

## MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

**DATE:** October 19, 2001

**PURPOSE:** Information Note  
Our Ref. 35956

**PREPARED FOR:** Gerry Armstrong  
Deputy Minister  
  
Lyn Tait  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post Secondary Education

**SUBJECT:** Action by the Private Post-Secondary Education Commission  
(PPSEC) on Kingston College

### BACKGROUND:

- Prepared at the request of Blair Littler, Director of the Student Services Branch, to provide information on the action being taken by PPSEC against Kingston College, a private college that has been advertising itself as a degree-granting institution in British Columbia.

Kingston College, Burnaby, is a private post-secondary institution registered with PPSEC. The college has been advised by PPSEC on several occasions in meetings and in writing during the Year 2000, that it does not have the authority to grant degrees in the Province of British Columbia.

The College offered to S. 22 a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree program, for which she paid \$6,000 tuition for 28 weeks of instruction (two semesters), and \$300 in administrative fees.

S. 22 withdrew from the College during the first week of the first semester, on January 8, 2001, and then subsequently complained to PPSEC on March 22, 2001, when she did not receive the refund she had expected from the college. The college offered a refund of \$2,800.

.../2

The Executive Director ruled on this matter under Section 28(1)(b) of the *Private Post-Secondary Education Act*, which states that:

"If in the opinion of the Executive Director, a student was misled as a result of a representation made by an institution or its agent regarding the institution or any aspect of its operations, on the request of the student, the institution must refund the total fees paid by the student within 30 days of the date of the request and must not retain any portion as an administration or other type of fee."

*no program  
review*

The Executive Director ruled on October 16, 2001, that the institution had misled the student in offering her a Bachelor of Business Administration program, and was required to return the entire balance of the \$6,300 to the student.

It is not known at this point whether the institution will appeal the Executive Director's decision to the courts.

#### DISCUSSION:

PPSEC was established to rule on cases of this nature, and the disagreement is a matter between the institution and the Executive Director in his role as defined by the *Act*.

PPSEC reviewed the substantive issues raised by the complainant and it is their opinion that the defendant institution misrepresented itself to her in contracting with her to provide a program of instruction leading to a bachelor's degree. Accordingly, the defendant institution should on the request of the complainant and as per Section 28 of the *Act*, refund the total tuition (\$6,000) as well as the \$300 "non-refundable fee", less the partial tuition refund already paid (\$2,800). The resultant \$3,500, refund should be paid within 30 days of the date of request and the institution must not retain any portion as an administration or other type of fee.

#### PREPARED BY:

David Colussi, Manager  
Student Access and Transition  
Student Services Branch  
Phone: 356-2226

#### APPROVED BY:

Blair Littler, Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Services Branch

Lyn Tait \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post Secondary Education

Gerry Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister

Dated: October 19, 2001

Updated:

## Resume of Orders in Council

Volume 31, Number 16

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

**MINISTERIAL ORDER 162**

*Ministry Responsible:* ADVANCED EDUCATION

*Statutory Authority:* Private Career Training Institutions

The following are appointed as members to the Private Career Training Institutions Agency: Peter Dahl, Terry Giesbrecht, Derek Hamill, Niels Hartvig-Nielsen, Michael Lo, Nancy McNab, Julia Peters, Cal Purcell, Kirsten Thorarinson and Steve Whiteside.

Not Responsive





CERTIFICATE NO. 3680 Province of British Columbia  
SCHOOL NO. 0971 Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology

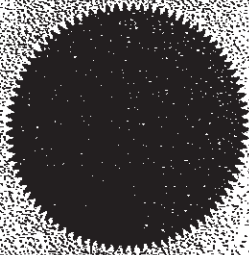
# Certificate of Registration for a Private Training Institution

This is to certify that

KINGSTON COLLEGE, INCORPORATED  
2286 HOLDOM AVENUE  
BURNABY, BC  
V5B 4Y5

Is authorized to operate a Private Training Institution for the 12 month  
period commencing 01-Jul-92

This institution is registered under the authority of the Apprenticeship Act  
and the registrant is subject to the requirements therein, the General Directives in force  
and all special terms and conditions that may be prescribed.



18-Aug-92

DATE

MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION,  
TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY

DIRECTOR, PRIVATE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

This certificate remains the property of the Government of British Columbia and must be returned upon request.

PTI 901104/87

CODE DESCRIPTION

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60120-20/king

Hull, Deborah AVED:EX

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From: Hull, Deborah AVED:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2003 4:16 PM  
To: XT:Wright, Jim CASE:IN  
Subject: Kingston

Hi Jim,

Thanks for the fax this morning about Kingston. I've reviewed it and the previous correspondence you faxed. I'm a bit confused why any action would be warranted. The effect of section 67 of the University Act is that only the public institutions named in section 67 or that have their own legislation like TWU can grant degrees in BC. As is the case with institutions like the University of Phoenix, if Kingston or the University of New Brunswick is actually granting the degree from another jurisdiction the University Act does not apply. In terms of the PPSEA, I'm not sure why the advertisement in today's Province would be considered false or misleading (maybe I'm missing something) -- Is it the statement about students not having "to worry about getting into the university of choice when it comes time to transfer"? The advertisement clearly states that it is not Kingston that is granting the degrees, which appears to be consistent with the letter they wrote on July 13, 2001 -- but as I said, maybe I'm missing something! I'd be interested in your thoughts on this.

Thanks,

Debbie

## Hopps, Hillary AVED:EX

From: Laberge, Shelly A AVED:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2004 8:19 AM  
To: Hopps, Hillary AVED:EX  
Cc: Govan, Paul AVED:EX; Oldford, Stephanie AVED:EX; Rogers, Dorothy AVED:EX  
Subject: not responsive

Hi Hillary, please make up a red folder for a decision note on re Arlene's email pertaining to -

Also, Paul, I did speak to Philip about Kingston College and he agrees we should be thinking about putting an inspector onto this. Please write up a proposal (dec note with proposal attached?) for his approval.

Please also advise Lisa the decision note number and give the red folder to Dorothy? Paul please confirm.

Thank you.

Shelly Laberge, Admin. Coordinator  
Private Institutions and Developmental Programs Branch  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Phone: (250) 387-6166  
Fax: (250) 356-8851

- 2001 PP3BZ
- mid 2004 complaint about not student
  - raised w/ M Co in Aug.
  - current S 28 decision + ALL Kingston
  - what SAA says, ... inspectors

### -----Original Message-----

From: Terepocki, Lisa J AVED:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2004 8:06 AM  
To: Laberge, Shelly A AVED:EX  
Subject: not responsive

FYI & can you please let me know what the BN # will be for the decision note mentioned below.

### -----Original Message-----

From: Paton, Arlene AVED:EX  
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 9:59 PM  
To: Govan, Paul AVED:EX; Bell, Cheryl L AVED:EX  
Cc: Terepocki, Lisa J AVED:EX; Watt, Lianne C AVED:EX  
Subject: not responsive

Not Responsive

Also, Paul, I did speak to Philip about Kingston College and he agrees we should be thinking about putting an inspector onto this. Please write up a proposal (dec note with proposal attached?) for his approval.

not responsive

Thank you!

Regards,

Arlene Paton  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post Secondary Education Division  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Tel: (250) 356-2498



## **Bell, Cheryl L AVED:EX**

**From:** Bell, Cheryl L AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Mon, October 2, 2008 10:14 AM  
**To:** Osborn, Veronica AVED:EX; Woolley, Paul PAB:EX  
**Cc:** Brown, Susan B AVED:EX; Loughran, Tony D AVED:EX; Rogers, Dorothy AVED:EX; Frick, Liz M AVED:EX; Woo, Donna F AVED:EX; Cottle, Kate L AVED:EX  
**Subject:** RE: One other thing re Kingston

Hi all - Just to confirm that it was not legal for AUL to operate in BC after 2000 under the PPSEA.

Dorothy has reminded me of an e-mail which PCTIA had provided to the Branch in 2004 regarding unregistered programs at Kingston. I'm providing some historical information below which may be of use to clarify this issue.

- Kingston College first registered with PPSEC in August 1992. They listed a number of course names (i.e. MBA, BBA, McSc., B.Sc) all resulting from their affiliation with American University of London (AUL).
- In July 2000, PPSEC revised its General Directives thereby requiring out-of-country degree-granting institutions to provide evidence of having met a basic level of quality. This was usually done through accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting body.
- PPSEC advised Kingston College of this new requirement in the summer of 2000. Later that summer, PPSEC sent the AUL President a registration package.
- Although Kingston's other university affiliates (i.e. Central Michigan and Arkansas Technical University) were able to provide evidence of appropriate accreditation and become registered with PPSEC in their own right, AUL was not able to do so. As a result, it was not registered with PPSEC and was unable to operate in BC legally.
- PPSEC brought this to Kingston College's attention on a number of occasions.
- It was the understanding of PPSEC staff that Kingston College transferred those students who were enrolled with Kingston working on undergraduate and graduate degrees whose degrees would be conferred by AUL to their Ontario campus and continued to train them there.

Thanks,  
Cheryl

*Cheryl Bell*  
Manager  
Policy and System Quality Branch  
Telephone: (250) 356-7700  
Fax: (250) 356-8851  
E-Mail: Cheryl.Bell@gov.bc.ca

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**From:** Brown, Susan B AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Fri, September 29, 2006 4:14 PM  
**To:** Osborn, Veronica AVED:EX; Woolley, Paul PAB:EX; Rogers, Dorothy AVED:EX  
**Cc:** Loughran, Tony D AVED:EX; Frick, Liz M AVED:EX; Woo, Donna F AVED:EX; Cottle, Kate L AVED:EX; Bell, Cheryl L AVED:EX  
**Subject:** RE: One other thing re Kingston

Thanks Veronica -- one other thing. Liz has just reminded us that the DAA did not come into force until November, 2003 so this would have all occurred under the old PPSEA. I've copied Cheryl on this note (she will be back in the office on Monday) as she may have some knowledge of whether, under the authority of the PPSEA, it was legal for AUL to operate at that time through a partnership with Kingston.

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**From:** Osborn, Veronica AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Fri, September 29, 2006 4:08 PM  
**To:** Brown, Susan B AVED:EX; Woolley, Paul PAB:EX; Rogers, Dorothy AVED:EX  
**Cc:** Loughran, Tony D AVED:EX; Frick, Liz M AVED:EX; Woo, Donna F AVED:EX  
**Subject:** RE: One other thing re Kingston

Thanks Susan for this. I'll let Paul respond to the concerns you've raised. However, I wanted to let you know that a formal written complaint from the students was lodged with the PCTIA (yesterday, I believe). I have left a message with the PCTIA staff member holding the file requesting she call me first thing on Monday morning to update me on where things

stand as far as the PCTIA is concerned.

I have already started an Issues note on this matter, which likely will come to you for approval sometime on Monday.

Veronica

not responsive

## Hull, Deborah AVED:EX

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**From:** Hull, Deborah AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2003 2:28 PM  
**To:** Daniels, Lynda C AVED:EX; MacKenzie, Amanda AVED:EX; Toop, Owen AVED:EX  
**Cc:** Bridges, Allison AVED:EX; Flanagan, Anne AVED:EX; Lacey, Pam AVED:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Kingston College

After doing some further research, I've determined that both of the institutions Kingston College is advertising with are grandparented for 5 years under the DAA, so I'm not going to proceed with the letter after all. Thanks for the information.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Daniels, Lynda C AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2003 11:24 AM  
**To:** Hull, Deborah AVED:EX; MacKenzie, Amanda AVED:EX; Toop, Owen AVED:EX  
**Cc:** Bridges, Allison AVED:EX; Flanagan, Anne AVED:EX; Lacey, Pam AVED:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Kingston College

If you are referring to Kingston College in Burnaby, please note that this institution is not designated and therefore is not eligible for Student Financial Assistance.

Lynda Daniels

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Hull, Deborah AVED:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2003 5:10 PM  
**To:** Bridges, Allison AVED:EX  
**Cc:** MacKenzie, Amanda AVED:EX; Toop, Owen AVED:EX  
**Subject:** Kingston College

I talked to Jim and we are going to draft up a letter to Kingston from the Minister asking them to stop advertising these programs, given that we will be bringing the DAA into force soon and their students will be left high and dry as they will have to stop providing the degree programs until they obtain consent. Can you provide me with a paragraph on SFA to include, assuming that the Minister should be telling them to stop advertising that they are eligible for SFA?

Amanda, could you please dig up previous correspondence we have sent to Kingston, and also follow up with the RLU to see if they can obtain a copy of the response that the Premier finally sent to Kingston in response to Kingston's November letter to the Premier?

Thanks!

**From:** Hull, Deborah AVED:EX  
**To:** Vincent, Tom PSEC:EX; Soles, Jim AVED:EX;  
**Subject:** PCTIA Board  
**Date:** Thursday, April 22, 2004 3:15:05 PM  
**Attachments:** not responsive

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Hi Tom and Jim,

I thought it might be helpful if I laid out my concerns in more detail. Specifically, I am concerned about the following individuals being appointed to the Board:

- **Michael Lo**, Kingston College: Kingston College is a registered but not accredited institution in the Lower Mainland. It is a fairly big player. Michael Lo also owns Lansbridge University, which is submitting an application under the DAA. My concern is that Kingston College has had several instances of non-compliance with the *Private Post-Secondary Education Act* and PPSEC directives.

Kingston College has an affiliation with the American University in London (AUL). Although AUL claims to be accredited, British authorities advised PPSEC that AUL is not accredited and is "little more than a diploma mill". In 2002, PPSEC advised Kingston College that it may no longer refer to AUL in their advertising and that it should transfer the 260 students enrolled in degree programs from AUL, via Kingston College, to an accredited degree program. One of the versions of Kingston College's website still refers to an affiliation with AUL. AUL was not registered with PPSEC and is not one of the institutions that is grandparented under the DAA. We recently received a complaint from someone asking why Kingston was still permitted to register hundreds of students in AUL programs (see attached). If this is true, it could be embarrassing for the Ministry if Michael Lo is on the Board of the PCTIA. In our response to the complaint, we committed to look further into this matter.

In 2001, PPSEC suspended Kingston College for representing degree programs as their own and to have them stop enrolling degree-registrants on Kingston College contracts.

not responsive

not responsive



not responsive

# Kingston College

## Request for

# University Accreditation

Submitted to

**The Ministry of Advanced Education**

Submitted by

**The Kingston College, Inc.**



April, 2002

*This document is intended for general discussion and negotiation only.  
Nothing herein can be construed as a representation, promise, or  
commitment on the part of Kingston College.  
The contents herein are subject to changes at any time without prior notice.*

To further discuss this Proposal and its contents, please contact:

Michael Lo, CEO  
Kingston College, Inc.  
1661 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1T8  
Direct Line: 604.738.9088 or 604.294.8813  
Direct Fax: 604.294.3822  
Email: [mlo@kingston.edu](mailto:mlo@kingston.edu)



## *Purpose*

This proposal is submitted in anticipation of the **Government of British Columbia** enacting legislation to allow the accreditation of private universities in British Columbia.

**Kingston College** would like to have its status upgraded to that of a private university accredited by the Province of British Columbia. For over twelve years, Kingston has been performing the core functions of an actual university by delivering full undergraduate and graduate programs on behalf of several respected universities in Canada and the United States. The logical next step is to become a BC-accredited university.

The college is owned and managed by the **Kingston Education Group**, a BC-based leader in international education. No other BC company is more qualified to administer a private BC university. In addition to Kingston College, the Kingston Education Group also owns and operates **Lansbridge University**, the first private secular university accredited by the Province of New Brunswick.

The purpose of this proposal is to outline:

- The qualifications of Kingston College to become a BC-accredited private university.
- The qualifications of the Kingston Education Group to administer the university.
- The positioning of the new Kingston University in international education.
- The benefits to British Columbia from being the home of Kingston University.
- A process for granting Kingston College private university status.



## *Kingston College*

Founded in 1989 in Burnaby BC, Kingston College is a private post-secondary institution catering to adult learners and international students.

Kingston College has been performing all the core functions of a full-fledged university for over twelve years. Through articulation agreements with several longstanding and reputable universities in Canada and the United States, Kingston has been offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Students complete their entire course requirements at Kingston, and the articulating institution confers the appropriate degree.

For quality assurance, and to be an authorized Extended Degree Centre, Kingston undergoes rigorous inspection and monitoring by each of the articulating universities. In the case of the US universities, Kingston is also inspected by the **North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of Higher Education** – one of the regional bodies that provide accreditation to US universities and colleges. Inspections are followed by regular renewal interviews.

In addition, the articulating institutions with which Kingston has agreements were required to register with British Columbia's Private Post Secondary Education Commission.

The college currently has two BC campuses with a third to be launched in July 2002; two campuses in Ontario; two branch-campuses in China; and liaison offices in Beijing China, Seoul Korea, and Taiching Taiwan.

Kingston's BC campuses enroll 700 students, of which 70% are international students from China, Korea, India, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Pakistan. The remaining 30% are local students who have chosen Kingston as an alternative to public institutions.

Kingston is the first private college in British Columbia to establish articulation agreements with accredited universities. The college currently has agreements with a number of institutions in Canada and the United States, including the **British Columbia Institute of Technology, University of New Brunswick in Saint John, Central Michigan University, Arkansas Tech University, and University of Lethbridge.**

Programs offered through these institutions include:



## **Institution**

## **Articulated Programs**

*Arkansas Tech University*

Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Science  
Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Administration  
Master of Education in Instructional Technology

*Niagara University, USA*

Bachelor of Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems

*University of New Brunswick  
St. John*

Master of Business Administration

*Central Michigan University*

Bachelor of Science in Administration  
Master of Science in Administration – International Administration  
Master of Science in Administration – Information Resources Management

*British Columbia Institute of  
Technology*

Bachelor of Technology in Computer Systems Technology

*University of Lethbridge*

Post Diploma Bachelor of Computer Science

In addition, Kingston College provides students with skills that meet the needs of international business by offering eleven diploma programs:

- Diploma in Business Management
- Diploma of Computer Systems Technology (Object-Oriented Specialty)
- Diploma of Hospitality and Tourism Management (accredited by the American Hotel & Motel Association)
- Diploma of International Business
- Diploma of Marketing (accredited by the Canadian Institute of Marketing)
- Advanced Diploma in Business Administration
- Advance Diploma in Computer Information Systems
- Advanced Diploma in Hospitality Management
- Postgraduate Diploma In Business Administration
- Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Information Systems
- Postgraduate Diploma in Information Resource Management





Kingston College has been deemed qualified to deliver undergraduate and graduate university programs from longstanding Canadian and American universities, as well as an official university and college accreditation body of the United States. The college continues to uphold and maintain the high standards expected of these institutions. Accordingly, Kingston has developed an international reputation as a quality institution of learning, and has experienced phenomenal growth at home and abroad.

The next step in the evolution of the college is to become an accredited university capable of granting its own degrees. British Columbia is the best place for this to occur.



## *Kingston Education Group*

- Twelve Year Track Record.
- Private University Management.
- E-Learning Leadership.

### *Twelve Year Track Record*

The Kingston Education Group has an unparalleled twelve-year track record in delivering private education in Canada and China.

A leader in the business of international education, university management, and e-learning, the company currently owns and operates **Lansbridge University, Kingston College, Kingston High Schools, VIA Institute for the Americas, and Learnsoft Corporation**. Through our network of campuses in British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and China, Kingston provides private high school, college and university education.

Kingston's success can be attributed to highly effective marketing in Canada and abroad, and focusing on programs that are in high demand -- science, information technology, and business. The company's marketing has been particularly successful in China, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, where "western education" is highly valued. International students account for approximately seventy percent of enrollment at Kingston's institutions.

From our first college founded in 1989, the Group has expanded to include:

**Lansbridge University:** The first private secular university recognized by the Province of New Brunswick.

**Kingston High School:** Kingston offers both regular credit-based and adult high-school programs through Kingston High School. With campuses in British Columbia and Ontario, graduates of Kingston High School receive a High School Diploma that is approved by the particular provincial government and recognized across Canada and around the world.

**Kingston Technology Center:** The Kingston Technology Center offers practitioner-oriented and up-to-date industry certification programs that train high-tech professionals and provide job and internship placements in North America.



**KC Knowledge Center:** KC Knowledge Centre is a comprehensive, community-based school offering innovative extra-curricular courses for elementary and secondary students to supplement regular school programs.

**Ying Hua Chinese School:** *Ying Hua* Chinese School offers Chinese immersion programs using the Montessori to teach Chinese in a Canadian setting. The program is for students in pre-school (ages three to four), Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary levels. The school has campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Coquitlam.

**VIA Institute for the Americas:** With a focus on Spanish and Portuguese studies, VIA offers a wide range of courses and opportunities to foster its mandate of promoting learning and understanding between Canada and the countries of Latin America.

### ***Private University Management***

In addition to the college, Kingston also owns and operates Lansbridge University -- the first private secular university approved by the Province of New Brunswick, and the first private university approved to offer its degree programs over the internet. As a result, Kingston is experienced in maintaining the high standards of service and quality expected of a provincially accredited private university.

Currently, the university offers several MBA programs, including a joint Executive MBA/Masters of Science in Management program in conjunction with the prestigious **American Graduate School of Management of Vanderbilt University**. A Bachelors of Business Administration program will be launched in September 2002. In addition, the university is planning to offer its programs in key cities in Asia using a "brick and click" model, whereby the programs are fully-prescribed over the Internet, but are further enhanced by face-to-face proctoring and interactions.

### ***E-Learning Leadership***

Kingston has controlling ownership of Learnsoft Corporation ([www.learnsoft.ca](http://www.learnsoft.ca)), a world leader in Internet-based learning systems and courseware. Learnsoft is a full service e-learning provider. The company has developed a powerful software platform technology known as **GALE** (Global Adaptive Learning Environment) that enables the delivery of courses over the Internet. Using the GALE platform, Learnsoft develops online, interactive multimedia corporate training programs for its clients. **Lansbridge University** has been using the GALE software to offer its on-line MBA program



## *Kingston University*

The Kingston Education Group is positioning the future **Kingston University** to become both an outstanding educational institution in British Columbia, as well as a leading provider of western-style education solutions in China and other key markets of Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

Our strategy is to combine Kingston's strength as a traditional classroom and on-campus educator with cutting-edge online education technology and programs. The new university will continue to specialize in diploma, undergraduate, and graduate degree programs that are in global demand: Information Technology and Business. In addition, Kingston will leverage the e-learning expertise of both Learnsoft and Lansbridge University to become a world leader in online education.

Kingston's success can only grow as a university. The company knows how to market education programs locally, nationally, and internationally. Kingston will tap into our existing student base in Canada and abroad, and will leverage our existing recruiting network, including our liaison offices in China, Korea, and Taiwan. Once the university is accredited, we will have an even better product to promote, and Kingston's already impressive growth in student enrollment will increase substantially.

Kingston University will "merge" with the college's three BC campuses. The college campuses in Ontario, branch campuses in China, and Kingston High Schools in British Columbia, Ontario, and China (joint ventures) will all act as "feeder" schools to the university. Moreover, as the network of Kingston colleges and high schools expands, the student base for Kingston University will grow and solidify.

The university will also expand. Kingston will establish an international network of campuses in our target markets. Campuses will initially be established through partnerships with respected local colleges and universities. As Kingston University becomes known within a market and demand for a Kingston education grows, the university will then establish a full-fledged campus. Students from the international campuses will be encouraged to complete their studies in British Columbia, providing direct economic benefit to the province.



## *Benefits to British Columbia*

There are three chief benefits to British Columbia from accrediting Kingston as a private BC university.

First, BC students need more universities. One third of students transferring from BC colleges cannot continue with their chosen program or take the courses they want at a BC university because of lack of space.<sup>1</sup> An additional 19 percent of transfer students are accepted to BC universities, but do not register – many presumably because they did not get their desired program.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, an additional 23 percent of applicants for university transfer do not qualify for admission.<sup>3</sup> This is not to say they are all poor students; lack of space is forcing admission requirements (i.e. GPA) to be raised to offset excess demand.<sup>4</sup>

In total, over seventy percent of BC college transfer students are not having their needs met by British Columbia's public universities. The students cannot register in either the programs or courses they want. Failing to meet these needs results in substantial economic loss to the province each year. Furthermore, the percentage is most likely higher for the high-demand programs of computer science and business -- areas critical to developing the new economy in British Columbia.

As a BC university, Kingston will help close the gap.

Second, in our own modest way, Kingston will increase international awareness of British Columbia and the value of a BC university education.

Kingston is very successful in recruiting international students. However, the college must promote out-of-province institutions with which it has articulation agreements. As a result, British Columbia does not receive the full benefit of our efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes 14 percent of students who meet admission qualifications, but are not admitted; 5 percent who accept admission, but are not in their desired program; and 14 percent who are unable to register in all the courses they want. Sources: Joanne Heslop, *Analysis of Applications, Admissions and Registrations of BC College Transfer Applicants to BC Universities, Fall 2000*. Office of Analytical Studies, Simon Fraser University, July 2001; and *2000-2001 Annual Report to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training, and Technology*. BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, April 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Heslop, (2001):p.9.

<sup>3</sup> Heslop, (2001):p.9.

<sup>4</sup> For example, the Annual Report (2001) of the Computer Science Department of UBC states that enrollment in many courses exceeds the department's capacity for effective teaching and sufficient laboratory resources. In response, the Department imposes GPA based enrollment restrictions on second and third year core courses. For complete report, please see [www.cs.ubc.ca/about/Reports/annual/annual2001/Academic\\_Programs.html](http://www.cs.ubc.ca/about/Reports/annual/annual2001/Academic_Programs.html).





As a BC university, Kingston will actively promote our own BC-accredited degree programs and the advantages of attending university in beautiful British Columbia.

Third, as a BC university, Kingston will directly contribute to the BC economy in several ways:

1. Kingston University will “close the gap” offering more places to the over 70 percent of transfer students whose needs are not being met by BC public universities. More students will have the opportunity to study their chosen programs in British Columbia, and will not have to leave for out-of-province universities. When they graduate, they will have the skills needed in the new economy and will have significantly higher earning potentials.
2. As a university, Kingston will attract more students to the province. Not having to transfer to an out-of-province articulating institution, students will remain at Kingston and in the province longer, and some will settle permanently. More students staying in the province longer maximizes the benefit to both Kingston and the province.
3. Kingston’s focus on international student recruitment increases BC’s “exports” – foreign expenditures on BC services. International students pay higher tuition and spend more money in the local community.<sup>5</sup> As well, it encourages tourism, as international students explore their new home – often with family and friends visiting from abroad.
4. As a university, Kingston will expand facilities and operations, employ more instructors and administrative staff, and provide more students with employment and internship opportunities.

The University of Victoria estimates that for every public dollar spent on the university, it generates \$1.70 in economic value to the province.<sup>6</sup> With Kingston’s emphasis on international students, the province can expect an even greater return from Kingston University – with one major difference. Because Kingston will be a *private* university, the province gains the full economic benefit without having to invest one dime of public money.

<sup>5</sup> For example, international students have no choice but to rent or buy accommodations and purchase necessities.

<sup>6</sup> Please see: <http://communications.uvic.ca/econ-impact/UVic.html>



## *Accreditation Process*

Four concerns face the province when considering the accreditation of an academic institution:

1. The institution must have the resources to conduct business on a permanent basis.
2. The institution must have qualified faculty to teach all courses in all programs at all required levels.
3. The institution must have the needed facilities required to conduct academic instruction.
4. The programs proposed by the institution must meet internationally accepted academic standards. To this end, programs must be approved by an independent validation committee consisting of experienced university faculty and administrators from a number of institutions.

Kingston College meets these criteria.

### *Resources*

Kingston's twelve-year track record of steady growth is proof that the institution is stable and permanent. In addition, Kingston owns all its campus properties, which represent over \$20 million in capital.

### *Faculty*

All Kingston's university level course instructors have either a Master's Degree or PhD in the field in which they teach. They and the courses they teach have been approved by the institutions with which Kingston has articulation agreements, as well as the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of Higher Education – one of the regional bodies that provide accreditation to US universities and colleges.

### *Facilities*

Similarly, our facilities have been approved by the articulating institutions and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Currently, Kingston properties comprise over 200,000 square feet. Existing facilities will be expanded with the anticipated increase in enrolment expected from Kingston being granted university status.



### *Programs*

Kingston executives and management have a long history in program and course development as faculty members and administrators, with many recognized institutions including: **University of British Columbia, British Columbia Institute of Technology, City University, Kwantlen College, Douglas College, Langara College, Coquitlam College, Ohio State University, University of Pittsburgh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and IBM.**

Kingston College is developing its own detailed roster of university degree programs to be accredited by the province.

To ensure the Kingston roster meets international academic standards, Kingston will present the roster with detailed program structures to an independent validation committee of experienced university administrators from recognized universities.

The roster and approval documentation from the validation committee will be available to the Government upon request.

*As an accreditation process for Kingston College, the College invites the Government of British Columbia to:*

- 1. Verify Kingston has the resources to conduct business on a permanent basis.*
- 2. Examine the credentials of faculty to ensure their ability to deliver programs and courses at the university level.*
- 3. Inspect Kingston facilities to ensure they meet the requirements for academic instruction at the university level.*
- 4. Examine our roster of proposed university programs and review the documentation from the independent validation committee.*



## Conclusion

The province currently recognizes private universities from the United States operating in British Columbia, but does not recognize private Canadian universities from British Columbia or the other provinces. This essentially forces BC students to "buy American" when looking for alternatives to public institutions in the province. This policy is not defensible politically, socially, or economically.

On the other hand, the rationale for upgrading Kingston College to a BC-accredited private university is undeniable.

First, Kingston College is already performing the core functions of a university by delivering complete undergraduate and graduate programs on behalf of several Canadian and American institutions – including British Columbia's own BCIT. To do so, the college has undergone regular rigorous scrutiny from the institutions, as well as inspection from a university accreditation body in the United States.

If Kingston can operate at the high standards of these longstanding institutions, we can operate as our own university at the equally high standards of British Columbia.

Second, the Kingston Education Group is already successfully operating the private Lansbridge University and maintaining the internationally recognized standards set by the Province of New Brunswick. Again, there is no reason why we could not, or would not, do the same for a private BC university.

Third, Kingston University is needed by BC students. Currently, public universities are not providing enough seats in the key programs needed for economic growth. Kingston will allow more British Columbians to gain a world-class "made in BC" education in programs specifically designed for the new economy.

Finally, as a private university, Kingston will grow internationally, enhancing the image of BC education around the world, attracting qualified students and graduates to the province, and delivering concrete economic benefits to British Columbia.

Students, the province, and Kingston all benefit.

## Hull, Deborah AVED:EX

---

**From:** Michael Dickhout [mdickhout@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 07, 2003 5:17 PM  
**To:** Hull, Deborah AVED:EX  
**Cc:** mlo@kingston.edu; schan@kingston.edu  
**Subject:** KEG Response to Draft Criteria for Use of "University"



Response of the  
Kingston Educa...

Dear Ms. Hull,

Please find attached the Kingston Education Group's response to the Draft Criteria for the Use of the Word University.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond at this late date.

Thank you and best regards,

Mike Dickhout  
Kingston Education Group

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## **Response of the Kingston Education Group to the DQAB's Draft Criteria for the Use of the Word "University"**

The Kingston Education Group ("Kingston") recognizes that the term *university* has a rich meaning based on a long history of academic standards and traditions and denotes the highest calibre of academic teaching and learning. Furthermore, we recognize that the term *university* is so closely associated with academic standards and tradition that its use almost inevitably adds value to an organization using the term to describe itself. Such an organization must therefore be open to accountability about how it undertakes its academic mission. Consequently, Kingston would not in any way suggest that the value that is inherent in the term *university* be diluted.

Kingston fully supports statutory control aimed at ensuring appropriate use of the term *university*. Nevertheless, we also believe that the modern use of the term, at least within North America, makes it incumbent upon the Government of British Columbia to guide the statutory evolution of the meaning of the term in this province in a way that balances a commitment to the historical integrity of the term *university* against the challenges of current reality.

The Government's draft wording on the use of the term *university* includes the following criteria:

The submission will be assessed in the following categories against criteria described in this document:

1. Mission and Policies
2. Governance, Faculty, Services and Facilities
3. Accountability and Financial Capacity
4. Range of Programming
5. Commitment to Research and Scholarly Activity
6. Other

After reviewing Items 1, 2, 3, and 6, Kingston supports the government's criteria in these items.

However, Kingston is concerned about the potential application of criteria in Items 4 and 5, and suggests how the criteria should be interpreted.

- 4. Range of Programming – New Institutions should be granted conditional permission to use the word "University" based on the institution's commitment to develop a sufficient range of programming within a given period of time.**

All universities should offer a variety of degree programs to provide the breadth and depth in the traditional areas of academic pursuit. However, it cannot be expected for newer universities to "instantly" acquire this range of programs. To do so would compromise quality as each program must be developed with due care and attention.

