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**Subject:** Update, April 19  
**Date:** April 19, 2020 5:40:41 PM

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Dear Comrades in COVID,

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I hope you're all doing well, or as well as can be, as we lurch to the end of the Winter term. I know many of you are working hard right now to prepare for the remote delivery of courses beginning in May (remember that the Spring term starts a week later than usual – classes begin on May 11). And of course we're also looking at significant levels of remote delivery for the Fall term as well, though we still aren't sure whether we'll have also have an on-campus cohort. In any case, you may be encouraged to hear that through the federal government's [Student Work Placement Program](#), the University will be hiring a large number of co-op students for the Spring term to assist with the preparation and delivery of Spring term courses and/or preparation of Fall term courses. This initiative is being coordinated through [Co-operative Education](#), and our Associate Deans will be working on it at the Faculty level. So – and this message is specifically for Chairs and Directors – stay tuned to hear more about this.

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As you'll know from messages received earlier this week, the lockdown on campus has become more stringent. All buildings are now locked 24/7, and only essential personnel are allowed on campus. Access to research resources is restricted for pretty well everyone, though we're affected in varying degrees: I know this is much more challenging for those of you who need access to labs and equipment (and also how difficult this all is for your graduate students). I applaud everyone for making the transition to WFH – I'm guessing that the novelty is wearing off (if it didn't wear off weeks ago), and that people are dealing with a variety of feelings ranging from boredom through frustration, anxiety, and apathy, to fear about what the future might look like. So I don't know whether this is of any help, but I thought I might list a few things for which I've become quite grateful over the past week or two:

- [Wine that comes in a box \(with a handle! And a spigot!\)](#).
- [The fact that I have a bit of a pyjama obsession, so I have lots and lots of them.](#)
- [Jigsaw puzzles made of really big pieces \(see attached\).](#)
- [Eddie Izzard.](#)
- [The 800 or so channels that I get with my Rogers Ignite subscription; even though I regularly watch only about four of them, there is some comfort in knowing that I can get a random episode of \*Frasier\* or \*Star Trek\* any time of the day or night.](#)
- [That I wasn't around in Athens in the year 430 BCE.](#)
- [And finally, the fact that I did \*\*not\*\* leave for India on Friday evening as I was supposed to. You might think the reasons for my thankfulness are obvious, but you would be wrong. My chief gratitude is reserved for the fact that I had a trifling setback on the domestic front late Friday night: a sewer backup in my basement. At the time, I thought, "Why do things like this always have to happen on a Friday night!?" But when I recalled that I could have already left for India for two weeks, I had to acknowledge that there's a bright side to every story, a silver lining to every cloud, a blue sky around every corner, a... oh, f\\*\\*\\* it.](#)

Take good care, all.

Sheila

PS. Here's another favourite video, for those of you who enjoyed Matt last week: [Dancing 2012](#). He's done a few others, but in my view the 2008 version I sent you a week ago and this one are by far the best.

PPS. And yes, I'm a sap.

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The Faculty of Arts acknowledges that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.