

Dear Seniors' College Members,

We have recently successfully completed our fourth term on Zoom, and to all of you who continue to provide encouraging words and positive feedback, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation. We know from the feedback forms you recently completed that all of the courses we offered in our Fall Term were highly rated. Of course, your feedback is also much appreciated and well deserved by our excellent course instructors: Virginia Stephen, Kit Waters and the wonderful Criminal Justice Team, Alan Griffiths, Hilda Taylor and Pierre Schmit. To all these instructors, we say thank you sincerely, and please know your time and effort are much appreciated by all of us.

We would like to pay tribute to the members of the Curriculum Committee, led by Chair Anne Chisholm, who along with our instructors, make each term possible. Accordingly, we wish to acknowledge the hard work and long hours spent by our Faculty Coordinators Joan Hicks, Jocelyne Hellou and Fern Jordan in the planning and arranging of courses each term. We continue to express our gratitude and appreciation to our amazing tech team Bill Li, Bob Russell, Mimi Little and John Stewart. It is because of their diligence, time spent, and expertise that we had such a smooth presentation of virtual classes. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to extend a very hearty vote of thanks once again to Joan, Jocelyne, Fern, Bill, Bob, Mimi and John.

We would also like to extend special thanks to our Chapter Coordinators, Nancy Pitts, Fern Jordan, Mary MacIntosh, Sheila Knowlton-MacRury for all their efforts in preparing for each term. The many contributions they make to our organization are often untold, They play a vital role in the life of the Seniors' College and are most deserving of our thanks and appreciation.

Planning for each term begins several months prior to the term. As we were preparing for the winter term 2022, we were in Phase 5 of the Nova Scotia Government's reopening plan and "learning to live with the virus". Accordingly, and as we mentioned in a previous newsletter, we planned to offer courses in person in all of our chapters, and two courses on Zoom. Our chapter coordinators were planning in-person Information Sessions, and I think we were all looking forward to being together in class again.

All that changed in the last several days. Our concern has always been the health and safety of our members. The increasing large number of COVID cases in Nova Scotia and the presence of the highly transmissible Omicron, new restrictions placed upon us and with the likelihood of more to come, have resulted in our decision to cancel all in-person classes and events planned for the winter term. We are now pivoting to virtual classes. Once again the faculty coordinators, chapter coordinators, and tech team are busy making arrangements, and once again we appreciate our instructors who agree to offer their courses on Zoom. To all those instructors who were working hard in preparation for their in-person class we extend our thanks and regrets. We look forward to the time when you can offer your courses again.

We currently have four confirmed virtual courses to be held this winter. Indeed, we are delighted to be offering the following courses:

Let's Talk About Dementia or Where Did I Put My Keys? Barbara Ross
How Geology Rocks Everyday Life- Marcos Zentilli
How Insects Conquered The Earth- Paul Manning
Six Questions- Norman Pereira

We will keep you informed about our winter term happenings. You will be notified in early January when the brochure is posted online and further information will be provided as well about our virtual Information Session and registration for classes.

At this time I would like to thank our Office Manager, Sue Hawkes, for the wonderful support she provides to the Board, the Curriculum Committee, and to all our members. We appreciate Sue's interest and involvement in all of the activities of the Seniors College, her willingness to help out in any way she can, and her delightful sense of humour. Our hats off to you, Sue.

Of course I want to thank you, our members, for your ongoing understanding, patience and support as we navigate our way through these very challenging times. I, personally, am very proud of the way our organization has held together, and I look forward to the time when I can say so to all of you in person.

On behalf of the Seniors' College Board of Directors I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday, and best wishes in the New Year.

Lois Block, President,
On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia