

NO: R157

COUNCIL DATE: September 12, 2011

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **August 31, 2011**

FROM: **Sustainability Manager**

FILE: **0510-02**

SUBJECT: **Partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Support of Sustainability Education**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Council about a partnership that has been formed with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in relation to enhanced education opportunities in the area of sustainability.

BACKGROUND

Surrey is home to School District#36, the largest school district in the province, and two universities, Simon Fraser University Surrey campus (SFU Surrey) and KPU's Newton and Cloverdale campuses. The City is committed to supporting post secondary/graduate education with a view to ensuring that a stream of well-educated individuals is available to support economic development in Surrey including in the sustainability sector. The City is very active in developing student awareness about sustainability in Surrey elementary and secondary schools through the Climate Change Showdown and Climate Change Challenge programs. With respect to local post-secondary institutions, the City is a strong supporter of SFU's initiative to introduce Canada's first energy systems engineering program as part of the University's curriculum. At KPU, with support from the City, an exciting and 'first in BC' program will be launched this fall that focuses on sustainability policy studies. These efforts aim to position Surrey's youth as strong contributors to sustainable community building and to building a strong sustainability sector in the local economy.

On March 1, 2010, Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Surrey and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey Campus). Corporate Report R026:2010 attached as Appendix "A" describes a number of initiatives that the City and KPU agreed to pursue collaboratively under the MOU. The partnership discussed in this report is consistent with objective 2.6 of the MOU that reads "Develop and support community-based initiatives that address economic, social, and cultural issues with a view to establishing both the City and KPU as leaders in sustainability policy and practice".

DISCUSSION

Program Overview

In September 2011, KPU is launching a new Bachelor of Arts - Policy Studies program in their Faculty of Humanities. Graduates from this Program will be suitable for jobs as policy researchers or sustainability officers with government and private sector organizations. According to the BC Labour Market Outlook: 2009-2019, there will be significant ongoing demand (both replacement and expansion) for policy and program officers, researchers and consultants. Given the sustainability theme of the Policy Studies BA, KPU expects that these will be numerous employment opportunities for the Program's graduates.

City of Surrey Involvement

The City will be part of this new Program. The City's role will be to provide opportunities for students to earn credits while working on sustainability projects in partnership with City Departments. Two (2) courses focused on direct City of Surrey involvement have been included in the curriculum; these being POST 3110: Economics and Sustainability and POST 4110: Policy Applied Seminar 1. These courses will allow students to carry out research for and engage City staff and other stakeholders (as needed) in sustainability projects and undertake policy analysis and development on sustainability matters of interest to the City.

To support the launch of the Program, the City:

- Supported the selection of qualified instructors for the City of Surrey studio courses by participating in interviews for applicants for the studio courses;
- Scoped topics of joint-interest with program administrators at KPU. As a program within the Humanities Faculty, KPU administrators are keenly interested in social justice aspects of sustainable communities as well as governance. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to: comprehensive community food policy; sustainable procurement policy; energy security and reducing energy poverty; and, poverty reduction in general;
- Will identify projects and sponsor Departments and related City staff who will work with students on policy matters; and,
- Encourage interaction between KPU students and instructors and City staff through coordinating presentations with staff, stakeholders and others; coordinating Lunch & Learn sessions for staff; and/or, using the City's website as a means for sharing information.

Noteworthy aspects of the new Program include:

- It is the only Bachelor of Arts program in the province devoted to sustainability policy;
- It is the only degree that allows students to earn credits while working on sustainability projects in partnership with local governments; and
- It is the only program where students work with, and are mentored by, an expert currently working in the field of sustainability policy.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Sustainability Charter identifies as a key strategy engaging the community and educating youth on Surrey's sustainability issues. The partnership described in this report supports the achievement of action item SC20: Coordination with Local Educators on Sustainability that is contained in the City's Sustainability Charter.

CONCLUSION

The Sustainability Charter sets out a vision for sustainability in Surrey and acts as an overarching policy document for the City. The City and KPU are working together to engage the community and co-create policy responses to pressing Surrey sustainability issues. A new Program of studies is being offered by KPU with the assistance of the City in the area of sustainability, which will prepare students to address the opportunities and challenges in this important area.

Peter Russell
Sustainability Manager

PR/mc

q:\admin\managers\corporate reports\2011\partnership with kpu for sustainability education.docx
MC 9/9/11 8:41 AM

Appendix "A" – Corporate Report Ro26;2010 - MOU between the City of Surrey and Kwantlen
Polytechnic University (Surrey Campus)



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R026**

COUNCIL DATE: **March 1, 2010**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 24, 2010**

FROM: **Deputy City Manager**

FILE: **0510-20**

SUBJECT: **Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Surrey and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey Campus)**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign, on behalf of the City of Surrey, the Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) that is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about an MOU between the City of Surrey and KPU that has been drafted and to seek Council authorization for the Mayor to sign the MOU on behalf of the City.

BACKGROUND

The City is home to two KPU campuses (the main campus in Newton and the Trades campus in Cloverdale) and is interested in working with KPU in ensuring the success of the University and in leveraging the programs and services provided by KPU in continuing to build a great city.

The City of Surrey and KPU have common goals aimed at enriching the development of a vibrant City. The draft MOU is intended to focus both parties on working together in developing plans and formulating strategies to achieve these goals.

DISCUSSION

To formally recognize the mutual benefits of working together, City staff and senior officials of KPU have drafted the MOU that is attached as Appendix A to this report. The MOU articulates the common goals of the parties (Part 1) and charts a course of work for the parties over the next 24 months to achieve the goals (Part 2).

