

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding

2021-22 to 2024-25

Between

Her Majesty The Queen in Right of The Province of Saskatchewan

(the “Province”)

And

University of Saskatchewan

University of Regina

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research

First Nations University of Canada

Campion College

Luther College

St. Thomas More College

Carlton Trail College

Northlands College

Great Plains College

Cumberland College

Parkland College

North West College

Southeast College

St. Peter’s College

Briercrest College and Seminary

College of Emmanuel and St. Chad

Horizon College and Seminary

Lutheran Theological Seminary

St. Andrew’s College

(the “Institutions”)

PREAMBLE

The Province of Saskatchewan (the “Province”) and the Post-Secondary Institutions (the “Institutions”), together referred to as the “Parties”, commit to the principle that this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) establishes the framework in which the Parties will continue to work collaboratively and strategically to support a high quality post-secondary education and training system that supports students and responds to the needs of Saskatchewan’s people and economy.

Whereas the Parties to this MOU share a commitment to work together to achieve and maintain a post-secondary sector that is accessible, responsive, sustainable, accountable, and provides high quality education.

And whereas the Parties acknowledge that although this MOU is not legally binding, it does provide certainty of operating grant funding over the four-year period (as long as all terms of the MOU are complied with) so Saskatchewan post-secondary education institutions can become more sustainable in alignment with the fiscal capacity of the Province.

Therefore, the Parties agree to enter into this MOU as outlined below.

The core objectives of this MOU are to:

- (a) confirm a pre-determined four-year operating grant funding allocation provided by the Province;
- (b) confirm the Institutions' commitment to long-term financial sustainability;
- (c) confirm accountability requirements for the Institutions; and,
- (d) confirm that the Institutions will adhere to the mutually agreed-upon tuition approach (if applicable) to ensure that post-secondary education remains affordable and accessible to students.

This MOU applies solely to the operating grant funding described below. Other lines of funding are beyond the scope of this MOU.

OPERATING GRANT FUNDING

The Province, in part, provides the funding that the Institutions need to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's economy and communities. To ensure the stability and predictability of operating grant funding in the post-secondary education sector, the Province will provide a four-year funding commitment to the Institutions. This commitment includes incremental targeted operating grant funding in 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Institutions will return to the 2020-21 funding base in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The following Appendices form part of this MOU:

- Appendix "A" applies to the University of Saskatchewan
- Appendix "B" applies to the University of Regina
- Appendix "C" applies to the Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Appendix "D" applies to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
- Appendix "E" applies to the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research
- Appendix "F" applies to the First Nations University of Canada
- Appendix "G" applies to the Campion College
- Appendix "H" applies to the Luther College
- Appendix "I" applies to the St. Thomas More College
- Appendix "J" applies to the Carlton Trail College
- Appendix "K" applies to the Northlands College
- Appendix "L" applies to the Great Plains College
- Appendix "M" applies to the Cumberland College
- Appendix "N" applies to the Parkland College
- Appendix "O" applies to the North West College
- Appendix "P" applies to the Southeast College

Appendix “Q” applies to the St. Peter’s College
Appendix “R” applies to the Briercrest College and Seminary
Appendix “S” applies to the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad
Appendix “T” applies to the Horizon College and Seminary
Appendix “U” applies to the Lutheran Theological Seminary
Appendix “V” applies to the St. Andrew’s College

The Province will provide four years of operating grant funding to each Institution as outlined in its own distinct Appendix.

The Parties acknowledge that payment of any of the operating grant funding is conditional upon the following:

- (a) the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan has appropriated funding out of which the operating grant funding may be paid in the fiscal year in which the payment is made pursuant to this MOU; and,
- (b) the Province confirms that the Institution meets the eligibility criteria with respect to the operating grant funding as detailed in its Appendix.

PRIORITIES

The Parties agree it is critical to achieve long-term financial sustainability of the post-secondary sector while maximizing student outcomes.

The priority areas for the four-year period include: institutional recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic; institutional transition post-COVID-19 Pandemic; academic and administrative innovations; revenue generation and expense reduction initiatives; efficiency through collaboration among institutions; and, other government priorities including *Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan 2020-2030* priorities.

