Minute No. 54
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – November 9, 2021

Item No. 2 **Renewal of the Articulation Agreement with Thompson Rivers University for the Provision of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Credit for Graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Program**

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver an agreement for the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Programs with Thompson Rivers University, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreement for the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Programs with Thompson Rivers University and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future agreements with respect to the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advance Care Paramedic Programs, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 17, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 9, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Renewal of the Articulation Agreement with Thompson Rivers University for the Provision of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition Credit for Graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Program

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection Community Services and Parks – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
T. Reid	C. Schmidt	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most recent articulation agreement between Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and the City of Winnipeg (City) has expired. Under this agreement, TRU agreed to grant prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) credit to graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) programs, which could be used by WFPS graduates towards TRU's post-secondary education programs.

TRU has continued to grant PLAR credits to WFPS graduates as outlined in the expired agreement since its expiry, but requested to renew their agreement with the City to properly reflect current WFPS programming, University programs and available PLAR credits. The WFPS Paramedic Training Division submitted updated program information to TRU to facilitate renewal of this agreement. TRU has indicated a willingness to continue the partnership and has submitted an updated draft agreement to the City for review.

There are no costs to the City for this agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver an agreement for the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Programs with Thompson Rivers University, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreement for the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic Programs with Thompson Rivers University and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future agreements with respect to the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit for graduates of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Primary and Advance Care Paramedic Programs, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required for the agreement between the City of Winnipeg and Thompson Rivers University for the provision of prior learning assessment and recognition credit to graduates of the WFPS Primary and Advance Care Paramedic programs.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no financial impact for the City of Winnipeg or WFPS.

Graduates of the WFPS Primary or Advanced Care Paramedic program would be granted PLAR credits from TRU to be used towards the achievement of TRU post-secondary education programs.

The agreement would facilitate WFPS paramedics in gaining valuable post-secondary education which would enhance the delivery of emergency medical services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

The proposed agreement is a commitment to employee professional development and a positive influence on employee morale.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In 2012, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) applied to Thompson Rivers University (TRU) for assessment of the Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic programs for prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) credits towards post-secondary education programs. TRU agreed to provide PLAR credits for both programs.

In 2013, the City entered into the initial articulation agreement with TRU for the provision of PLAR credit for graduates of the Primary and Advanced Care Paramedic programs. This agreement expired on August 29, 2014. TRU has continued to grant PLAR credits to WFPS graduates under the terms of the expired agreement.

In 2018, TRU contacted the WFPS Paramedic Training Division to begin the process to formally update the articulation agreement. Following that request, WFPS submitted information for the Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) program for consideration by TRU. WFPS did not submit updated information regarding the Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program because WFPS stopped delivering the PCP program in 2014 and no longer holds a PCP accreditation from the Canadian Medical Association. The PCP Program information from the original articulation agreement will remain in the updated agreement so that any future offering, or past graduates, of the PCP Program will remain eligible for PLAR credit.

In July 2021, TRU completed its review of the WFPS submission and agreed to continue providing PLAR credits to WFPS graduates under the terms of an updated agreement, a draft of which has been shared by TRU and sent to the City for review.

The following is a summary of the key terms in the updated agreement:

Term	This Agreement will become effective on the date of signing and ending on December 31, 2026.
Termination	Either party can terminate the agreement by: Notifying the other in writing at least 3 months before the end of the then current term of its desire to terminate; or for any reason at any time by giving 3 months prior written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, all WFPS employees enrolled in the ACP program as of the date of termination will be entitled to the benefit of the agreement upon graduation despite its termination.
Services	The WFPS PCP and ACP Program is eligible for PLAR credits in the following TRU program(s): • PCP program is granted a maximum of 51 PLAR credits into the Diploma of General Studies. • ACP program is granted a maximum 69 PLAR credits into the Bachelor of General Studies. • ACP program is granted a maximum of 69 PLAR credits into the Bachelor of Health Science.
Costs	• There are no costs to the City from this agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: September 22, 2021

Project Name:
Atriculation Agreement between COW and Thompson Rivers University

COMMENTS:
There are no anticipated finacial impacts to the COW as a result of this agreement.

original signed by
John Hall, FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Division: Paramedic Training
Prepared by: Todd Reid, Director, Paramedic Education and Training
Date: September 22, 2021
File No: N/A