



McGill

School of
**Communication Sciences
and Disorders**

École des
**sciences de la
communication humaine**



June 1, 2020

Dear students in the 2020 incoming class,

I am writing to you to provide some updates about our planning for the fall term. It is a little hard to plan our program because 3 months from now seems like a long way away when the world changes so much every 24 hours. Nonetheless, the province of Quebec is slowing opening up and we are beginning to leave our houses and profit from the sunshine. We can imagine greeting you and teaching our classes. We are considering all the possibilities and creating as much certainty as we can.

As I informed you in my last letter, the Fall 2020 Applied Program will be taught largely through remote learning. All lectures and many labs will be taught through MyCourses and Zoom. We will provide links to resources to help you become comfortable with these resources. We will ask our current students to share their experiences with you later in the summer when they are not so busy.

We are planning some on-campus in-person learning experiences, however. The first reason to plan face-to-face activities is that certain skills training cannot be done effectively in a remote learning format. The second reason is that we think it best for you to get comfortable with campus life in these new times, learning the procedures for staying safe while interacting with your professors and peers and using the facilities of our school. Thirdly, we can't wait to meet you and will create opportunities to do so in small groups.

The first in-person activities that we have planned include laboratory activities that are taught routinely, but adapted to minimize the number of trips that you need to make onto campus. Specifically, in SCSD 681 Practicum & Seminar I and in SCSD 637 Developmental Language Disorders I you will attend campus to practice test administration in the laboratory classroom, under supervision and with strict health and safety protocols in place. If you are unable to attend these labs in Fall 2020, we will help you to complete the activities during the winter.

We anticipate other on campus activities that involve meeting your advisor in small groups and meeting your peers for social activities. More about these in another message. In the meantime, I am happy to introduce you to our evolving information page for new students. We will put new information on it for you throughout the summer months.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/scsd/handbook/information-incoming-students>

Yours sincerely,

Susan Rvachew, Ph.D., S-LP(C), ASHA Fellow
Associate Dean and Director