

March 20, 2020

Dear GPRC community,

During the past unprecedented week, GPRC has completed the incredible task of transitioning its students to online learning and shifted services online in a matter of days to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, I am writing to personally take the opportunity to say thank you to the entire GPRC community – our students, staff, faculty and the communities in which we operate - during these extraordinary circumstances.

As of Thursday, March 19, 2020, most of our students have started their online instruction with plans for the rest to begin the week of March 23, 2020. To our students, your patience and understanding as we transitioned to online course delivery has been tremendously appreciated. I understand this situation has prompted uncertainty and I want to ensure you that your education and well-being is our top priority.

The decisions we made this week have been in collaboration with provincial government and health officials with the sole goal of protecting the health and safety of our students and employees and limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Currently, we have trained upwards of 85 per cent of our faculty on our online teaching platforms and videoconference technology so teaching and learning continues at GPRC. I commend our GPRC faculty and staff for their immediate response and the incredible work done this past week to transition our programs and services online. They accomplished this as we also transitioned our staff to working from home so we continue to serve our students and adhere to the direction from health officials.

GPRC is committed to maintaining excellence in education. Access for students to communicate with their instructors to get answers to their questions and the help they need through alternative means is in place. Providing a safe and secure learning environment is paramount and we will continue to work with our instructors and students during this evolving situation.

Some of our students in trades and apprenticeship programs have had their classes disrupted. We are supporting these students alongside Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

We have been in close contact with our valued community partners during this difficult time and will continue to support our regional community efforts as we all come together to respond to this global emergency.

GPRC is in constant communication with the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services and our fellow post-secondary institutions in the province as new developments and details emerge. We will continue to provide updates to our students, staff and community as the situation unfolds.

For updates on GPRC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [gprc.me/COVID-19](https://gprc.me/COVID-19).

Our GPRC community is strong. Together, we will continue to work to flatten the curve of this global pandemic, as we do what we do best - serve our students and achieve academic excellence.

Take care of yourselves, take care of your families and take care of each other.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Robert Murray, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, written over a white background.

Dr. Robert Murray  
President and CEO