

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

Development of vocational education programs in collaboration
between

NORTH KARELIA MUNICIPAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CONSORTIUM, RIVERIA
(hereinafter referred to as Riveria)

AND

CITY OF QUESNEL
(hereinafter referred to as Quesnel)

FIRST:

1) Riveria is a provincial vocational institution established in 1964, and it is owned by 12 municipalities. Riveria operates under licence from Ministry of Education of Finland. It has provided education programmes and training services to the community and the world of work in the region of North Karelia in Finland and its services and operations extend to national and international markets.

Riveria offers over 100 initial, further, and specialist qualification programmes to 17,000 students, and has 700 staff members. Riveria has extensive experience in education, and it specializes in competence-based services, with the attitude of responsibility and effectiveness in vocational training and development with and for the world of work. Besides the diverse vocational programmes, Riveria also runs the summer university and community college in the region North Karelia.

Work-based teaching methods have an important role to play in collaboration with companies. Riveria enhances developing skills and entrepreneurship in all fields of study. In addition to student training, Riveria educates many entrepreneurs and workers in companies. There are several study programmes for continuous education and specialisation studies, but also competence testing methods for operators. The Ministry of Education has awarded Riveria the National Quality Award of Vocational Training four times. Riveria has international programmes and activities. The quality and work life collaboration are at a high level.

Managers, trainers, operators, and maintenance specialists have been educated worldwide. Riveria has nearly 30 years of experience in international programmes and activities. The quality and work life collaboration are at a high level (including such companies as Normet, Sandvik, John Deere, Ponsse, KESLA). Considering the simulator development, Riveria has collaborated with companies, to create the digitalized training settings and technology. In addition, Riveria collaborates with the best, such as like Karelia University of applied science and University of Eastern Finland.

2) Quesnel is in the heart of a pivotal transition occurring in British Columbia's interior forest ecosystems. Changes in training and workforce development will be necessary to navigate this transition. A major challenge the sector is facing in the coming years is a lack of trained operators to carry out complex forest operations. Innovative harvesting equipment, commonly used in Europe, allows

for “lighter touch”, “zero-waste”, and other more diverse silvicultural treatments more effectively than traditional harvesting methods. The City of Quesnel and our project partners want to collaborate with Riveria on the training school initiative and position Quesnel as the training hub. This type of training is necessary to advance the Province of BC’s aspirations for forest management will require a different approach to harvesting. To interrupt the wildfire cycle, BC’s mode of harvesting will increasingly need to become a forest health intervention, requiring a dramatic move away from large-scale clearcuts with feller-bunchers. Climate mitigation, protecting biodiversity, old growth management, and forest landscape planning and restoration will all require more sophisticated and nuanced harvesting methodologies that will require a significant increase in the volume of timber harvested using alternate and select harvesting technologies.

SECOND: Through this Memorandum of Understanding, the parties recognize their support and commitment to the collaboration. Riveria and Quesnel are developing education in BC - Canada, based on Finnish Vocational education and training and best practices in the forestry industry.

The parties shall collaborate in the following:

1. Riveria offers the following EduSolution services (consultation) to support development and establishment of forestry education in BC. Services are designed according to the needs of Quesnel, and the price will be agreed separately.
 - 1.1. Development of education curriculums (such as goals, curriculum, qualifications, assessment, collaboration with companies, teaching settings and methods, on the job training and education of assessors)
 - 1.2. Competence development, through organizing tailor-made study visits for teachers, company trainers, managers of different organization in forestry and governmental visitors (1-7 days), or Educational Experience Camps (EduCamp 1-3 weeks). These programs may include workshops and cultural activities. These are always designed according to the needs of the participants and price will be agreed separately.
 - 1.3. Development of standardized training assessment methods, competence tests, and the documentation process by using digital tools and materials.
 - 1.4. Education of company trainers to take a role as teachers in practical operator skills training and to act as assessors to ensure high quality education.
 - 1.5. Development of the teaching process and content for simulator training, creating videos and adapting to different learning environments.
 - 1.6. Development of digital platforms suitable to provide students with personalized study paths, to be used for the whole duration of the training.
 - 1.7. Enhancement of collaboration with forestry manufactures.
 - 1.8. Gather information about forestry in both Finland and in Canada, and organize online-meetings as well as seminars together.
 - 1.9. Support the exchange of students and teachers, based on a self-financed model. Each student/school pays one’s own costs. Education or on the job training are organized by the receiving organization, with duration, goals, group size being negotiated separately.

1.10. Creating and implementing projects together to develop common topics and to share practices.
Searching for suitable finance is reciprocal.

THIRD: The implementation of the collaboration mentioned above is subject to the conclusion of specific written agreements between both parties, separately in which development services of education programs and other conditions are mentioned. Both parties will sign separate agreement for the execution of the joint Quesnel - Riveria education program development project (Centre wise/Project wise), as well as in relation to financials.

FOURTH: The collaboration will be implemented in Canada and Finland or other countries relevant to the activities, as agreed by the parties in writing.

FIFTH: One party shall not be liable to the other party for any indirect, incidental or consequential damages or costs: The parties will attempt to resolve any dispute, controversy or claim related to this Memorandum of Understanding through negotiations.

SIXTH: This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from the date of signatory by both parties and shall be renewable after re-negotiation procedures have been completed. Either party shall be able to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding on giving at least six months prior notice to the other party in writing. This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up and signed in English. Each party shall keep one copy.

SEVENTH: The parties agree as an essential proposal for any cooperative effort, that all participants in the programs created in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will be selected with full respect for equal opportunities for all people in accordance with the policies of each party and without distinction of race, sex, age, national origin or religious affiliation of the participants or candidates to participate.

EIGHTH: The parties agree that all specific financial agreements are agreed separately through negotiations.

NINTH: Each institution shall designate a contact person to develop and coordinate specific activities or programs.

TENTH: Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved amicably through consultations or negotiations between the parties.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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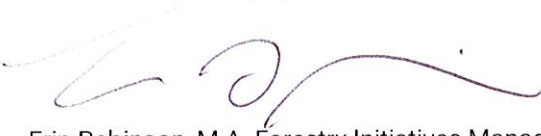
Tel: 1-250-255-6002

Renewal of MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING signed in 2023, and as a sign of their conformance and ratification of all the above, two copies of the same shall be signed herein.

Joensuu, Finland, on 20st December 2023



Esa Karvinen, Principal, Riveria



Erin Robinson, M.A. Forestry Initiatives Manager

Jan 19, 24