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Parties agree that transparency and accountability are critical for an efficient and sustainable sector. The Parties therefore agree that, for the duration of the MOU:

- (a) the Institutions will provide written confirmation to the Ministry of Advanced Education by April 15th of each fiscal year that they agree to comply with the accountability requirements outlined in their annual budget letter;
- (b) if applicable, the Institutions will provide tuition schedules for all programs for the next academic year and any required exemptions to the Ministry of Advanced Education by May 15th of each fiscal year; and,
- (c) the Institutions will provide accountability reports to the Ministry of Advanced Education on their sustainability efforts by June 30th and January 31st of each fiscal year, in a form that is articulated by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

TUITION – *This section applies only to the Institutions that set tuition for credentialed programs (i.e. degrees, diplomas, certificates)*

To ensure that tuition levels remain accessible for students, the Province supports Institutions to set tuition on the principles of (i) affordability and accessibility, (ii) comparability with programs at peer

institutions, (iii) ensuring quality programming, (iv) providing predictability, and (v) transparency through collaborative consultation.

For the duration of this MOU, the Parties agree that, for the protection of students, the senior administration of the Institution will annually recommend to its approving body (e.g. Board of Governors) that the Institution will generally limit domestic tuition increases for credentialed programs (i.e. degrees, diplomas, certificates) to a maximum of 4.0% (institution-wide average) in each academic year with exemptions, which will be confirmed annually, as follows:

- tuition for international students;
- domestic tuition that falls below the peer comparator median¹; and,
- any other required exemptions confirmed among the Parties.

COUNTERPARTS

This MOU and the Appendices may be executed either in original, portable document format (PDF) or facsimile form by the Parties in one or more counterparts, and when all Parties have executed at least as many counterparts as there are Parties, all of such counterparts shall be deemed to be originals and all such counterparts taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments may be made to this MOU by mutual consent of the Parties. Amendments may be made to individual Appendices by mutual consent of the Province and the Institution designated in the Appendix.

This MOU is effective April 1, 2021, and will expire on March 31, 2025, unless renewed by mutual consent of the Parties.

¹ Note: Once the domestic tuition is at the peer comparator median, it is no longer exempt and is subject to the maximum increase of 4.0% in each academic year.

Appendix “B” [University of Regina]

Conditional on the University of Regina fulfilling the eligibility criteria below, the Province commits to providing operating grant funding to the University of Regina in each of the four fiscal years, as follows:

2021-22 - \$114,001,800

2022-23 - \$114,001,800

2023-24 - \$108,525,800

2024-25 - \$108,525,800

With the exception of 2021-22, in each fiscal year the University of Regina will receive 1/12th of the funding detailed above on a monthly basis. In 2021-22, the University of Regina will receive 1/12th of 2020-21 funding in each of April and May. The outstanding 2021-22 funding will be proportionately distributed over the remaining ten months.

Eligibility Criteria 1

In each fiscal year, the University of Regina is eligible on a monthly basis for its April to June operating grants contingent upon:

- (a) the University of Regina providing written confirmation to the Province by April 15th of its agreement to comply with the manner and form of the accountability requirements as outlined in the University of Regina’s budget letter; and,
- (b) operating in accordance with the conditions of the MOU.

Eligibility Criteria 2

In each fiscal year, the University of Regina is eligible on a monthly basis for its July to January operating grants contingent upon:

- (a) the University of Regina providing a report by June 30th in accordance with the Accountability Requirements section of this MOU, and further detailed in the annual institutional budget letter;
- (b) the University of Regina submitting to the Province by May 15th an annual tuition schedule that has been approved by the University of Regina’s approving body and is in accordance with the Tuition section of this MOU; and,
- (c) operating in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MOU.

Eligibility Criteria 3

In each fiscal year, the University of Regina is eligible on a monthly basis for its February to March operating grants contingent upon:

- (a) the University of Regina providing a report by January 31st in accordance with the Accountability Requirements section of this MOU, and further detailed in the annual institutional budget letter; and,
- (b) operating in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MOU.