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November 16, 2004

Mr. Ken Brown  
554 Bolivar Street  
Peterborough ON K9J 4R8

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your e-mail message of September 27, 2004, including a copy of your submission to the Postsecondary Review outlining your recommendations on transparency, accountability, and quality control. I am pleased to have an opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations contained in the submission.

With respect to your first recommendation that the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* apply to postsecondary institutions, as outlined in my letter to you of September 22, 2004, I will continue to work closely on this issue with my colleague Gerry Phillips, the Minister responsible for provincial legislation covering freedom of information and protection of privacy. As you know, our government is committed to the principles of openness and transparency. I believe there should be freedom of information in our universities.

You have expressed support for the Audit Statute Law Amendment Act, 2003. If passed, this legislation will give the Provincial Auditor new powers to examine how public funds are spent by transfer payment partners in education, involving value-for-money audits in colleges and universities.

Regarding your final recommendation, strengthening accountability and improving quality in postsecondary education is a priority for our government. I look forward to receiving the Honourable Bob Rae's recommendations on an accountability framework for the postsecondary education sector.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing involvement in the review as this exciting opportunity to shape the future for postsecondary education in the province moves ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Chambers".

Mary Anne Chambers  
Minister