

PEQAB

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

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June 1, 2008

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

Dear Minister:

**Re: Application from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology
to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Therapeutic Recreation) program:
Recommendation to Grant Consent**

On September 18th 2007, the Board communicated to Minister Bentley its recommendation that based on:

- the applicant's submission,
- the findings of the Quality Assessors appointed by the Board to assess this program against the Board's standards and benchmarks for a baccalaureate degree program in an applied area of study,
- 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,

consent be granted to Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology to offer the above program.

Subsequent to this date, the Board became aware of the fact that it did not receive a full report from its assessment team with regard to its Non-Duplication Standard – particularly whether this proposal duplicated a program currently being offered by a publicly-assisted Ontario university. As a result, the Board reopened its assessment of this application to look specifically at the duplication issue.

The submission of new material from the applicant with regard to the Non-Duplication Standard, the report of the assessor, and the applicant's response to this report were considered by the Board at its meeting of May 26, 2008.

The Board concluded that, since:

- this proposal is entitled Bachelor of Applied Arts (Therapeutic Recreation) and there is a program offered by an Ontario university that is entitled Honours Bachelor of Arts (Therapeutic Recreation); and
- both of these programs purport to train individuals for the same occupation; and
- both claim to prepare the student for certification by the same body, the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification,

both programs are, therefore, undergraduate degrees in "therapeutic recreation".

While the Board certainly realizes that there are differences in the content of the two programs, these are well within the range of variation that is expected for degree programs in the same discipline offered by different institutions. They do not, therefore, constitute differences significant enough to warrant a finding that the two programs can be considered to be non-duplicative.

The Board, therefore, must withdraw its positive recommendation to the Minister of September 18, 2007, and now recommend that consent not be granted to the Seneca application on the basis that it duplicates a degree program currently offered by an Ontario university.

Yours truly,



Dale Patterson,
Chair

cc Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board
Philip Steenkamp, Deputy Minister, MTCU
Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Strategic Policy and Programs Division, MTCU
Janet Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Postsecondary Division, MTCU
Shamira Madhany, Director, Postsecondary Accountability Branch, MTCU