



To the campus community:

As of today, we officially have four weeks of classes left before exams. I can't relay enough how proud I am of the campus and the Antigonish community and all we have accomplished together.

Having said that, I was disappointed to receive reports of high-risk, unacceptable behaviours related to the House Hockey Cup game between two residences over the weekend. Some behaviours reported included violations of the basic protocols mandated by StFX and Public Health such as gatherings exceeding the provincial mandate. As disturbing are the reports of damages within residences and unhealthy conduct related to house rivalries. These reports have caused the House Cup Committee (made up of Students' Union and university staff) to pause the House Cup championship and to take a step back to examine the framework for these competitions. The Committee will determine, with invited input from the participants and fans, if changes can be made to enable a safe and healthy framework for this event to go forward.

This has been an absolutely challenging year for all, and, without question, I credit the resilience and commitment of our community members who have adapted to the fact that this year is different. By taking extraordinary steps related to how we do things, the university has been able to provide an on-campus experience. Although the province is currently enjoying low case numbers, this is not a time to relax and become complacent. We have seen how quickly the virus can spread and how situations can change.

Our community has worked hard to come this far. As we approach the weekend and St. Patrick's Day next week, I appreciate the level of fatigue that our community is facing with respect to our daily handling of the pandemic. However, I ask you to show the same diligence and commitment to the health and safety protocols now in March as you did upon your arrival in September of last year. With only a few weeks of term remaining let's keep our commitments to keep ourselves and each other safe and well.

Sincerely,

Andy W. Hakin PhD

President and Vice-Chancellor
St Francis Xavier University