

# Vice-Provost Faculty Relations Newsletter

---

## What's New?

---

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations monthly newsletter is distributed to all faculty. The newsletter's purpose is to offer helpful tips, send out reminders, answer Frequently Asked Questions, and to highlight items of interest to faculty.

## Office Updates

As the end of the fall term approaches, our office would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all faculty and staff for your hard work and dedication, especially during these challenging times. We hope you will be able to take a well-deserved break during the holidays!

We would also like to say congratulations to all graduates of USask's fall 2020

**Convocation!** To see the online messages and virtual celebrations, visit USask's Convocation [website](#).

**As a reminder for those submitting claims, the Professional Fee Reimbursement claim period opened on November 1, 2020.** Claims for

reimbursement of professional fees paid during the period of December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020 must be made between November 1, 2020 and December 1, 2020. For more information, to view the guidelines, and to download an application, visit our [website](#). Questions about Professional Fee Reimbursement can be directed to Jacque Zinkowski at [jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca](mailto:jacque.zinkowski@usask.ca).



---

## What's New Cont'd...

---

Earlier this month an email was sent from Sun Life Financial to all faculty age 50 and up, about the Money For Life Retirement Journey Program. This program is being offered in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and is a complimentary service that provides personalized one-on-one professional support to help you plan for retirement. Should you opt in, you would meet with a Sun Life retirement consultant to discuss your savings and retirement income goal, and develop your personalized Retirement Income Roadmap, which is a comprehensive document that helps you identify your income sources and investments during your retirement years. An example of what a Retirement Income Roadmap looks like can be viewed [here](#) and for a



video version, see [here](#). For more information on this program and what it offers, visit Sun Life's [website](#) or call 1-888-999-3978 to book your complimentary pre-retirement discussion. More information about retirement and Professor/ Librarian Emeritus/Emeriti can also be viewed on our [website](#).

### Library course reserve information for the 2021 Winter Term:

The [Course Reserves Team](#) at the University Library is ready for course reserve requests for 2021 Winter Term classes. [Submit your requests](#) early so they can be ready for the first day of class in January. Requests are processed in the order they are received. For more information and any questions, please contact [course.reserves@usask.ca](mailto:course.reserves@usask.ca) or visit the library online [here](#).

---

## Reminders & Events

---

### Upcoming Dates & Deadlines:

- **November 30** is the deadline for Distinguished Professorship nominations. Please see our [website](#) for more information.
- **December 1** is the deadline to make a claim for reimbursement of professional fees paid during the period of December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020.
- **December 21 – January 4** is the university's 2020-2021 holiday break, with additional days off from December 21-24 this year.

See the [collegial process calendar](#) for more information on these dates and specific November dates on tenure, probation, renewal, and salary review.

## **Two Travel Updates: *Personal Travel Over the Holidays & ArriveCAN Recruitment Requirements***

### ***#1: Can I travel over the holidays for personal reasons?***

**With the holiday season approaching, we have received some questions regarding personal travel over the holidays.** The university is still not approving any international work-related travel requests, and also requires that any inter-provincial work-related travel requests be clearly justified as essential. This has not changed. However, to clarify any questions and concerns regarding personal travel, the university does not prevent faculty members from personal travel over the holidays. It is important to note however that the Government of Canada has recommended that Canadians avoid all non-essential travel outside of



Canada for the time being. If you are planning to travel within the province or inter-provincially during the holidays, we recommend that you take all necessary precautions and follow government and public health guidelines, including quarantine and isolation periods, and being tested for

COVID-19 if necessary. Check regularly with the provincial and federal government and public health guidelines, and stay safe over the holidays!

### ***#2: What are the federal government's new ArriveCAN requirements?***

The Government of Canada introduced ArriveCAN in April of 2020, in order to create a secure and user-friendly way to assist travellers in complying with COVID-19 border measures. ArriveCAN can be used as an app or accessed online through their website. As of November 21, 2020 ArriveCan is mandatory for all travellers entering the country.

Travel restrictions remain in place during this time and Canadians are advised to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada. Information on Canada's [official global travel advisory](#), [cruise ship advisory](#) and [pandemic COVID-19 travel health notice](#) can be found at the above links and are still in effect.

---

## Vice-Provost Pick of the Month Cont'd...

---

### *ArriveCAN Cont'd...*

ArriveCAN is applicable in recruitment efforts for new faculty, or for any existing faculty, who are entering Canada. The mandatory use of the app is being implemented to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure an easy way for public health officials to conduct contact tracing and follow-ups. The process requires various steps to be completed prior to arriving in Canada and after landing in Canada, including a proper isolation and quarantine plan that is university-approved.

Any current faculty or new recruits arriving in Canada should work with Katharine Fahlman-Smith, the Director of Academic Recruitment and Immigration, to ensure proper procedures are followed. Any questions about ArriveCAN can be directed to Katharine at [katharine.fahlman-smith@usask.ca](mailto:katharine.fahlman-smith@usask.ca) or 306-966-6635. More information about ArriveCAN is available on the Government of Canada's [website](#).

*If you have general questions about travel, please reach out to our office. You may contact Katharine at the above email and phone number, or our general office email is [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca), and we will direct your email to the appropriate recipient from there.*

**In the Vice-Provost Pick of the Month section**, each month we will tackle a common FAQ that our office gets. If you have ideas for what to address in coming newsletters, feel free to email your suggestions or questions to [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca).



***Do you have something you'd like to see highlighted in the newsletter?*** *If you have an announcement, a question you'd like to see answered, a photo of the campus, or something for the faculty spotlight section, send your suggestions, ideas and content to Naomi Hansen at [naomi.hansen@usask.ca](mailto:naomi.hansen@usask.ca).*

---

**End Notes:**  
**Faculty**  
**Spotlight**

---

USask pharmacologist Robert Laprairie was awarded \$100,000 as part of Brain Canada's Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research Program, along with 20 other Canadian neuroscientists. Laprairie and his team will be launching the first study on the effects of smoked cannabis on brain development, by studying how a mother's use of cannabis during pregnancy affects the brain of the developing fetus she's carrying. Read more about it [here](#).

A Usask research team led by Adam Bourassa from the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics has successfully tracked a record-setting smoke cloud from last year's Australian wildfires, discovering that the smoke cloud was three times larger than anything previously recorded. Read more about it [here](#).

University of Saskatchewan researchers and partners at the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Health Authority have developed a COVID-19 early warning system by sampling and testing the city's wastewater for COVID-19, which will help to track and predict upcoming case increases. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Downe in the Department of Archeology and Anthropology, who received a YWCA Women of Distinction Award this year. Dr. Downe received the Research & Technology award, which acknowledges excellence, innovation, and leadership in research and technology, and is awarded to someone whose work has influenced positive community change.

Heather Foulds in the College of Kinesiology will be launching a first-of-its-kind study in Canada to assess the physical, mental, cultural, and social benefits that result from performing traditional Métis social dances like jigging. The 5-year project is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and takes a holistic perspective on the contribution of Métis dancing to health and well-being. Read about it [here](#).

*If you have something you'd like to see highlighted in Faculty Spotlight, send your suggestions to [vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca](mailto:vpfaculty.relations@usask.ca).*

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS