

August 25, 2020

Ms. Melanie Sucha, MLIS  
Vice-President  
Manitoba Library Association  
606-100 Arthur Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1H3

Dear Ms. Sucha,

I want to thank you for taking the time to contact the College to share your concerns about the recent changes to the Library and Information Technology program for the upcoming academic year.

The LIT Program has a rich history at the College and while we had to make the hard decision to temporarily suspend the program in its current form, we're confident that we've taken important steps to maintain the right resources, supports and expertise by delivering this program through our School of Continuing Education. This approach will ensure that our new and continuing students will get the experience and education they need to support this important sector in Manitoba.

While the College has adjusted the delivery of the program, the shift online was the result of our response to the pandemic in order to allow students who required hands-on learning to be able to return to the campus safely. Our intent, when public health directives change in response to the pandemic, will be to continue to offer this program through the School of Continuing Education, and for it to be delivered through a blended and course-based approach to support our students' ongoing needs for access to a flexible education.

This fall the program will be delivered by our current Program Coordinator and a member of our faculty. Both possess a considerable amount of experience with the LIT program, which will ensure that our students receive the high quality education they expect from the College.

As the College continues to adapt and evolve in the face of the pandemic, we've been encouraged by the resilience and positive response from students who are entering the program this year. In connecting with the students following this change, many, if not all, welcomed the opportunity to enter into this program through our School of Continuing Education, as it has the flexibility they need as they too continue to balance their own needs and challenges as a result of COVID-19.

It's important to the College that we continue to be in a position to support our students and our partners such as the MLA in order to meet the needs of the workforce, while providing our students with a robust and challenging quality educational experience at the College.

While we've had to adapt the way we offer this program, I can assure you that we're dedicating the necessary educational resources needed to continue to equip our grads with the skills they need after graduation.

I want to thank you for reaching out to share your concerns, I hope I have been able to address them for you. As always we would be happy to discuss the direction of this program further with you at any time. I invite you to contact the Dean of the School of Continuing Education, Kathy Kerr, to discuss this further as needed. Your partnership is important to the College and we want to ensure that we're not only supporting you, but our students' education as well. I would also like to thank the MLA and the program advisory committee for your commitment to the success of these students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christine Watson, PhD  
Vice-President, Academic  
Red River College

Cc: RaeAnn Thibeault, Executive Director, Academic  
Kathy Kerr, Dean of the School of Continuing Education