



Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Commission d'évaluation de la qualité de l'éducation postsecondaire

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April 21, 2011

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister, Training, Colleges and Universities
900 Bay Street
3rd Floor, Mowat Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister:

Re: Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology application for amendments to consents to permit the deployment of online technologies in the delivery of its degree programs

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Georgian College applied for amendments to the consents for three degree programs [Bachelor of Business (Automotive Management), Bachelor of Business (Golf Management), Bachelor of Human Services (Police Studies)] to permit the deployment of online technologies in the delivery of its degree programs. In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on January 7th, 2011 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the proposal in accordance with its *Handbook for Ontario Colleges 2010* and considered the proposal on April 18th, 2011.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- the findings of the Quality Assessment Panel appointed by the Board to assess this proposal against the Board's standards and benchmarks for online delivery;
- the applicant's response to the panel report;
- any additional materials provided by the applicant to the Board;
- any commitments made by the applicant during the review process; and
- the Board's assessment of the information;

the Board finds that the proposal meets the Board's standards, and recommends that

- the consents be amended for the three programs; and
- that going forward, Georgian be permitted to use distance education delivery within its degree programs in accordance with the commitments made in its application without the necessity of seeking amendments to its consents.

The Board's recommendations are predicated on an assumption and the Minister's requirement that consent holders will meet the terms and conditions of consent which require them to honour all commitments made in the application and during the course of the review. Should these commitments not be honoured by Georgian College, the online delivery aspects of its degrees will not meet the Board's standards. The risks resulting from inadequate program quality are considerable and can range from individual risks to students who do not achieve the education they expect to the potential harm to the reputation of Ontario degrees. Given their importance, the Board recommends that you seek assurance from Georgian that commitments made during the course of the review are honoured.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Patterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dale Patterson,
Chair

cc Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Deborah Newman, Deputy Minister, MTCU
Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs
Division, MTCU
Nancy Naylor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division, MTCU
Martin Hicks, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU