



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

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July 15th, 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 Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning for consent to offer a Bachelor of Interior Design: Recommendation to Grant Consent

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology (Architecture – Interior Design). In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on July 6th, 2009 to the Board for its review and recommendation.

During the course of the review the College asked the Board to consider an alternate nomenclature for the program: Bachelor of Interior Design. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Ontario Colleges, February 2006*, and gave final consideration to the application on June 21st, 2010.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- the findings of the Quality Assessment Panel appointed by the Board to assess this program against the Board's standards and benchmarks for an honours baccalaureate degree in an applied area of studies;
- the applicant's response to the panel's 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 that the proposed program meets the Board's standards, and recommends that you grant consent to Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning to offer a Bachelor of Interior Design, at its campus at 299 Doon Valley Drive, Kitchener, ON N2G 4M4.

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

- revising the curriculum to ensure that all requirements Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) are met;
- ensuring that the library has sufficient holdings to meet the needs of the revised curriculum;
- including a member with expertise in CIDA and higher education on the program advisory committee; and
- hiring faculty members who have at least a Master of Interior Design and are also NCIDQ credential holders.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board recommends that consent be conditional on Conestoga College

- revising the curriculum; including a qualified program advisory committee member; and ensuring sufficient library holdings prior to program launch; and
- seeking candidacy status with CIDA for the program as soon as it becomes eligible.

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 includes commitments to hire the appropriate faculty, not be honoured by Conestoga College, 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 Conestoga that commitments made during the course of the review are honoured.

Yours truly,



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