



The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
College Park 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

The Honourable Ross Romano
Minister of Colleges and Universities
5th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

November 12, 2020

Dear Minister Elliott and Minister Romano,

I write on behalf of more than 200 University of Toronto pharmacy graduates awaiting licensing. We are seeking your assistance to ensure these graduates can secure their professional credentials and contribute their essential skills to Ontario's health care system as fully licensed pharmacists.

As you may be aware, the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for pharmacists originally scheduled to take place in May 2020 could not proceed across Canada due to the public health measures in place at that time. Plans for the OSCE have been substantially adapted by the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada for the current public health measures, most importantly by ensuring no more than four people at a time be present in the examination, with 80 students (normally 200) taking the examination over November 8 at the Toronto site.

Earlier this week, the Board was unable to conduct this exam for pharmacy graduates in Toronto on a modified basis due to the interpretation of provincial Stage 2 regulations by Toronto Public Health. These exams took place as planned in Waterloo, Hamilton, and London and in a modified manner in Ottawa. We understand that Toronto Public Health took the interpretation that the exam should be considered an event or conference under the provincial regulations and applied the corresponding capacity limit of 10 'attendees.' We profoundly disagree with this interpretation, and despite the Examining Board's sustained outreach with TPH and MOH, and our outreach with MCU staff to seek an urgent solution to allow the exam to take place, Toronto pharmacy graduates were again unable to complete this assessment. Unlicensed pharmacy graduates are sharing with me that many remain in intern positions, at salaries far below a fair rate for their all-but licensed professional training.

Quebec has addressed this issue by clarifying that examinations leading to the practice of a profession may be treated as higher education assessment activities. We ask you to also recognize that assessments leading to practice for all health care professions in the regulations governing COVID-19 public health measures, paving the way for these graduates to secure employment as fully licensed professionals in Ontario's health care system - when and where they are needed most.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Dolovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Lisa Dolovich
Dean, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy

C/ Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health;
Dr Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health