## Conclusion

Kingston fully supports Items 1, 2, 3, and 6 as requirements to maintain the integrity of the use of the word *university* in the province.

However, it must be pointed out that many excellent universities from outside the province do not fit the traditional mould implied in Items 4 and 5.

For example, British Columbia has recognized the University of Phoenix, which was grandfathered under the new legislation. It must be noted that the focus and excellence offered by the University of Phoenix is reflected in a limited range of educational programs (i.e. mostly business) that is substantially less in breadth than the most comprehensive definition of the term *university* implied in Item 4. Furthermore, the University of Phoenix is clearly one that emphasizes teaching, almost to the exclusion of research. Any research that is conducted by the University is not conducted in the province and is purely “applied” in nature.

We support the decision to recognize the University of Phoenix. We believe that applying criteria that arbitrarily deny highly specialized and highly competent educational organizations (such as the University of Phoenix) access to the term *university* would restrict their appeal and therefore their ability to compete for students.

This inability to compete would inevitably reduce local competition among educational institutions that need to demonstrate excellence in the educational market place. The dynamic growth and evolution in BC educational institutions would be impeded and thus occur at a slower pace than in other Canadian jurisdictions. This in turn could cause BC’s educational institutions to be eclipsed by other means of delivering education from organizations from outside the province.

Other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States have chosen to allow educational institutions that pursue limited activity related to criteria in Items 4 and 5 to enjoy the benefits and the accountability that are associated with using the term *university*. It is important for British Columbia to find a similar balance.

The criteria in Items 4 and 5 – although necessary – should be applied in a manner that maintains the integrity of the term *university*, while not putting BC organizations at a disadvantage when seeking their first permission to call themselves a university, nor when they are competing in the global marketplace to provide educational choice, products, and services.



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A/DIRECTOR'S DAY COPY (Debbie Andersen)  
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CIRC COPY

Our Ref. 40104/40006/40176

AUG 14 2002

Mr. Michael Lo, Chief Executive Officer  
Kingston College  
1661 West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vancouver BC V6J 1T8

Dear Mr. Lo:

Thank you for your letter and attached proposal which requests university accreditation from the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) for Kingston College. The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Advanced Education, has asked me to respond on her behalf. I understand that you have also shared copies of the proposal with AVED staff. I apologize for the delay.

The Minister and I appreciate receiving a copy of Kingston College's proposal and having the opportunity to learn more about Kingston College's activities, as well as those of the Kingston Education Group. AVED is committed to working with private and public post-secondary institutions toward enhancing learning opportunities for British Columbia students and increasing provincial capacity to address high-demand program areas.

As you may be aware, the *Degree Authorization Act* (the Act) received Royal Assent from the provincial legislature in May 2002, and will enable private post-secondary institutions and public institutions from other jurisdictions to make application for Minister's consent to grant degrees in British Columbia and to use the term "university". The Act will come into force by regulation later this year, after a quality assessment board has been established to review applications and make recommendations to the Minister. Policies, including the criteria regarding the use of the term "university", are currently being developed.

Under the Act, if Kingston College wishes to grant its own degrees, or offer new degree programs (those that were not being offered on April 11, 2002, the date the Act was introduced) through affiliation agreements, these degree programs would need to undergo the quality assessment process once it is in place and receive Minister's consent. This provision will apply to all private institutions and out-of-province public institutions that wish to grant British Columbia degrees.

.../2

Institutions currently offering degree programs through affiliation agreements with the Private Post-Secondary Education Commission (PPSEC) may continue to do so for up to five years (until April 11, 2007), as long as the institutions which grant the degrees for these programs were registered with PPSEC on April 11, 2002.

The following website provides more information on the private sector degree initiative:

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/branches/private/welcome.htm>

Should you require clarification or additional information regarding the Act, please contact Debbie Andersen, A/Director, Private Institutions and Sector Initiatives Branch, at (250) 387-6166 or at the following email address:

[Private.Institutions@gems5.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Private.Institutions@gems5.gov.bc.ca)

Thank you again for providing the Ministry with a copy of Kingston College's proposal for university status. We appreciate being kept apprised of the developments and activities at the institution.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
G. R. Armstrong

Gerry Armstrong  
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister

Mr. Jim Soles, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post Secondary Education Division

Ms. Debbie Andersen, A/Director  
Private Institutions and Sector Initiatives



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ADMO'S DAY COPY (PSED)  
DIRECTOR'S DAY COPY (BLAIR LITTLER)  
BRANCH FILE COPY (PISIB)  
AUTHOR/TYPIST COPY *Arden/ITJ*

Our Ref. 37843

MAR 19 2002

Michael Lo, Chief Executive Officer  
Kingston College  
1661 W 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vancouver BC V6J 1T8

Dear Michael Lo:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2002, in follow-up to our December 2001 meeting providing background information on Kingston College and advising of your intention to seek private university status.

As we discussed, the Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) is developing a policy and legislative framework to address requests from private institutions seeking consent to offer degree programs in British Columbia. As you can appreciate, this is a complex issue that has to be done in a measured way. By copy of this letter I am asking Blair Littler, Director, Private Institutions and Sector Initiatives Branch, to keep you advised of our progress in this regard.

Thank you again for advising AVED of your interest in offering degrees in the province.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
G. R. Armstrong

Gerry Armstrong  
Deputy Minister

pc Lyn Tait, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Post Secondary Education Division

Blair Littler, Director  
Private Institutes and Sector Initiatives Branch

Ministry of  
Advanced Education

Office of the  
Deputy Minister

Mailing Address:  
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Victoria BC V8W 9T6

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Facsimile: 250 356-5468

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EDUCATION GROUP  
*realizing personal potential*

Ms. Deborah Hull  
Director, Private Institutions and Developmental Programs  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
PO Box 9177, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9H8

June 11, 2004

Dear Ms. Hull,

This letter is to clarify for the DQAB the situation in which Kingston College was temporarily suspended by PPSEC several years ago.

