



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

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July 24, 2009

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

Dear Minister:

**Re: Application from Algoma University for consent to award Honorary Doctorates:
Recommendation to Deny Consent**

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Algoma University applied for your consent to offer seven honorary doctorates: Doctor of Letters; Doctor of Laws; Doctor of Science; Doctor of Music; Doctor of Fine Arts; Doctor of Business Administration; Doctor of Social Work.

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, you referred Algoma's application on May 22nd, 2009 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its criteria for honorary doctorates.

Based on:

- Algoma's policies and practices pertaining to the award of honorary degrees;
- the Board's requirements for the award of honorary degrees;
- any additional relevant information provided to the Board;
- the Board's assessment of this information;

the Board finds that the University's policies and procedures meet the Board's requirements for the award of honorary degrees. The Board recommends, however, that the Minister not grant consent to Algoma University to award the seven honorary doctorates, as the degrees are normally awarded only by universities that have the authority to award earned doctorates.

The Board recognizes that it is the intention of the government to proclaim, at some point in the future, Algoma University's authority to award any and all degrees, including honorary degrees. Should the Minister wish to grant consent to the University at this time to award honorary degrees, the Board recommends that a condition of consent be that the nomenclature for the awards be changed as follows, to avoid public confusion about the nature of the degrees:

Doctor of Letters (honoris causa); Doctor of Laws (honoris causa); Doctor of Science (honoris causa); Doctor of Music (honoris causa); Doctor of Fine Arts (honoris causa); Doctor of Business Administration (honoris causa); Doctor of Social Work (honoris causa).

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
Marion Crane, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Education Division, MTCU
Martin Hicks, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU