

June 15, 2021

Dear CUPE 3903 executive and members,

The recent statement issued by CUPE 3903 on June 10 regarding the Fall 2021 term was brought forward for attention and response. We are pleased to share a response on behalf of the University.

The University is preparing for a phased return to campus beginning Fall 2021, with health and safety as the top priority. As we move closer to September, with the increased rates of vaccination across Ontario, combined with lower COVID-19 case numbers, the University is anticipating that public health guidelines will permit in-person teaching and learning opportunities consistent with the more optimistic scenario outlined in [President Lenton's update of May 12](#). Scenario planning is a vitally important tool in ensuring that a large university like York is prepared to act in a timely and safe manner.

In all of its planning, York University continues to be guided by public health guidelines, government directives, as well as coordination within Ontario's university sector. Given York's unique environment, our plan to maintain a safe campus community includes all faculties, programs, and campuses.

We are proud to partner with many organizations, including CUPE, in support of the [Faster Together](#) campaign to promote vaccine acceptance and a faster recovery from the pandemic.

You are likely aware that Ontario officially moved into Step 1 of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#) at 12:01 am on June 11. A preliminary review of the impacts of Step 1 suggests that there are no major impacts posed to the University's operations.

We have been working closely with Deans, faculty, instructors, and staff to address a variety of questions related to Fall 2021 in-person and remote teaching, learning, research, and work environments, and any related accommodations that might be required. As always, for the most up to date information, and to learn more about the health and safety measures currently in place, please visit: [Better Together](#).

The University has communicated regularly with all community members throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so. There is another virtual community [Town Hall](#) taking place on Thursday, June 17 at 3:15pm, to discuss plans for the Fall Term and more. We look forward to seeing you there and to taking your questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic
Sheila Cote-Meek, Vice-President Equity, People and Culture