



July 31, 2012

**Re: ANDREW MURGATROYD**

Andrew has had two term positions in our mathematics department during the last academic year. One of them was filling in for a teacher who was on leave, and one of them was teaching one course to a select group of students, participating in a specific program.

When Andrew assumed responsibility for the teacher on leave, he was responsible for being a full time teacher, and all of the duties that go along with that. Andrew taught two classes of Pre-Calculus 11 and three classes of Principles of Mathematics 12. The Pre-Calculus course is a brand new course, so Andrew had to work diligently to ensure he was up to speed with the content and teaching techniques of a new course. He worked hard to ensure he was ready for each day, and was willing to ask questions when he encountered difficulties.

Andrew experienced some challenges coming into a class with well-established routines and practices, which I believe is quite normal. However, he seemed to find a real balance between working within these routines and establishing his own practices very quickly. Several of the students enjoyed their time with Andrew, and I believe this is the ultimate compliment a teacher can receive.

When Andrew came to teach the one course during the months of May and June, it was for a program that meant the students missed class time to participate in other activities. This meant that Andrew had to be quite organized in his teaching to ensure the students covered all of the content for the course, and were prepared for the Provincial examination at the end of the course. Again, Andrew accomplished these tasks with relative ease.

Andrew possesses many of the skills of a great teacher, but he needs more opportunities to practice these skills. I believe that he will develop into a very strong teacher as he gains more experience. He is willing to learn from others, question his teaching techniques, and make adjustments as he goes along. He loves learning and sharing his knowledge, and I believe he brings this enthusiasm into his classroom.

I would have no hesitation in recommending Andrew for a teaching position, and would certainly be willing to discuss his characteristics further, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Abrioux  
Head of Mathematics