February 10, 2017

The Honourable Deborah Matthews
Minister, Advanced Education and Skills Development
900 Bay Street
3rd floor, Mowat Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister:

Re: Sheridan College’s application to renew its consent to offer an Honours Bachelor of Photography.

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000 (the Act), Sheridan College applied to renew its consent to offer an Honours Bachelor of Photography.

In accordance with section 5(2) of the Act, the application was referred on September 20, 2016 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application against standards and benchmarks identified in its Handbook for Ontario Colleges, 2016, and made its final recommendation on the application on January 31, 2017. In particular, the Board assessed the program and resources against the Board’s standards, Sheridan’s ability to quality assure this program, and the College’s record of honouring commitments for this program.

Based on

- the applicant’s submission
- the findings of the expert panel appointed by the Board to assess this program against the Board’s standards and benchmarks for an Honours Baccalaureate degree
- 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 Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board finds the program meets the Board’s standards and recommends that consent be renewed for seven years for Sheridan College to offer a Bachelor of Honours Bachelors of Photography at its Trafalgar Campus (1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, Ontario).
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. 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.

Yours truly,

Maureen Morton,
Chair, Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board

cc Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
    Sheldon Levy, Deputy Minister, MTCU
    Glenn Craney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Programs Division, MTCU
    David Carter-Whitney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division, MTCU
    Linda Hawke, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU