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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) BETWEEN:

THE GOVERNORS OF LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

(the “LC Board” or “Lethbridge College”)

and

THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

(the “ULeth Board” or the “University of Lethbridge”)

(Collectively referred to as the “Parties”)

WHEREAS the LC Board is seeking to have Lethbridge College re-designated as a polytechnic institution within the Alberta Postsecondary System;

AND WHEREAS the LC Board believes the definition of a polytechnic institution provided by Polytechnic Canada better reflects the role Lethbridge College already plays in southern Alberta’s social and economic prosperity;

AND WHEREAS the LC Board has assured the Ministry of Advanced Education that the re-designation will not introduce duplication into the postsecondary system in the City of Lethbridge and the Southern Alberta region, but will instead maximize collaboration and areas of combined strength, and will identify pathways for students to and from Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge;

AND WHEREAS the LC Board is seeking the support of the University of Lethbridge in its application for polytechnic status;

AND WHEREAS the ULeth Board has significant concerns regarding the introduction of duplication within the postsecondary system in the City of Lethbridge and the Southern Alberta region, given that ULeth already provides the city and region with degree granting options across a comprehensive range of disciplines;

AND WHEREAS the University of Lethbridge already provides a “stay at home option” to earn a degree for residents of the City of Lethbridge and the Southern Alberta region;

AND WHEREAS the ULeth Board believes that the city and the region do not have a large enough population base to support future uncoordinated degree expansion across two institutions, especially should the re-designation of Lethbridge College result in a proliferation and duplication of available degree-granting programs within a city of approximately only 100,000 people;

AND WHEREAS the Post-Secondary Learning Act notes that “a coordinated system is one in which programs are integrated and diverse, without being duplicative or redundant, and in which

the roles of students, educators, providers, industry and government are clearly articulated and differentiated within a collaborative governance model”;

AND WHEREAS both Parties want to safeguard the continued financial viability of both post-secondary institutions residing within the City of Lethbridge and ensure the responsible stewardship of public funds by guaranteeing collaboration and coordination not duplication or redundancy between programs and the postsecondary institutions that offer them;

AND WHEREAS both Parties, within their respective government mandates of a Comprehensive Community College and a Comprehensive Academic and Research University, excel in the provision of applied and work integrated learning opportunities for students within the credentials they offer. This is one of many program strengths the two institutions share;

AND WHEREAS as a result of such shared strengths both Parties already have significant and demonstrated success in collaborative and coordinated programming between the two institutions;

AND WHEREAS both Parties agree that given their shared commitments and strengths more collaboration and coordination is necessary and possible between the two institutions;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree to the following:

- 1) The recitals shall form an integral part of this MOU.
- 2) The University of Lethbridge agrees to support the request for Lethbridge College to be re-designated as a polytechnic, as a result of the provisions of this MOU which formalize the commitment by Lethbridge College to ensure the re-designation to a polytechnic institution does not result in any duplication of degree programming between Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge or elimination/reduction of existing degree collaborations between the two institutions.
- 3) If granted the polytechnic designation, Lethbridge College (under this or a new name which new name shall hereinafter be included in the definition of Lethbridge College) will focus on the continued introduction of diploma, certificate, and apprenticeship credentials, alongside applied research.
- 4) If granted the polytechnic designation, Lethbridge College will not introduce degree programming in areas where collaborative programming already exists between the two institutions.
- 5) If granted the polytechnic designation, in each instance where Lethbridge College intends to propose new degree programming, they agree to take the following steps, in advance of the application for or introduction of that programming to the government:
  - a. Consultation between the Provost of Lethbridge College and the Provost of the University of Lethbridge. Consultation shall consist of a face-to-face meeting wherein the name, substantive content areas, and program learning objectives of proposed new degree programming is shared. Each Provost may invite other relevant members of their senior administrative team (Dean, Registrar, etc.), but should share in advance those who will attend the meeting.

- b. If the Provost of the University of Lethbridge confirms the proposed programming does not introduce duplication of current University of Lethbridge degree programming (fully or substantially) or replace existing collaborations between the two institutions, said Provost shall support the application in writing, for inclusion with government application for new degree programming.
  - i. Substantial duplication shall be deemed anything more than 50% of course offerings within a Lethbridge College proposed degree being substantially similar to University of Lethbridge offerings within a similar or same degree.
  
- c. If the Provost of the University of Lethbridge is concerned that the proposed degree programming introduces substantial duplication of existing University of Lethbridge programming or would potentially replace existing collaborations, the two Provosts will reconvene, including their relevant senior leaders. The University of Lethbridge Provost will share the nature of the duplication, as the starting point to actions (i) and (ii) below.
  - i. In such cases, Lethbridge College agrees to cease the application to introduce the new degree programming. Instead, the two Provosts and their teams will work toward building coordinated or collaborative programming.
  
  - ii. In such cases, both Provosts and their teams agree to engage good faith and timely efforts to build collaborative pathways for students between the two institutions.
  
- 6) Lethbridge College will not make government applications for new degree programs outside of the above process.
  
- 7) The University of Lethbridge will not introduce duplication (fully or substantially) of two existing degree programs offered by Lethbridge College (Criminal Justice and Conservation Enforcement) or replace existing collaborative degree programming between the two institutions. It is acknowledged that where duplication in degree programming already exists (Lethbridge College's Bachelor of Agricultural Science) the University of Lethbridge retains the right to continue to make adjustments to its degree programming (adding, deleting, refashioning) in this area as a result of Academic Quality Assurance and other reviews, and in alignment with its longstanding mandate as a degree-granting institution. In this scenario, the University of Lethbridge agrees to consult with Lethbridge College in advance of finalizing changes.
  
- 8) This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which when taken together constitute one and the same agreement. Copies transmitted electronically, and electronic signatures on documents shall be considered to be as effective and binding as original documents and original signatures.
  
- 9) This MOU shall be effective on the date it is last signed.

10) This MOU shall continue until terminated by way of a further written termination agreement signed by both parties.

DATED AT Lethbridge, Alberta on the dates as set out below.

THE GOVERNORS OF LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

[Redacted Signature]

Lethbridge College President

Jan 26 2024

Date

THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

Per: [Redacted Signature]

University of Lethbridge President

Jan. 26/2024

Date

ACKNOWLEDGED:

[Redacted Signature]

The Governors of Lethbridge College  
Board of Governors Representative

Jan 26 / 24

Date

[Redacted Signature]

The Governors of the University of Lethbridge  
Board of Governors Representative

Jan 26 / 24

Date