



**BY EMAIL**

April 21, 2015

OUTlaws Canada (represented by the individuals in the Appendix to this letter)  
outlawscanada@gmail.com

**Re: Correspondence Concerning Approval of Trinity Western University's  
Proposed School of Law**

Dear representatives of OUTlaws Canada,

I am writing in response to your letter of November 24, 2014, in which you raise a number of issues regarding the Federation's approval of Trinity Western University's ("TWU") proposed law school.

As you are no doubt aware, in 2010, Canada's law societies agreed on a uniform requirement that graduates of Canadian common law programs must meet to enter law society admission programs. The National Requirement specifies the competencies and skills graduates must have attained and the law school academic program and learning resources law schools must have in place. The National Requirement applies to graduates of existing and prospective Canadian law schools.

Determination of whether law school programs meet the National Requirement is the mandate of the Canadian Common Law Program Approval Committee (the "Approval Committee"). All existing law school programs are now subject to annual review by the Approval Committee. Prospective programs must also be approved by the committee. Until a new program produces graduates it can receive preliminary approval only. Programs given preliminary approval are subject to periodic review until they are operational after which they too are subject to an annual review process.

As you note, in December 2013 the Approval Committee granted preliminary approval of TWU's proposed law school program. The Approval Committee's decision reflected its conclusion that if implemented as proposed the TWU program would meet the National Requirement. In granting the approval, the committee did express certain concerns about the proposed program and indicated that these issues would need to be addressed in subsequent reviews. No timetable was established for these further reviews. In the ordinary course they would occur as plans for the new program are more fully developed.

The decision of the Approval Committee was but one step in TWU's bid to establish a law school; the consent of the government of British Columbia was another. We are aware that the government has withdrawn its consent pending a final resolution of issues arising from the decision of the Law Society of British Columbia to refuse to approve the TWU program. It is important to note, however, that approval by the BC government was not a precondition for the Approval Committee's process and does not have an immediate impact on its decision.

The Federation is keenly aware of the concerns expressed by many about TWU's proposed law school. The Council of the Federation has established a committee to examine on a priority basis whether the National Requirement should include a non-discrimination provision, something that the law societies did not prescribe when the National Requirement was first established. The National Requirement Review Committee ("NRRC") is also mandated to conduct the first overall review of the National Requirement.

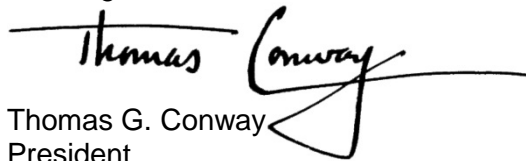
The NRRC will commence its work shortly and is mandated to undertake a consultation process that will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to express their views on the issue of adding a non-discrimination provision to the National Requirement. Information on the consultation process will be available on the Federation's website in due course.

The NRRC is comprised of the following members:

Thomas G. Conway, Federation President, Chair  
 Herman Van Ommen, QC (Vice President, Law Society of British Columbia)  
 Kevin Feth, QC (Past President, Law Society of Alberta)  
 Peter Wardle (Bencher, Law Society of Upper Canada)  
 Tilly Pillay, QC (President, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society)  
 Shauna Van Praagh (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University)  
 Trevor Farrow (Associate Dean and Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School)  
 Diana Miles (Executive Director, Organizational Strategy /Professional Development & Competence, Law Society of Upper Canada)  
 Laurie Pawlitza (Chair, Canadian Common Law Program Approval Committee) Ex officio member  
 Graeme Mitchell (Chair, National Committee on Accreditation) Ex officio member

Should you have any questions about the NRRC or the consultation process I invite you to contact Frederica Wilson, the Federation's Senior Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs. She can be reached at [fwilson@flsc.ca](mailto:fwilson@flsc.ca).

Kind regards,



Thomas G. Conway  
 President

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