In addition to articulating the goals and charting a course of work for the next 24 months, the MOU also documents an intended strategy for communications between the City and KPU (Part 3) as the work contemplated by the MOU is undertaken. As a minimum, an annual report will be forwarded to City Council and to KPU's senior executive and formal presentations will be made on a semi-annual basis to the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. The report and presentations will provide an opportunity to review priorities and issues, assess the success of joint strategies and discuss partnership opportunities. Additional reports and communications will be provided on an "as needed" basis.

This MOU with KPU is similar in form to the MOU that the City has executed with SFU Surrey. The draft MOU was considered and endorsed by the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee at its meeting on January 11, 2010. The Committee recommended that it be forwarded to Council for approval.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed MOU supports the following Charter Scope Actions:

- EC17: *Educating the Work Force*, which speaks to promoting local career training opportunities and working with the City's universities to develop them as world class institutions with a variety of programs that serve the future of the region and City, and build on the City's strengths;
- SC15: *Literacy, Education and Training*, which notes that the City will champion the expansion of KPU's Surrey campus in programs and research areas critical to Surrey's socio-cultural, economic and environmental development; and
- SC6: *Accessible and Appropriately Located Services*, which speaks to promoting additional opportunities for post-secondary education within Surrey.

The MOU's goal of establishing the City and KPU as leaders in sustainability policy and practice will facilitate implementation of the Charter and sustainability more broadly within the community, while the specific elements focusing on health sciences and joint amenities and facilities are also supportive of the Charter objectives.

CONCLUSION

There are significant benefits to both the City and KPU, in working together toward the achievement of goals related to the future of KPU and of the City. Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that City Council authorize the Mayor to sign, on behalf of the City of Surrey, the Memorandum of Understanding with KPU that is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

Dan Bottrill
Deputy City Manager

DB/mc

q:\admin\managers\corporate reports\2010\kpu mou - feb 2010.doc
MC 9/9/11 8:41 AM

Attachment – Appendix "A"

APPENDIX “A”

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SURREY AND KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

1. The City of Surrey (the "City") and Kwantlen Polytechnic University ("KPU"), together referenced as “the Partners”, have some common goals aimed at fostering the growth and development of a rich and vibrant City. These include:
 - 1.1. *The expansion and development of the Surrey campus of KPU in support of a well educated Surrey workforce to enhance opportunities for business development in Surrey; and*
 - 1.2. *The joint development and use of amenities and facilities that will enhance the quality of life of both KPU students and the City residents.*
2. In support of the above goals, the Partners will work together over the next twenty four months (progress to be reviewed after the first twelve months with amendments as necessary) to accomplish the following:
 - 2.1 *Develop a plan for a new Health Science Centre enabling further expansion of associated education programs including the potential for a new nursing school. Other partners in this initiative could include Simon Fraser University and Fraser Health Authority. In support of this objective, the Partners will meet with all parties to develop the strategy including a communication plan for the provincial and federal governments regarding the importance to Surrey and the South Fraser Region of additional undergraduate and graduate programs in Science and Health Sciences;*
 - 2.2 *Establish a Business Incubator Area to foster new and innovative businesses with some linked to the commercialization of ideas emanating from KPU and SFU. Surrey KPU land holdings on the Trades and Technology Campus is one potential location. Other partners in this initiative could include Simon Fraser University, federal and provincial government agencies, and private sector companies. The Business Incubator Area would support start-up or early-stage businesses as a foundation of a more vibrant business community in Surrey with more knowledge-based jobs;*
 - 2.3 *Expedite the further expansion of the Cloverdale, Surrey KPU campus to facilitate the introduction of an Architecture/Engineering School. In support of this objective, the Partners will liaise with other potential industrial / business partners and develop a communication plan for the provincial and federal government regarding the importance of additional undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture and Engineering;*
 - 2.4 *To further KPU student athletics and additional recreation opportunities for the City’s residents, install an artificial turf field at Newton Athletic Park. To this end, the Partners will negotiate an agreement in relation to the construction and operation of such a field and will complete construction of the field;*
 - 2.5 *Explore other opportunities for the joint development and use of recreation and library facilities and for the support of athletics and recreation;*

- 2.6 *Develop and support community-based initiatives that address economic, social, and cultural issues with a view to establishing both the City and Kwantlen Polytechnic University as leaders in sustainability policy and practice; and*
- 2.7 *Develop initiatives targeted at retaining and growing Surrey businesses and attracting new businesses to Surrey and the South Fraser region, such as participating in trade missions to the Asia-Pacific sponsored by the provincial and federal governments with other business leaders from Surrey.*
- 3 To ensure on-going communication and the sharing of plans and activities, the Partners agree to the following:
- 3.1 *The General Manager, Investment and Intergovernmental Relations for the City of Surrey and the Executive Director, External Relations for Kwantlen Polytechnic University will provide an annual report of activities and accomplishments to each of City Council and KPU's senior executive;*
- 3.2 *KPU will make a formal presentation to the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee each year. This will provide an opportunity to review priorities and issues, assess the success of joint strategies and projects and discuss new partnership opportunities; and*
- 3.3 *The Partners will provide other reports and communications to City Council, the KPU senior executive and Board of Governors, the City's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and others where such reports and communications are considered necessary or expedient in relation to accomplishing the objectives of this MOU.*

The above is in addition to existing collaboration between KPU's administration, the City Manager's Office, the City's Economic Development Division, the City's Planning and Development Department and, the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

Dated this day of , 2010.

Signed on behalf of the City of Surrey by:

Dianne L. Watts
Mayor

Signed on behalf of Kwantlen Polytechnic University by:

David W. Atkinson
President and Vice-Chancellor