

**Brad Colwill - Fw: Information**

**From:** Sonny Gallant <sjgallant@gov.pe.ca>  
**To:** Brad Colwill  
**Date:** 5/4/2018 7:45 AM  
**Subject:** Fw: Information  
**Attachments:** sig.png

Gallant  
 RESPONSE TO AN  
 ORAL QUESTION  
 TAKEN AS NOTICE  
 4.5.18  
 CM

Sent from my BlackBerry — the most secure mobile device — via the TELUS Network

**From:** abdelaziz@upeil.ca  
**Sent:** May 4, 2018 7:27 AM  
**To:** psbevanbaker@assembly.pe.ca  
**Cc:** jsjayward@assembly.pe.ca; hebell@assembly.pe.ca; SJGALLANT@gov.pe.ca  
**Subject:** Information

Honourable Peter Bevan-Baker:

Good morning. I trust that you are doing well.

It has come to my attention that you raised a number of questions during Question Period yesterday regarding our new initiative that delivers several UPEI programs in Egypt. I have had a number of calls since, asking many questions.

Please permit me to give you some information that may clarify some of the points that you raised. There are actually three institutions that we are working with to deliver UPEI degree programs: the University of Canada-Egypt, the Canadian University Dubai, and Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.

Global outreach and supporting the delivery of our education beyond Canada is an element of being a global citizen. Canadian society and post-secondary education are so highly regarded around the world, teaching our curriculum internationally will result in graduating students who have gained a great appreciation for our values and what we stand for. You made a comment about human rights issues, and while I am not in a position to debate, I would like to bring to your attention that there are many questions about many countries; however, education is the best tool to enhance human rights. Canada has had a great tradition in teaching and demonstrating the values of a civil and just society. In the three countries that we are working with, I met with the Canadian Ambassadors and they were very pleased to endorse our initiatives. In today's global economy, it is important that our students be exposed to international opportunities and such initiatives allow our students to travel to many institutions around the globe. At UPEI, there are international students from over sixty different countries, while many of our Canadian students travel to many global destinations including Africa, Asia and South America on exchange.

In July last year, six faculty members from the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering and the Faculty of Business, including the Dean of the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering, visited Egypt and the new site of the University of Canada-Egypt and were extremely impressed with its vision and mission. Following their return, they discussed the opportunity with their faculty and staff and agreed to deliver their programs in Egypt. The Senate and the Board of Governors of UPEI endorsed this initiative. Yesterday, during the town hall meeting I held on campus, I spoke to faculty, staff, and students about our plan and we followed this with a statement that was included on our web page:

<http://www.upei.ca/communications/news/2018/05/university-prince-edward-island-expands-global-reach>

It is also important to note that we are not the first Canadian university to deliver education in Egypt. Please see below the websites of two institutions that are delivering several programs in Egypt:

<https://www.cbu.ca/come-to-cbu/international-students/cic/>

<http://www.business.mun.ca/programs/masters/mba-cairo/>

In the spirit of openness and transparency, I can demonstrate to you that the funding for all of these initiatives is not coming from UPEI's operating budget. On the contrary, delivering our curriculum abroad will result in more funding coming to our University to support many needed projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you; MLA Hannah Bell; the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable James Aylward; as well as the Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, the Honourable Sonny Gallant, to the University to meet with our senior executive, deans, faculty members and staff, where we can outline our plans and discuss the various arrangements with our overseas partner institutions. I am confident that when you visit us, you will be very excited about this great opportunity, as I know that you are a very strong supporter of education and our great Island.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to your positive response in accepting my invitation, as I want to make sure that our community is aware and supportive of these UPEI initiatives.

Sincerely,

Alaa

Cc: Honourable Sonny Gallant, Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning  
Honourable James Aylward, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Ms. Hannah Bell, Member of the Legislature, Charlottetown-Parkdale

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