



McGill

School of
**Communication Sciences
and Disorders**

École des
**sciences de la
communication humaine**



Hello Students,

I write with a brief but important update on April 6, 2020. Please understand that these decisions are being made with your health and safety as the most important consideration. Currently and over the next six weeks our information is that there are no face-to-face clinical placements available at which we can assure your safety when taking into account the presence of individuals with possible COVID-19 and the availability of personal protective equipment.

First, for the Year 1 MScA Students, I am formally announcing that **your May practicum has been cancelled** and the Contingency Plan is being implemented.

Second, for the Year 2 MScA Students, the Clinical Education Team is consulting with all potential clinical educators to identify the time and conditions under which those speech-language pathologists might be able to supervise your final internship. We are also investigating telepractice as a serious option for fulfilling some or all of your required supervised clinical practice hours.

It has come to our attention that other programs in Quebec are seeing telepractice as the most viable solution to the current predicament. Furthermore, not every program is committed to equity as a principle for guiding the timing of student placements. Initially, students in the second year class were not universally comfortable with telepractice but were committed to equity. We had intended to organize the final internship so that all students would complete it within four to six weeks of each other. Possibly your views on these issues are changing now that time is passing and the arc of the epidemic is bending at different rates across provincial jurisdictions. Therefore, I ask the students in the second-year class to answer a two-question survey:

1. Do you agree that telepractice is an acceptable means of providing clinical practice hours in your final internship? Yes No
2. Do you agree that equity is an essential principle such that all students should start and end their internship at similar times? Yes No

More details regarding the implementation of the SCSD Contingency Plans for the year 1 and year 2 MScA classes will be provided soon. A *Frequently Asked Questions* page will be posted no later than Wednesday April 15, 2020 with frequent updating thereafter. I will hold a Town Hall Meeting with each class after you have finished your exams. In the meantime, thank you for answering the survey. Feel free to write me with any other thoughts that you have.

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