



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

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February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

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

Dear Minister:

**Re: Application from Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning for consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Photography): Recommendation to Grant Consent**

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the *Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000*, Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning applied for your consent to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Photography).

In accordance with section 5.2 of the Act, the application was referred on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 to the Board for its review and recommendation. The Board reviewed the application in accordance with its *Handbook for Ontario Colleges, February 2006*, and gave final consideration to the application on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Board recommended that you grant consent to Sheridan College and that the consent be conditional on the College submitting a report to the Board on its progress toward meeting the commitments made during the Board's review, annually at the end of each of the first three years of delivering the program.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, you asked the Board for advice on whether consent could be granted under the normal standard terms and conditions, without a report on commitments as recommended by the Board.

In addition to those commitments made in its submission, Sheridan College committed to:

- hire one faculty member prior to program launch and an additional three faculty in the first three years of program delivery;
- revise the application and admission process;
- increase studio space;
- add and upgrade photography equipment and soft- and hardware.
- add a teaching lab and double studio space;
- increase the size of equipment storage and loan space;
- allocate resources for new curricular development;
- hire 1.5 FTE technologists specialized in photography in the 3rd year; and
- hire a new internship coordinator.

The Board considered the applicant's commitments at its January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting in light of your request.

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 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,

the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board finds that the proposed program meets the Board's standards, and recommends that you grant consent to Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning to offer a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Photography), to be abbreviated B.A.A., at its campus at 1430 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, ON L6H 2L1.

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

- hiring one faculty member prior to program launch;
  - revising the application and admission process;
  - increasing studio space; and
  - adding and upgrading photography equipment and soft- and hardware;
- prior to program launch.

The Board's recommendation is predicated on an assumption that the College 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.

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