



May 31, 2011

Premier Dalton McGuinty  
Province of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1  
Via Email: [dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Dear Premier McGuinty:

On behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), I am writing to encourage your government to provide the required approvals for the proposed Lakehead University Faculty of Law, and to provide them with the requested funding on a sustainable basis. As you are aware, both the Federation of Law Societies and the Law Society of Upper Canada, noted that when it comes to the legal profession, geography counts. This unique, timely project addresses some of the geographic challenges associated with post secondary legal scholarship, placing students first and helping reduce some of the significant costs incurred by studying elsewhere. This effort is very consistent with section 3.2.2 of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, as it focuses on the development of skills that are critical to both our emerging and priority economic sectors.

We are excited that the Faculty of Law is designed to achieve many of the successes realized by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, by encouraging graduates to practice in northern and rural communities. Having legal scholars trained in Northern Ontario will assist economic development as graduates will have an appreciation and training in Aboriginal, small practice, and natural resource concerns. Again referencing the Growth Plan, this appears just the capacity building for Aboriginal communities outlined in section 7.2.3. We have been pleased to have followed and encouraged the progress on the realization of this law school since it was first envisioned through Nishnawbe-Aski Nation officials in 2005.

As the representatives of the business leadership of Northwestern Ontario, we recognize that the Law School is the type of value added project that will assist the residents of Northern Ontario in moving the economy of the region forward.

We look forward to your support and that of your Government.

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NOACC has been the Voice of Business in Northwestern Ontario since 1931, lobbying for progressive solutions that best fit with the needs of our communities. NOACC represents every active Chamber of Commerce stretching from Greenstone and Marathon, to the Manitoba border in twelve communities. The membership includes over 2300 businesses and some of the largest corporations in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Scribilo". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Andy Scribilo  
President

cc. Minister Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry  
Minister Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities  
Minister Bentley, Attorney General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs  
Bill Mauro, MPP – Thunder Bay/Atikokan  
Dr. Brian Stevenson, Lakehead University President & Vice Chancellor  
Maria Dufresne, Executive Assistant to Vice-President – Lakehead University  
NOACC Chambers