



Government of Dominica

## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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Commonwealth of Dominica

July 9, 2018

Ms. Lisa Wardell  
President and CEO  
Adtalem Global Education  
500 West Munroe, Suite 28  
**Chicago, Illinois 60661**

Dear Ms. Wardell,

I trust that the on going repairs to the buildings and other infrastructure on the Picard campus of Ross University which were damaged by hurricane Maria, are progressing satisfactorily.

It is my fervent hope that all things considered, there will be a much earlier reopening of the campus than has been indicated in your earlier communication and during your visit in April.

### **Utilities**

I have been fully briefed by the utility companies on the status of their respective programmes for restoration of their services and I take the opportunity to update you on this matter, which I am aware, is of concern to the University.

FLOW, one of the telecommunication service providers, has informed that all internet, mobile and fixed line services were restored at the University in October 2017.

The company will also be deploying a new, state of the art Fibre Network in October 2018, while a new mobile network providing faster speeds and better coverage will be launched by the end of this July 2018.

FLOW is also adding a new fixed LTE technology in the Picard area to provide added data capacity to facilitate Ross students and to meet the requirements of the new five star hotels being constructed in the Portsmouth area and environs.

Digicel, the other telecommunications service provider, has restored 85 percent of its mobile service nationally and the same level of its fibre internet Home and Entertainment service. However, in the Picard area, including Ross University, these services have been fully restored.

The Dominica Electricity Services Limited ( Domlec ), restored electrical power to the University and the Picard area on October 11 2017. This was followed by energising Savanne Paille, a residential community favoured by Ross tutors.

The Government will embark on a comprehensive street lighting programme in the vicinity of student accommodations.

As of today, all the communities in the north of the island have been energised.

Pipe borne potable water was available from October 2017 in the Picard and wider Portsmouth area.

Due for completion by the end of September 2018, is construction works on three storage tanks that will increase the supply to Picard and the Portsmouth area by 190,000 gallons.

### **International Airport & Air Access**

I can also share with you that our plans for building an international airport are proceeding smoothly. Final designs will be available shortly and we have an agreement in principle with a group for its construction. We have been advised that the airport could be completed two years after the contract has been signed.

On the air access side, we are at the stage of advanced discussion with an airline company to provide a weekly service between Dominica and either Fort Lauderdale or Miami. The proposed commencement period of this service is mid October and will last 52 weeks initially.

We are working with Seborne to resume their late afternoon departure from San Juan and early morning departure out of Dominica. We have committed to covering the airline's overnight costs. This arrangement will facilitate better connections in the network with code share partners.

Inter Caribbean has also commenced a thrice weekly service out of the United States with stops in San Juan and Tortolla then on to Dominica.

We expect to conclude an agreement with Air Antilles using Guadeloupe as a hub for Norwegian to move passengers out of JFK airport to Pointe a Pitre, then through to Dominica. This will be a twice weekly service.



LIAT, our regional airline, which provides daily services between the islands in the region, continues to provide same day connections to Dominica from the United Kingdom and the United States via Miami.

With the planned opening of the Cabrits Hotel and Spa in December 2018, the Kempinski Resort and Spa Dominica in 2019 and the Marriott's Anichi Resort and Spa in 2020, all in and around the Portsmouth area – we expect that the Picard campus of Ross University will benefit greatly from improved airlift, improved infrastructure in and around Picard and Portsmouth and improved road access from the airport to the campus.

### **In Closing**

The country has settled down to normal activity. Business and banking services have returned to pre Maria levels, the cruise lines are calling, and we are proceeding with our programme of comprehensive road rehabilitation and improvement.

We are also satisfied that there is a surplus of quality accommodation to house returning faculty and students.

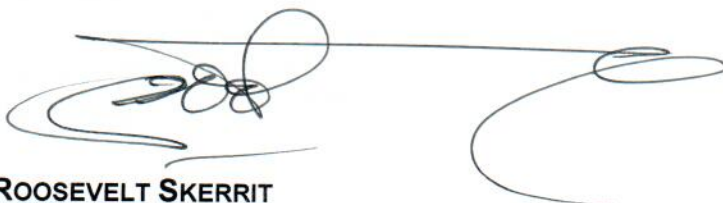
I have held discussions with Mr. Gregor Nassief on the subject of establishing a largely private sector led committee to open a direct line of communication between Dominica's Private Sector and the University and to further advocate on behalf of the University in working with the Government to address concerns. Mr Nassief has agreed to serve as the chairman, and you can expect to hear from him directly.

Finally, I wish to reassure you that all the arrangements we discussed for the accreditation of Ross by the Medical Board are being acted upon to meet the desired expectations of the University, a condition you have emphasised is critical to Ross's return to Dominica.

Do accept my warmest regards as we work together for the recommencement of full operations on the Picard campus of Ross University.

I am prepared to meet with you soonest to discuss our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Skerrit', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**ROOSEVELT SKERRIT  
PRIME MINISTER**