

March 20, 2020

Dear AUArts Community;

As we come to the end of a fast moving and emotional week that started with all classes suspended, I am heartened by the nimble work and quick action that has taken place from all faculty and staff. This work has allowed the institution to move to alternative delivery methods starting next week when classes resume. We are all deeply committed to finding solutions to ensure our undergraduate and graduate students can successfully complete their courses this semester.

Building Access Update – Reduced Entrance Access

Effectively immediately, there is no public access to campus. Students, faculty and staff have keycard access between the hours of 7 am to 6 pm at **two entranceways**. The only two doors that can be used to access campus are the Cafeteria door across from the C-train, and the entrance from the top level of the parkade across from the Welcome Desk. The L2 Concourse (the long hallway that runs from the Library to the Jubilee and over to the C-train) will be locked at both ends.

Continuing Education

Working under these extraordinarily tight timelines, we could not complete our Continuing Education and Professional Development courses that were currently underway. We are also cancelling the spring session of Continuing Education due to these most uncertain times. Rest assured however that plans are underway for programming to resume as soon as we can open our doors again.

SAIT Residence

We were saddened to learn that our students in residence have been asked to vacate their SAIT residence. However, we fully understand the decision of SAIT, our valued residential housing partner. Struggling under the constraints of adequate staffing and the resources required to ensure more than 600 students living in residence are safe, they have requested that students from Alberta return home immediately if possible. SAIT and AUArts are committed to ensuring students, including international and out-of-province students who cannot return home immediately are accommodated safely.

Government Supports

There are several new supports from the Government of Alberta regarding [student loan payment deferral](#), self-isolation support and other resources. There are also new [federal income supports](#). Please do keep updated on these new government programs.

Health Resources

This has been a very stressful week for all of us and I strongly encourage each one of you to take needed time this weekend to relax and look after yourself and your family as there is nothing more important. Please remember, mental health support is available to students via WellTrack, along with student counselling services which are still taking place by telephone. Faculty and staff have support via your healthcare plan. Do not hesitate to use these excellent resources.

Please heed the recommendations of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw: Stay home if you can, especially if you feel sick or have any symptoms. Please practice social distancing.

During these most challenging times, I am reminded of a quote by Eric Greitens; "No one escapes pain, fear, and suffering. Yet from pain can come wisdom, from fear can come courage, from suffering can come strength – if we have the virtue of resilience." And if there is one thing I know about our institution and all of you, it is that we are resilient.

Sincerely,

Daniel

Dr. Daniel Doz
President and CEO