



#300, 10328 81 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 1X2

September 29, 2020

Office of the President
2-24 South Academic Building
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7

Attention: Dr. Bill Flanagan,

Office of the Provost
2-40 South Academic Building
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7

Attention: Dr. Steven Dew

Dear Sirs:

Re: GO Centre Venture Agreement – Parking Issues

We are writing with respect to the GO Centre Venture Agreement (GCVA) between GO Community Centre (the “GCC”) and the University of Alberta’s Board of Governors (the “University”).

The GCVA governs the relationship between the University and the GCC and the operation of the GO Centre/Saville Community Sports Centre at the University of Alberta (the “GO Centre”). Article 2.02 of the GCVA required the University, as its initial contribution to the Sports Centre, to provide “sufficient parking and parking infrastructure in relative proximity to the GO Centre to accommodate the needs of users of the GO Centre. Article 2.03 of the GCVA requires the University, on an ongoing basis, to “provide free parking in relative proximity to the GO Centre for users of the GO Centre”. Fees or expenses relating to the provision of parking for GO Centre users is the sole responsibility of the University (see article 1.01(y)).

Free parking was one of the GCC’s primary considerations when entering into the GCVA. The GO Centre was conceived as a facility to promote and support community engagement with sports programs, and affordable and accessible parking was identified early on as an essential characteristic of such a facility. At the time the University enticed the GCC to build the facility on University land rather than at John Fry Park, the promise of free parking for the users of the Go Centre was a key element in the decision to proceed with the GCVA. Affordable parking is necessary to ensure that families can afford to enroll their children in programs scheduled at the GO Centre. Accessible parking is necessary given the nature and users of the GO Centre, in particular for parents with small children and voluminous sports equipment.

Since 2016, the University has attempted to remove or lessen the free parking available. Initially it was a part of the proposal to the City of Edmonton to build the new twin arenas. That particular project stalled in part because the City wanted to ensure that the University was respecting its parking obligations under the GCVA. In September of 2018, one of the University’s representative on the GC Venture Board, Andrew Sharman, announced that the University would be converting the Parking Lot to paid parking and that GO Centre users would

no longer be able to park for free in the Parking Lot. A Parking subcommittee of the Board was established to explore avenues for solutions which could address the University's objectives while respecting its obligations under the GCVA.

Over approximately the last year, the University has proposed different methods that would either reduce the amount of free parking stalls for GO Centre users or transition costs of parking to the GCC. The GCC has attempted to work with the University to find a solution which addresses the University's issues, ensures that the GO Centre is still accessible to GO Centre users, and upholds the obligations of the GCVA. However, in late August, the University presented a memorandum of understanding to the GO Venture Board setting out the terms for a "South Campus Parking Pilot" intended to launch on October 1, 2020. This proposal lacks any improvements or benefits for GO Centre users, and is unilaterally for the benefit of the University. It does not uphold the obligations of the University under the GCVA and poses significant risks to the longevity of the GO Centre. We view the pursuit of this Parking Pilot as a breach by the University of the GCVA.

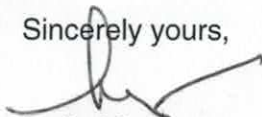
The GCC is requesting that the University suspend this Parking Pilot and address the parking issue in a manner that respects its obligations. We have been open to resolutions which represent a fair compromise for all parties under the GCVA, but this proposal is entirely one sided.

The Saville Community Sports Centre – West (GO Sports) facility has been a huge success and now that it has reopened during the pandemic, we had hoped that the University Administration would look at further investing in the ongoing success of the facility by improving the parking inventory, not only for the current south campus recreation users, but for future south campus developments. Rather they have chosen to notify us of their intent to do the opposite and breach both the spirit and the letter of the GO Centre Venture Agreement.

We noted the recent weekend opinion piece by Senator Paula Simons in the Edmonton Journal about another instance of the University being taken to task for failing to respect an agreement which resulted in its acquisition of the Campus St Jean. We are of the view that a venerable institution with "Quaecumque Vera" as its motto, should respect the Agreements it signs.

Should the University move forward with its proposal for the "South Campus Parking Pilot", the GCC will consider this a default under the GCVA and take appropriate steps thereunder.

Sincerely yours,



Lydia Migus,
President – GO Community Centre

Cc: Chair of the Board of Governors – Kate Chisholm
Chancellor Peggy Garritty

Cc: GO Community Centre Funding Partners;



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City of Edmonton
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Councillor – Michael Walters (Ward 10)
Councillor – Tim Cartmell (Ward 9)
Roger Jevne - Branch Manager Citizen Services

Government of Alberta
Hon. Demetrios Nicolaidis – Minister of Advanced Education
Jesse Robertson – Chief of Staff to the Minister of Advanced Education
Dr. Curtis Clarke – Deputy Minister, Advance Education
Hon. Leela Aheer – Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Mandi Johnson – Chief of Staff to the Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Lora Pillipow – Deputy Minister, Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Yvette Ng – Executive Director, Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch
Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Lori Sigurdson – MLA for Edmonton-Riverview
Rachel Notley – Leader of the Official Opposition, MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona
Nicole Goehring – MLA for Edmonton-Castledowns, Opposition Critic for Culture

Government of Canada
Hon. Mélanie Joly - Minister, Economic Development and Official Languages
Western Economic Diversification Canada
Dylan Jones – Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada
Heather McPherson – Member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona
James Cumming – Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre