



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

JUL 22 2002

Our Ref. 40738

JUL 18 2002

Greg Lee Ph.D., President
Capilano College
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver BC V7J 3H5

Dear Dr. Lee:

Greg

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 2002, expressing your support for the *Degree Authorization Act* (DAA), and your concern that the timeline for implementing the DAA and the uncertain future of the Open Learning Agency (OLA), will impact the delivery of applied degree programs at Capilano College.

As you are aware, the passing of the DAA resulted in amendments to other acts, including the College and Institute Act, to expand the degree-granting mandate for the public post-secondary education system in British Columbia. The Ministry is currently developing policies for implementing the Acts' amendments, and is examining a range of possible options to address existing applied degrees currently offered in partnership that have been approved by authorized institutions in British Columbia.

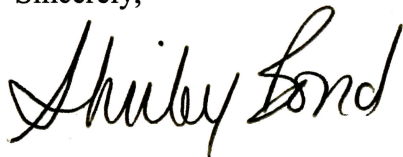
With respect to OLA, as you know, over the past several months, we have been examining the programs and services provided by OLA, working to build on the strengths of some existing programs, and developing options for a more collaborative approach to distance learning. Government is committed to strengthening British Columbia's distance and on-line learning system. We are looking at a more collaborative approach which will see us strengthening links between institutions so that work in this area can be coordinated, rather than duplicated.

The Ministry recognizes Capilano College's position regarding the existing applied degree program offered in partnership with OLA, and understands the unique characteristics and high quality of those degrees. We are supportive of them, and hope to have policies in place to reach a final decision regarding these programs in September.

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While decisions on the implementation policies and the future of OLA have not been finalized, any decision reached by the Ministry will ensure that students currently in programs are not disadvantaged. The interests of students, institutions and stakeholders in the post-secondary education system are foremost in our minds as we continue to explore options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Bond
Minister of Advanced Education

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