

October 9, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Associate Professor **Sean Hillier** has graciously agreed to serve as Interim Associate Dean, Research and Innovation. His appointment begins October 15th and will continue through August 31st, 2025, corresponding with my appointment as Interim Dean.

Professor Hillier joined the Faculty of Health in 2018 and is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Health Policy & Management. As a Mi'kmaw scholar (Qalipu First Nation) he has served as both associate and interim director for the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages since its creation in 2020. His research leadership at York and beyond is extensive, and includes the creation of the new Indigenous Research Ethics board and membership on the Interagency Panel on Research Ethics. His collaborative research program focuses on how policy impacts health care access for Indigenous Peoples across Canada. He has been successful in receiving more than 10 external grants, is the Inaugural Associate Director of Connected Minds, and a York Research Chair in Indigenous Health Policy & One Health. I want to express my deepest thanks to Professor Hillier for agreeing to serve the Faculty and University in this important leadership role.

I am also pleased to announce that Professor **Chris Perry** from the School of Kinesiology and Health Science has agreed to serve as a Special Advisor to the Dean on Strategic Research Partnerships, effective October 15th. Professor Perry is currently Director of the Muscle Health Research Center, a Faculty of Health based organized research unit, and Co-Chair of the School of Medicine Planning Group. In his role as Special Advisor, Professor Perry will provide support in the development of new industry and research partnerships, and consult on strategies related to the amplification of research.

I would like to especially thank those colleagues who spoke with me to express their interest in the Interim Associate Dean position, and to those with whom I consulted regarding nominations and the needs of the Faculty at this time. On behalf of the leadership team, please join me in welcoming Sean and Chris to their new roles! We all look forward to a successful year ahead.

Chris Ardern

Interim Dean, Faculty of Health