



ALGOMA
university

January 29, 2009

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Milloy:

I am submitting an application for consent for Algoma University to offer honorary degrees in the province of Ontario.

For over 40 years, Algoma University College has maintained a tradition of awarding honorary degrees as an affiliate college of Laurentian University to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the life of Northern Ontario, to intellectual advancements in disciplines offered at Algoma University, in fields of national and/or international life, and to endeavours that contribute to and reflect the special mission of Algoma University. Algoma University seeks to maintain this tradition as an independent university, awarding honorary Algoma University degrees as opposed to Laurentian University degrees.

The university has formal criteria and guidelines for the selection of honorary degree recipients (attached). The criteria and guidelines for selection were approved by the Algoma University Senate, and mirror those of Laurentian University. The Senate Coordinating Committee of the Algoma University Senate solicits recommendations for candidates for an honorary degree each year. The Senate Coordinating Committee will undertake a detailed analysis of the achievements and contributions of the nominees. Once the nomination is unanimously approved by the Senate Coordinating Committee, it is discussed and voted on by the members of the Algoma University Senate.

Over the years, Algoma University has recognized the outstanding contributions of a number of community leaders including Ron Francis, former National Hockey League player and current Carolina Hurricanes Director of Player Development, the Honourable James K. Bartleman, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and Margaret Atwood, one of Canada's most successful female authors.

In making this request for approval, Algoma University proposes that the consent is limited to no more than one honorary degree per calendar year to be conferred at Algoma University in Ontario.

I hope this request will be considered in light of the fact that Algoma University College has a longstanding history of conferring honorary degrees as an affiliate college of Laurentian University. Algoma University's selection process for the nomination and approval of honorary degree recipients is an institutionally-approved and systematic procedure, similar to that of other Ontario universities.

In making this request, I ask that you consider waiving the fee for review by the Postsecondary Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB). The legislation (Bill 80) dissolving Algoma University College and establishing Algoma University grants the university the power to grant degrees in those arts and sciences degree programs that Algoma University College offered as an affiliate of Laurentian University on the day before the legislation came into force. Given that Algoma University College was granting honorary degrees from Laurentian University on an annual basis prior to the passage of Bill 80, it seems Algoma University should be able to confer honorary degrees of its own.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-949-2301 ext. 4117.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Ross', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Celia Ross
President

Moved (/): that Senate approve the following criteria and guidelines for the selection of Honorary Degree Recipients at Algoma University.

Criteria and Guidelines for Selection of Honorary Degree Recipients

The Senate Coordinating Committee of the Algoma University Senate solicits recommendations for candidates for an honorary degree. The following guidelines apply:

1. Honorary degrees should not, except in exceptional circumstances, be awarded posthumously;
2. Honorary degrees should not, except in exceptional circumstances, be awarded in absentia;
3. Honorary degrees should not be awarded to Algoma University personnel or active politicians;
4. At the level of the Senate Coordinating Committee, unanimity among those present is required (abstentions are not counted).

While the Committee is responsible for finding the best possible candidates in a given year and for ensuring a balance across various disciplines and groups over a period of time, the following categories are emphasized:

1. People who have made outstanding contributions to the life of Northern Ontario and/or the area served by Algoma University;
2. People who have made outstanding contributions to intellectual advancements in disciplines offered at Algoma University;
3. People who have made outstanding contributions in fields of national and/or international life.
4. People who have made outstanding contributions that contribute to and reflect the special mission of Algoma University.

In the final analysis, the selection of honorary degree recipients at Algoma University should be guided by the outstanding nature and/or the originality of each candidate's achievement.

The degree awarded should be appropriate to the recognized contribution of the recipient. Degrees awarded in past ceremonies at Algoma University have included the following: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Music, Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of Social Work and Doctor of Fine Arts.

The norm would be one honorary degree per Convocation but that the Committee could recommend more than that in special circumstances to a maximum of two per Convocation. The report from the Senate Coordinating Committee regarding Honorary Degrees is then discussed and voted on by the members of the Algoma University Senate; the results are not herein reported on the grounds of confidentiality.