

# PEARSON COLLEGE



**15 May 2020**

Dear Members of the Pearson Community,

On behalf of the Pearson College UWC Board of Directors, my best wishes to you and your loved ones in this time of unexpected disruption for all of us across Canada and around the world.

My Board colleagues and I have just completed two days of virtual meetings. The spring meetings of the Board are normally held on campus which gives all Directors a chance to meet and talk with students and to learn more about their often extraordinary and inspiring stories. Unfortunately, this year that was not possible, but we hope to be able to meet in person, on campus for our November meetings.

The spring meeting of the Board is also when we discuss the annual budget for the new fiscal year beginning 1 July. The continuing impact of the pandemic provided an increased sense of urgency and responsibility to discussions this year. As you know, the College has faced additional expenses related directly to ensuring the health and safety of students and employees alike, to converting to a fully online learning and teaching experience and to the loss of revenue-generating summer events which support both scholarships and the cost of operations.

Ty Pile and his leadership team, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board, have already made decisions to reduce expenses without compromising the College's mission. With the campus closed and virtually no students onsite, only essential services are being provided. I know some of these decisions have raised concern, but all schools in the UWC movement are facing budget reductions while maintaining the core integrity of the UWC mission.

The College's financial plan for 2020-21, which is still being finalized as authorities continue to advise on health and safety, is prudent and responsible. We are weighing factors like the extra measures that will need to be in place to safeguard students and employees in the new school year while giving due consideration to the unknowns related to international travel and changing border restrictions.

As Ty has said, the College team is working hard to prepare to welcome students in the fall. We are encouraged by the responsible manner in which Canada and British Columbia have dealt with COVID-19 and have every reason to expect that our campus will be open to deliver classes on site and virtually, if required. For at least the short term, this is how we will fulfill our responsibility to students and their families.

The UWC movement values resilience, among many other positive qualities and that is what we all need at this time to adapt and thrive through challenges and move forward.

The Board is delighted that Pearson is close to finalizing a Reconciliation Action Plan that reflects the thoughts, comments and aspirations of numerous Indigenous voices as well as from others across our community. We know and respect that many at Pearson have established and nourished excellent

relationships with the Sciá'new First Nation and with Indigenous communities and individuals throughout British Columbia who have educated our students and generously shared their knowledge. These relationships will be complemented institutionally as the College moves forward with the implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan. The plan, when finalized, will be made available on the Pearson College UWC [website](#).

The Board also considered the work that is being done to strengthen Pearson's many alumni voices of support and advice. We thank the volunteer Alumni Engagement Working Group and our Director of Alumni Relations Benoît Charlebois for their hard work and patience. ....The Board will be reaching out through a consultative survey to seek alumni input on how the College can serve their interests and, in turn, how alumni can offer their assistance in ensuring that generations of future students have the opportunity to access the Pearson UWC experience.

Finally, I know there is considerable interest in the search for a new President and Head of the College. I am pleased to say that we will share information about our new Head soon. He and his family will be on campus as of 1 August. I want to thank Christine Healy, Vice-Chair of the Board, who chaired the Selection Committee and the members of that Board committee, Brian Poston, Kory Wilson, Mike Stubbing and Gloria Metzger, for their assistance.

Ty continues to do amazing work during this unprecedented period in the College's history and he will continue to guide the College with the Board's full support until 1 August.

Warm wishes and good health to you and your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne McLellan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Anne McLellan**  
Chair, Board of Directors