



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

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23^e étage, Édifice Mowat
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
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Fax (416) 212-6620

March 25th, 2010

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

Dear Minister:

Re: Application from Niagara University to renew its consent to offer a Master of Science in Education (Educational Administration and Supervision): Recommendation to Grant Consent

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Niagara University applied to renew its consent to offer a Master of Science in Education (Educational Administration and Supervision). During the course of the review Niagara asked to change the degree nomenclature to Master of Science in Education (Educational Leadership).

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on July 22nd, 2009 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Private Organizations, February 2006*, and gave final consideration to the application on March 16th, 2010.

Based on:

- the applicant's submission;
- the findings of the Organization Review Committee and the Quality Assessment Panel appointed by the Board to assess this program against the Board's standards and benchmarks for a Master's 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, including the revised nomenclature, meets the Board standards and benchmarks and recommends that you grant consent to Niagara University to continue to offer a Master of Science in Education (Educational Leadership) at the following locations:

- Durham District School Board at 400 Taunton Road East Whitby;
- Halton Catholic District School Board at 802 Drury Lane Burlington;
- Toronto Catholic District School Board at 80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto;
- York Catholic District School Board at Jean Vanier Catholic High School 10475 Bayview Avenue Richmond Hill;
- Talpiot College at 3101 Bathurst Street, #405 Toronto

and to add

- Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board at 700 16th Avenue Hanover; and
- Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board at 87 Mills Street, PQ Box 70 Dublin;

The Board's recommendation is predicated on an assumption that the University will meet the terms and conditions of consent which require it 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, 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 applicants that commitments made during the course of the review are honoured.

Should you decide to grant consent, the Board recommends a condition of consent be that in public materials that refer to the program offered in Ontario (including but not limited to recruitment and advertising materials and the university's calendar and web site), Niagara University

- refer to the program either as a Master of Science in Education or MSE; and
- not refer to the program as a Master of Science or MSc.

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