



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE  
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

May 19, 2016

Dear OISE Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends,

I am humbled, honoured and excited to be entrusted to lead OISE over the next five years.

I want to thank the many faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends who have provided much needed support during this difficult period of transition. As we all know, it has been a challenging year and I am grateful to our remarkable leadership team of deans and chairs who have played (and are playing) such an important role in changing the tone and tenor of decision making as we move towards a more open, collaborative approach to getting things done. I have also been extremely impressed with the hard-work, patience and dedication of our staff, many of whom have gone through a difficult period of organizational change. My hope is that most feel a corner has been turned, but more work still needs to be done to build community, and ensure that this is an intellectually engaging, supportive environment for our students, staff and faculty.

The time is right to move forward. As I have noted in Faculty Council meetings, there are two big tasks that we, as a community, need to accomplish over the next year. The first is that we need to work together to create an academic plan. The process for creating this plan will be almost as important as the plan itself, since it will need to engage our community in a thoughtful discussion of where we need to go. We will need to raise important questions for our programs, centres, departments and central offices, such as: Are we offering the right programs? How can we improve the experience of our students? How should we respond to the key challenges identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Report? How can we increase our support for research? Should we have a strategic approach to international initiatives? We have been operating without a clear sense of direction. What an opportune time to develop a shared and relevant way forward.

In this context, the second major task is a review of the Master of Teaching program. The CTL leadership has devoted considerable attention to revising the program to address the new requirements for teacher education in Ontario and expanding enrolment. It is now the right time to revisit this important degree program, to consider the role that faculty and staff across the Institute can play in its delivery, and ensure that we are offering the best possible graduate program in teacher education. I look forward to working closely with CTL to review this important program.

OISE has been a very special place for me ever since I came here to pursue a master's degree thirty years ago, but my vision of OISE is very much focused on moving ahead rather than looking back. We need our community to be fully engaged in determining the path forward.

The year ahead will be very busy, and I encourage everyone to take the time and space to enjoy the season and rejuvenate with friends and family. I wish you the very, very best for the summer!!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen A. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Glen A. Jones  
Professor and Interim Dean

