



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

APR 30 2001

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Honorable John Toussaint
Minister for Health and Social Security
Government Headquarters
Kennedy Avenue
Roseau
Commonwealth of Dominica
West Indies

Dear Dr. Toussaint:

In October 1997, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the medical accreditation standards used by Dominica to accredit the Ross University School of Medicine were comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. On March 9, 2001, the NCFMEA reviewed the information recently provided by Dominica on its current medical accreditation standards to reassess the comparability of those standards.

The NCFMEA members wish to express their appreciation that Dr. Shillingford, Mr. Michaelson, Ms. Heffernan, and you were able to attend the meeting to present information and answer questions. In reaching its decision, the NCFMEA considered the oral information presented, as well as the written materials submitted to the Department prior to the meeting, and the comments of the NCFMEA member and Department staff who observed the Medical Board's fall 2000 on-site review of Ross University School of Medicine. The NCFMEA, at its March meeting, determined that the accreditation standards used by the Medical Board of Dominica to accredit medical schools in Dominica remain comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. This determination of comparability by the NCFMEA has a maximum duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws, extends or renews its determination prior to that date. Before expiration of the six-year period, the NCFMEA will seek to confirm that your standards and procedures for accrediting medical schools in Dominica are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the United States. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

In an effort to keep apprised of Dominica's accreditation activities, the NCFMEA also requested: (1) that Committee members and Department staff observe the comprehensive on-site review of Ross University School of Medicine that the Medical Board of Dominica plans to conduct in the fall of 2001, and (2) that Dominica submit annual reports to the NCFMEA,

with the first report scheduled for review at the March 2002 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of the annual report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of the Dominica Medical Board's accreditation activities, including the following information:

- **Overview of accreditation activities:** A summary of key activities by the Medical Board during the past year (January 2001-December 2001), such as accreditation reviews conducted, meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- **Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:**
 - **Laws and Regulations:** Any changes in your country's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of your medical schools.
 - **Standards, Processes and Procedures:** Any changes in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that your country uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools.
- **Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:** A listing of accreditation meetings and listing of on-site visits to medical schools planned for January 2002 – December 2002.

Please send the annual report by January 7, 2002, to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Bonnie L. LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7007
Washington, D.C. 20006-7563
U.S.A.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie_LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

As a result of the NCFMEA's determination that Dominica's medical accreditation standards remain comparable, the Ross University School of Medicine may continue to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program as long as it continues to be accredited by the Medical Board of Dominica and it meets all other eligibility criteria for program participation. The U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Schools Team is responsible for determining the eligibility of foreign schools to participate in the FFEL program. If the school has any questions regarding its participation in that loan program, it should contact the Foreign Schools Team at (202) 708-8820, fax (202) 205-2904.

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I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter of importance to American students wishing to study medicine in your country. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or wish any additional information.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

cc: Dr. Dorian Shillingford
Chairman, Medical Board of Dominica

Ms. Elizabeth Heffernan
Mr. Martin Michaelson
Hogan & Hartson