classes due to illness and for those who are seeking assistance related to taking online courses elsewhere. It also establishes a commitment to more frequent communications with students as we move closer to students returning in August. A draft copy of the MOU was distributed to all students in preparation for this week's Student town halls. Again, we thank those who have provided feedback.



Students can expect a final copy of the MOU, along with the Student Community Protocols and the legal waiver to be sent to their StFX email boxes on **August 4**. Please note that all students attending StFX in the fall are required to electronically sign the Student Community Protocols and the legal waiver documents by **August 14th**. Be watching your StFX email on August 4 for simple, yet detailed instructions on how to do this.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to prepare for the return of students to campus with the approval and guidance of public health and remain committed to keeping you informed.

I look forward to welcoming you all to our community in the fall.



Andy W. Hakin PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
St Francis Xavier University

