



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

900 Bay Street
23rd Floor, Mowat Block
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tel (416) 325-1686
Fax (416) 212-6620

900, rue Bay
23^e étage, Édifice Mowat
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tel (416) 325-1686
Fax (416) 212-6620

August 13th, 2010

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

Dear Minister:

**Re: Application from Algoma University for consent to offer a Bachelor of Social Work:
Recommendation to Grant Consent**

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Algoma University applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Social Work.

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on January 21st, 2010 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with the standards and benchmarks identified in its *Handbook for Public Organizations, 2010*, and gave final consideration to the application on August 9th, 2010.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- the findings of the Quality Assessment Panels 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 panels' reports;
- 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 that the proposed program meets its standards, and recommends that you grant consent to Algoma University to offer a Bachelor of Social Work at 1520 Queen Street East in Sault Ste. Marie, and at the Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology Porcupine Campus at 4715 Highway 101 East in Timmins.

In addition to the commitments made in its submission, during the course of the review

Algoma University committed to:

- hire social work faculty and placement coordinators;
- expand the Program Advisory Committee membership and modify its procedures;
- establish a committee to address matters related to admissions, continuance, and demission;
- amend admission, promotion, and graduation requirements;
- develop workshops for students, instructors, and staff on academic integrity and ethical conduct within the program;
- ensure that program students taking the program on the Northern College campus have necessary resources;
- develop feedback mechanisms for stakeholders;
- delay the proposed compressed delivery of the program;
- establish both a Community Advisory Committee and a Field Advisory Committee in accordance with CASWE standards;
- monitor CASWE accreditation and self-study standards and benchmarks on an ongoing basis.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board recommends that as conditions of consent

- some of the commitments made during the review be honoured prior to program launch, namely those pertaining to
 - admission, promotion, and graduation requirements;
 - the Program Advisory Committee;
 - the resources available at Northern College;
 - materials on academic integrity and ethical conduct; and
 - hiring: at least one full-time field placement coordinator in Sault Ste. Marie, and one part-time coordinator in Timmins should be hired;
- Algoma seek candidacy status for the program, and then obtain accreditation by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, as soon as the program becomes eligible; and
- Algoma delay the proposed compressed delivery of the program until at least year three of its traditional delivery.

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, which include commitments to hire appropriate faculty, not be honoured by the University, the program 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 Algoma University 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 stylized flourish at the end.

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