

January 4, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

Another year has come and gone, and the Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board (SHEQAB) has been busy with many projects. As a Board, we continue to ensure that Saskatchewan's quality assurance framework for degree programs meets high-quality standards and positions Saskatchewan students and institutions to compete in a rapidly changing landscape.

The SHEQAB is an independent advisory body that works in cooperation with the Ministry of Advanced Education. Board members reflect a wide range of relevant knowledge, expertise, and experience. The following individuals currently serve on the SHEQAB:

- Tavia Laliberte (Chair), Vice President Academic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
- Dr. Barbara Gustafson (Vice Chair), retired Dean, Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Dr. Brad Donaldson, President and CEO, Lethbridge College, Alberta
- Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, President, Luther College
- Lori Kidney, Farm Business Owner Operator, Saskatchewan
- Dr. Laurie Rancourt, retired Senior Vice-President, Academics, Humber College, Ontario
- Dr. Christie Schultz, Dean, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Regina
- Dr. Keith Walker, Professor, Department of Educational Administration, University of Saskatchewan.

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Since 2012, the Minister of Advanced Education has authorized a total of 12 degrees, including:

Briercrest College and Seminary:

- Bachelor of Arts Humanities (2013 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts English/English (Honours) (2015 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts History/History (Honours) (2018 - 2025)
- Bachelor of Arts Psychology (2018 - 2025)
- Bachelor of Arts Biblical Studies/Biblical Studies (Honours) (2021 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts Business Administration (2021 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of General Studies (2021 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Arts Applied Linguistics: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (2023 - ongoing)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic:

- Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (2013 - ongoing)
- Bachelor of Construction Management (2017 - 2024)
- Bachelor of Applied Management (2019 - ongoing)

Cape Breton University:

- Master of Business Administration in Community Economic Development (2020 - ongoing)

Throughout 2023, the Board met three times. The meetings in March and June were held virtually, and the meeting in October was held in person at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies in Saskatoon. The following is a summary of the activities undertaken by the SHEQAB this past year.

The year started off with a Call for Nominations due to an anticipated vacancy on the Board. In April, I had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C., Minister of Advanced Education. Discussed was the SHEQAB vacancies and appointments as well as the current work of the Board.

The Minister appointed Dr. Christie Schultz, who is known for her work as a leader in professional, continuing and online education. She is currently serving as Dean of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Regina. It has been a pleasure having Dr. Schultz as our newest member.

In February, the Board commissioned an external quality assurance review for Briercrest College and Seminary's proposed Bachelor of Arts Applied Linguistics Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Three expert panelists from post-secondary institutions across Canada visited Briercrest to conduct a program review. A report was provided to the SHEQAB, after which the Board made a recommendation to the Minister regarding authorization. The Minister authorized Briercrest's degree with conditions.

In May 2023, the Board conducted a public review of the Quality Assurance Standards. Pursuant to section 11 of *The Degree Authorization Regulations*, a review is required every five years to ensure that the Quality Assurance Standards remain consistent with national best practices. Following consultations, the Board made a recommendation to the Minister. The Minister approved several updates to the Standards, which are posted on [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).

In October 2023, the Board reviewed annual monitoring reports from institutions for their authorized degrees. Monitoring is conducted to ensure that institutions and their degrees continue to adhere to the terms and conditions of authorization and Saskatchewan's Quality Assurance Standards. The SHEQAB responded to the institutions with feedback, as applicable, as well as provided an update to the Minister.

The SHEQAB would like to recognize the work of its Secretariat. The Secretariat, among other things, provides policy and procedural advice, organizes Board meetings, coordinates quality assurance reviews, prepares correspondence, and orients new Board members. The Secretariat liaises regularly with quality assurance organizations across Canada, including but not limited to the Degree Quality Assessment Board in British Columbia, Campus Alberta Quality Council, the Ontario Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, the Council of Ontario Universities' Quality Council, the Ontario College Quality Assurance Service, the Indigenous Institutes Quality Assessment Board, and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. Monthly inter-agency discussions focus on new developments and the sharing of best practices in quality assurance in higher education. The Secretariat is led by Tammy Jones, Director, with support from Damilola Fadeyi, Amanda Williams, and Wanda Billard.

For more information about the SHEQAB, including Saskatchewan's degree authorization process, please visit the [SHEQAB webpage](#).

If you have any questions or would like to provide input regarding the work of the SHEQAB, please contact me through the Secretariat by emailing [info@quality-assurance-sk.ca](mailto:info@quality-assurance-sk.ca). I invite you to forward this letter to others who may be interested in the SHEQAB and Saskatchewan's degree authorization process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tavia Laliberte".

Tavia Laliberte  
Chair, SHEQAB

cc: Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, K.C., Minister of Advanced Education  
Rebecca Carter, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education  
SHEQAB Members  
Tammy Jones, Director, SHEQAB Secretariat