



Memorandum

Date: May 22, 2009

To: Ontario Association of Deans of Education
Deans, Faculties of Education
Registrars, Faculties of Education
Providers, Additional Qualifications Courses
Directors of Education
Secretaries, School Authorities
Directors of Education Organizations
Trustees Organizations
Principals/Supervisory Officers Organizations
Ministry of Education including District Offices
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
General Secretaries, OTF and Affiliates
QECO, OSSTF Certification

From: Lise Roy-Kolbusz
Interim Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Amendments to Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs**

I am pleased to inform you that the government has enacted Council's regulatory recommendations as a result of an extensive review of the accreditation regulation.

At its meeting on June 12, 2008, Council approved a report containing recommendations for amendments to Regulation 347/02, Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs. Several of these recommendations were subsequently approved by Cabinet on May 6, 2009. I am enclosing a copy of the amended regulation for your information. You can also find an online version at www.elaws.gov.on.ca.

The current amendments impact the accreditation process for both pre-service and additional qualification (AQ) programs.

Extension of Accreditation Period

Three of the amendments enable extensions to the accreditation period:

- The length of the accreditation period for pre-service programs awarded general accreditation is increased from five to seven years.
- The maximum length of the accreditation period for additional qualification programs is increased from three to five years
- The Accreditation Committee or the Registrar, as appropriate, may extend an accreditation period for up to one year, if requested and mutually agreed upon by the permitted institution or providers.

Harmonization of Accreditation Period for Programs of Professional Education

The amendments also introduce a process for harmonizing accreditation review cycles for pre-service programs.

- Effective immediately, where a provider offers more than one program with general accreditation, all programs will expire on the date of the program with the earliest expiry period.

- Programs in their initial accreditation cycle will continue to expire on the date established in the accreditation decision. However, once these programs are granted general accreditation, they will fall into the same review cycle established for the other programs offered by the provider.

Staff will contact providers of accredited pre-service programs to review the implications of these changes and establish the next review cycle for these programs.

Accreditation Process for Additional Qualifications

There are two new amendments that will impact the accreditation process for the renewal of additional qualification courses/programs:

- As of April 1, 2010, there will be a new process for renewing additional qualification courses/programs offered by the provider. Providers will identify the programs they wish to renew, and the Registrar may review accreditation applications for all of the programs identified.

Alternately, the Registrar may choose to review a sample of at least 25 per cent of the courses/programs from each of the Schedules in Regulation 184/97, Teachers' Qualifications. If the Registrar identifies a concern, other courses in the schedule to be renewed may be requested.

The Ontario College of Teachers hopes that this process will lessen the administrative responsibilities required to renew additional qualification programs, particularly for providers offering a large number of programs. Providers will only be expected to pay for courses/programs reviewed.

- Effective immediately, the Registrar may monitor the delivery of additional qualification programs during an accreditation period to ensure that programs continue to meet the requirements of accreditation. The Registrar will work with providers to resolve any issues that may arise.

The College intends to work with providers over the next months to establish procedures to implement sampling by schedule. I look forward to your input in order to achieve a smooth transition.

If you have any questions about the amendments, please contact Michelle Longlade, Director of Standards of Practice and Accreditation at 416-961-8800 or toll-free in Ontario at 1-888-534-2222, ext. 870.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we begin to implement these changes.

Sincerely,



Lise Roy-Kolbusz
Interim Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

Copy: Michelle Longlade
Janis Leonard

Encl.

JL/mmc-spa-admin