The temporary suspension was the result of Kingston College not presenting the required materials requested by the Auditor during the Auditor's annual inspection of the College.

Prior to visiting Kingston for the inspection, the Auditor sent a letter to the College requesting the College prepare the materials and documentations to be presented to the Auditor at the time of the inspection. Unfortunately, the letter was misplaced upon its receipt by the College, and the person responsible for the report did not personally receive the letter as she was away in Asia.

As a result of the misplaced letter, Kingston staff did not prepare in advance the required documentation and materials which the Auditor expected to review on the first day of the inspection. The Auditor was apparently quite offended by this and abandoned the inspection. Arising from this, the College was subsequently informed of the suspension.

Kingston promptly appealed the suspension which was then duly lifted.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
Kingston College Inc.

per Michael Lo, MSc., D.Sc.,  
President & CEO





# KINGSTON COLLEGE

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Fax: (905) 353-9803

May 1, 2002

Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Advanced Education  
PO Box 9056, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bond:

**Re: Bill 15 – 2002 DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – Second Reading**

We are very pleased with your ministry's introduction of the Degree Authorization Act. The long-overdue legislation (through no fault of your government) is strong, and goes along way in expanding access for students to post-secondary opportunities.

We would like to make a humble suggestion about the criteria to be established under Section 4, subsection (2) for Ministerial Consent.

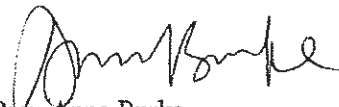
We recommend that universities, both public and private, that have already received Degree-Granting Status from another province of Canada, be granted the right to operate in British Columbia:

- (1) As a branch university conferring degrees based on the degree-granting status of their home province; and
- (2) As a university of British Columbia, upon approval of the BC Ministry of Advanced Education of the degree programs offered by the university.

As it stands, existing legislation allows public and private US universities accredited by one of the six regional accreditation bodies in the United States to operate within the province. This is forcing British Columbians to "buy American" when seeking alternatives to BC public universities. The above suggestion would simply put Canadian out-of-province public and private universities on par with those of the United States.

We look forward to hearing your position response to the modification advanced for your consideration. I can be reached at [aburke@kingston.edu](mailto:aburke@kingston.edu) or (604) 738-9088 should you require any clarification or further information from us.

Sincerely,  
Kingston College, Inc.

  
Per: Anna Burke  
Vice President  
AB/mgd

RECEIVED  
MAY 08 2002

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT  
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION	
REFERRAL NUMBER	40257
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# KINGSTON COLLEGE

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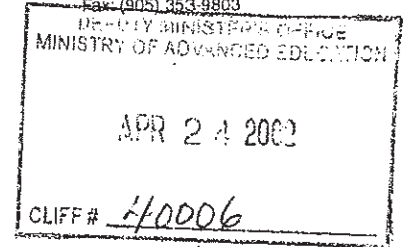
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Fax: (905) 353-9803

April 16, 2002

Mr. Gerry Armstrong  
Deputy Minister of Advanced Education  
PO Box 9884, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T6



Dear Mr. Armstrong:

## Re: Granting of Private University Status to Kingston College

Thank you for your letter of March 19 (your reference 37843) concerning our intention private university status. Kingston College has been delivering full degree programs and performing the core functions of a university on behalf of several respected universities and the United States for over twelve years. Naturally, the next step in the evolution of institution is to become an accredited private BC university.

As promised in our letter of January 23, we are sending you a more detailed proposal for granting of private university status to Kingston College. The purpose of the proposal is outline:

- The qualifications of Kingston College to become a BC-accredited private university.
- The qualifications of the Kingston Education Group to administer the university.
- The positioning of the new Kingston University in international education.
- The benefits to British Columbia from being the home of Kingston University.
- A process for granting Kingston College private university status.

We appreciate very much your efforts and the efforts of your colleagues in keeping us informed about developments that impact on the future of Kingston. We are also sending a copy of the proposal to Shirley Bond, Lyn Tait, and Blair Littler.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kingston College, Inc.

Per: Michael Lo  
Chief Executive Officer

ML/mgd



# KINGSTON COLLEGE

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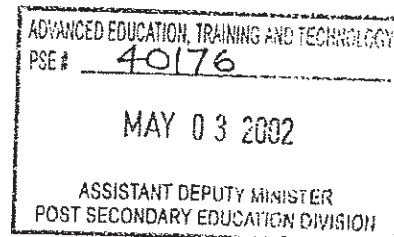
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April 26, 2002

Lyn Tait  
Deputy Minister of Advanced Education  
PO Box 9880, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9Y6



Dear Ms Tait:

## Re: Granting of Private University Status to Kingston College

As you may be aware, Kingston College is requesting the provincial government grant the college Private University status in British Columbia.

We have prepared a detailed proposal for Minister Bond, and are forwarding you a copy.

The purpose of the proposal is to outline:

- The qualifications of Kingston College to become a BC-accredited private university.
- The qualifications of the Kingston Education Group to administer the university.
- The positioning of the new Kingston University in international education.
- The benefits to British Columbia from being the home of Kingston University.
- A process for granting Kingston College private university status.

We are also sending a copy of the proposal to Gerry Armstrong and Blair Littler.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kingston College, Inc.

  
Perry Michael Lo  
Chief Executive Officer

ML/mgd