

Memorandum *of* Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed this 16th day of June, 2023,
by the undersigned, acting on behalf of their respective parties.



Town of Wolfville



Acadia University



Acadia Students' Union

Signed on the 16th day of June, 2023
in Wolfville, Nova Scotia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Donovan', written over a horizontal line.

Wendy Donovan
Mayor
Town of Wolfville

Signed on the 16th day of June, 2023
in Wolfville, Nova Scotia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Peter Ricketts', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Peter Ricketts
President and Vice-Chancellor
Acadia University

Signed on the 16th day of June, 2023
in Wolfville, Nova Scotia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadie McAlear', written over a horizontal line.

for Sadie McAlear
President
Acadia Students' Union

Memorandum
of
Understanding

June 16, 2023



Town of Wolfville



ACADIA
UNIVERSITY

Acadia University



Acadia Students' Union

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

hereinafter referred to as The Town

and

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

hereinafter referred to as Acadia

and

ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION

hereinafter referred to as the ASU

REVISED on 29 March 2023, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between The Town, Acadia, and the ASU. The entities listed above may collectively be referred to as the Parties to this MOU.

I. PURPOSE:

Recognizing that we are stronger together than if working in isolation, the Town, Acadia, and the ASU wish to transcend the traditional Town and Gown framework to create the most unified university-town model possible to support our collective goal of becoming an integrated community in which we live, work, and study. This MOU describes a framework that mobilizes our efforts to ensure we best meet the needs of the comprehensive community and our respective institutions.

II. KEY PRINCIPLES:

The Parties are guided by the following key principles:

1. We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We embrace the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability in our collaborative work.
2. Wolfville is only Wolfville with Acadia, and Acadia is only Acadia with Wolfville. The Town, Acadia, and ASU recognize that our organizations are intrinsically intertwined, each living up to its full potential of success only with the support and partnership of the other. The Parties actively invite one another to optimize the academic, research, cultural, athletic, recreational, business, economic, and entertainment opportunities provided through their various offices and departments.
3. We willingly invest in each other through dedicated resources, funding, and collaborative partnerships. The Town, ASU, and Acadia believe that greater benefit will be achieved if each invests in the other's success.

4. We share a joint responsibility to commit to a high standard of community livability for all residents of Wolfville. Residents deserve to live in a town that is attractive, safe, healthy, and affordable where neighbours appreciate, support, and respect one another. Challenges posed by food insecurity, poor or inadequate housing, or behaviours that are incompatible with the objectives of community well-being are addressed promptly, through collaboration and with sensitivity to all parties.
5. We have a duty to ensure the success of all Acadia students. Acadia students gain experience and knowledge not only through Acadia's academic programs and on-campus experiences, but by integrating as proud citizens of the Town of Wolfville. Their involvement as residents of Wolfville should be enriching and contribute to an overall positive experience for visitors and permanent residents alike.
6. We will proactively consult and collaborate frequently with each other, with students of Acadia, residents of the Town, and other key stakeholders on matters of mutual concern before decisions are made by any one Party that would impact another.

II. SHARED GOALS:

1. Economic Development

The Parties, through engagement with entities including, but not limited to, Events Acadia, Acadia's Office of Industry and Community Engagement, the Wolfville Farmers Market, Valley Regional Enterprise Network, Kentville Research and Development Centre, and Wolfville Business Development Corporation, pursue and leverage joint research and economic development opportunities that provide benefit to the Town, University, and ASU.

2. Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment

Though consultative and collaborative strategic planning the Parties manage and promote facilities and infrastructure, including parks and open spaces in addition to physical infrastructure, in an environmentally sustainable manner such as to optimize their mutual benefit to all residents and visitors to Acadia and Wolfville.

3. Community Well-Being

The Parties work together to create and sustain a healthy, safe, supportive, affordable, and respectful community for all residents and visitors by:

- a. encouraging the engagement and interaction of all members of the community
- b. seeking affordable and safe housing options for all residents, including students and future students
- c. developing community-based solutions to enhancing food security
- d. committing to compliance of all federal and provincial statutes and regulations, Town bylaws and policies including but not limited to the Noise Bylaw & Nuisance Party Bylaw, and Acadia's Non-Academic Judicial Student Code of Conduct

IV. IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The Parties will provide representatives to the Wolfville and Acadia Town and Gown Committee as follows:
 - President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University
 - 1 member of the Board of Governors or Senate (2-year term)
 - President of the Acadia Student Union
 - One member of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), usually the Community Relations Representative
 - Mayor of the Town of Wolfville
 - 1 member of the Town Council (2-year term)
 - 1 resident of the Wolfville community. Both the Town and Acadia will cause notice of this position and its subsequent vacancy to be advertised publicly. The member so chosen shall be selected by the other 6 Committee members (2-year term, renewable for 1 additional term subject to Committee approval)
2. The Committee will be chaired by the Mayor of the Town of Wolfville and the President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University on an alternating annual basis.
3. The mandate of the Committee is to serve as stewards of this Memorandum of Understanding and to promote its shared goals.
4. The Committee meets quarterly throughout the calendar year, usually in January, April, September, and November, or as required.
5. Each partner will appoint an administrative lead to support the Committee and champion the deliverables of the shared goals.
6. A joint annual workplan is proposed by the administrative leads to the Town and Gown Committee for endorsement, usually at the November meeting.
 - a. The workplan is developed by the administrative leads with input from employees and other contributors as required. The administrative leads may from time-to-time establish working groups or ad-hoc committees to inform or execute the annual workplan.
 - b. Once endorsed by the Committee, the joint annual workplan is forwarded to the Parties.
 - c. The administrative leads will provide workplan progress reports at Committee meetings and a year-in-review summary of accomplishments, usually at the June meeting.
7. The Committee meetings will be held in a hybrid format (in-person and virtual)
8. The meetings are open to the public

V. LENGTH OF AGREEMENT

1. Subject to paragraph V.3 below, the Parties anticipate that this MOU will remain in effect indefinitely.
2. An informal review of effectiveness of this MOU will be held every two years. A formal review will be conducted every 4 years to ensure that the shared goals and key principles remain relevant and current. Any changes as a result of these reviews may require an amending agreement by the Parties.
3. Any Party may withdraw from this MOU with one year written notice. This MOU will cease to be in effect upon the withdrawal of any Party.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below:

The initial official designates are:



Wendy Donovan
Mayor, Town of Wolfville

June 16 / 23
Date



Peter Ricketts
President, Acadia University

16th June 2023
Date



Sadie McAlear
President, Acadia Students' Union

16-6-2023
Date