



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour

October 28, 2019



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* [Our File #: AESL/070/2019]

On October 21, 2019 the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour received your request for access to the following records/information:

“September 2019 Decision Note titled Designation Request - Saint Louis University”

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to this information has been granted and the requested record is attached.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* (act) requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed prior to day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (709) 729-5152 or davemoore@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Moore".

DAVID MOORE
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment

Decision Note
Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour

Title: Designation Request – Saint Louis University

Decision Required:

- It is recommended:
 - That the Minister, under Section 3 of the *Student Financial Assistance Regulations*, authorize the Student Financial Services Division to designate Saint Louis University.

Background and Current Status:

- Residents of the Province wishing to study outside of Canada are eligible to receive student financial assistance from Student Financial Services if their intended international post-secondary educational institution is designated under the Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework.
- In accordance with the Section 3 of the *Student Financial Assistance Regulations* and the Newfoundland and Labrador Designation Policy, all international institutions located in the United States (US) must meet specific criteria before they can be designated (Annex A).
- Designation decisions by other provinces using the Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework are accepted by Student Financial Services, as are the designation decisions of Student Financial Services in other provinces adhering to the Pan-Canadian Designation Policy Framework.
- A resident of the Province has requested that Saint Louis University located in St. Louis, Missouri be reviewed for designation. The student commenced studies at the institution in fall 2019.

Analysis:

- Approximately 0.5 per cent of all student financial aid applications received by Student Financial Services are from students intending to study in the US.
- If an international institution has not been reviewed for designation by another province or if its previous designation has lapsed, the Division reviews the institution under the Newfoundland and Labrador Designation Policy and makes a recommendation to the Minister.
- The Division has performed the necessary due diligence of Saint Louis University. The institution meets the eligibility requirements under *Student Financial Assistance Regulations* and the Newfoundland and Labrador Designation Policy to be designated (Annex A).
- The student's intended program of study does not appear to meet the criteria for out of province students to access the Newfoundland and Labrador Student Grant. A final decision on the program's grant eligibility will occur during the assessment phase of the student's application.

Alternatives:

Option 1. That the Minister, under Section 3 of the *Student Financial Assistance Regulations*, authorizes the Student Financial Services Division to designate Saint Louis University. **(Recommended)**

Advantages:

- The student will be able to access appropriate financial resources to attend the post-secondary education of their choice.

Disadvantages:

- The student will study outside the Province.

Option 2. That the Minister denies the request to designate Saint Louis University. **(Not Recommended)**

Advantages:

- The student will not access federal and provincial student financial aid to attend Saint Louis University.

Disadvantages:

- The student may decide not pursue any post-secondary education.

Prepared/Approved by: L. Butler/ R. Feaver/ C. Ennis-Williams *J. Sanger*

Ministerial Approval: *G. Mitchellmore*

September 17, 2019

Annex A**Designation Criteria:**

- In accordance with the Section 3 of the *Student Financial Assistance Regulations* and Newfoundland and Labrador Designation Policy, all international institutions located in the US must meet the following criteria before they can be designated:
 - Be approved for approved for Title IV funding by the US Department of Education.
 - Be found in the federal school lookup (www.fafsa.ed.gov).
 - Demonstrate stability by having been in operation for one year prior to designation and have graduated at least one class prior to being awarded designation status.

- Furthermore, in order to be designated, institutions must offer at least one program that meets all the following criteria:
 - Offer programming at a post-secondary school level as defined in the Canada Student Financial Assistance regulation as "education at a university or college level, including education of a technical or vocational nature";
 - Offer programs deemed acceptable by the Province in meeting eligibility criteria for federal, provincial and territorial legislation with respect to post-secondary education;
 - Maintain a grade twelve entrance requirement or a mature student policy;
 - Lead to a certificate, diploma or degree;
 - Be at least 12 weeks in length, within a period of 15 consecutive weeks;
 - Have definite program start and end dates; and
 - Not be periods of practical training required for acceptance in a professional organization or for the practice of any trade or profession (such as medical internship/residence, dietetic internship or legal articles), unless that formal instruction or practical training is necessary to obtain a degree, certificate or diploma from that designated educational institution.

Designation Review:

- Saint Louis University is a private university in the United States of America. The college was founded in 1818 and has over 180 programs and over 12,600 students.

- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) provides accreditation to Saint Louis University. HLC is an independent non-profit corporation established in 1895, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct accreditation and pre-accreditation (Candidacy status) activities for institutions of higher education in 19 states throughout the U.S, including Missouri.

Designation Recommendation:

- Saint Louis University meets the eligibility requirements under *Student Financial Assistance Regulations* and the Newfoundland and Labrador Designation Policy to be designated.

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