MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR THE CREATION OF A CONSORTIUM FOR THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO HEALTH

(herewith: the Consortium)

Parties to the present agreement are the following:

1) Université du Québec à Montréal, CP 8888, succ. Centre-ville, Montreal, QC, H3C 3P8, Canada

2) University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC, V2N 4Z9, Canada

3) York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3, Canada

4) Université de Moncton, 18 Antonine-Maillet Ave, Moncton, NB, E1A 3E9, Canada

5) University of Toronto, 155 College St, Toronto, ON, M5T 3M7, Canada

6) Simon Fraser University, Office of Research Services, Discovery 2, Room 230, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6, Canada

IT IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THAT:

WHEREAS the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health (CoPEH-Canada) is an adaptive community of practice working to address problems emerging at the intersection of health, the environment and society;

WHEREAS establishing and maintaining this community of practice requires explicit inter-institutional cooperation;

WHEREAS there is a history of collaboration within the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health since 2008;

WHEREAS there is a common intent on the part of the signing parties to formalise an inter-institutional commitment to support ongoing cooperation within the field of ecosystem approaches to health;

The signing organizations agree on the creation of a “Consortium for the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health” (“The Consortium” in what follows) whose mission and organizing terms are as follows:
Article 1. Mission

The Consortium’s mission is to facilitate and strengthen existing exchange among member organizations in order to consolidate and develop research, education and practice in ecosystem approaches to health.

Article 2 – Guiding principles

The Consortium’s actions are guided by the following principles:

a) Develop and support a collaborative approach based on respect, transparency and equity among members.

b) Ensure the development of the community of practice, through structured and structuring actions.

c) Reflect the principles of ecosystem approaches to health: social and gender equity, participation, transdisciplinarity (including inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaborations), holistic or systems thinking, sustainability and knowledge to action.

d) Adhere to principles of sustainable development taking into account specific sociocultural realities; the health of humans, animals, ecosystems, communities and economies.

Article 3. Mandate

3.1 This consortium is intended for the mutual benefit of all member organizations.

3.2 The mandate of the consortium is, subject to available resources, to facilitate opportunities to collaborate on certain activities focused on ecosystem approaches to health as follows:

a) Development of collaborative research projects;

b) Organization of joint academic and scientific activities, such as courses, conferences, seminars, symposia or lectures;

c) Opportunities for student internships, exchanges and supervision;

d) Production of joint publications;

e) Exchange of experiences in relation to collaborative projects with partners from other organizations, sectors or countries.

3.3 The consortium’s four fields of action are the following:

a) Ecohealth training and capacity building;

b) Profiling and applying ecosystem approaches to health research and practice in Canada;

c) Contributing to international field-building in ecohealth;

d) Evaluating and researching networking and capacity building.
Article 4. Composition

4.1 The original Consortium is composed of the signatories to this MOU who shall be founding member organizations of the consortium.

4.2 The founding member organizations are the following:

1) Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal
2) University of Northern British Columbia, Prince-George
3) York University, Toronto
4) Université de Moncton, Moncton
5) University of Toronto, Toronto
6) Simon Fraser University, Burnaby

4.3 Member organizations appointed after the creation of the Consortium will have the same status and carry the same rights and responsibilities as founding member organizations under the conditions stated in the following articles.

Article 5. Admission of New Member Organizations to the Consortium

The Consortium promotes collaboration with other institutions or their adherence to the Consortium. The admission of new member organizations will be made by appointment of the Consortium Steering Committee with the agreement of all existing member organizations and subject to compliance with any and all criteria established by the Consortium for admission.

Article 6. Financial Contribution of Member Organizations

6.1 Annual Fee
To ensure a minimum operating budget for the Consortium as established in Article 8, the member organization signatories will pay a mandatory contribution of 1,500 non-refundable Canadian dollars within three months of signing this MOU, which will constitute valid membership for a period of five (5) years. For new member organizations joining the Consortium after its foundation, an annual fee of $300 will be required.

6.2 Management of contributions
Contributions will be managed by the core team of the Consortium as defined in Article 8.2, which designates a member organization as mandated host for receiving and accounting for contributions.
Article 7. Member Organization Obligations

7.1 Member organizations of the Consortium commit to:

a) Designate an institutional representative to ensure the necessary connections for the activities of the Consortium, to recruit participation and to promote the project within their institution;

b) Assist in the implementation of projects with the flexibility and innovation needed;

c) Ensure equitable representation of members in projects with regard to their expertise;

d) Establish mechanisms for exchange of information on upcoming projects, academic achievements, budgets granted and the difficulties encountered;

e) Prepare an annual report on achievements, gaps and challenges.

7.2 And more specifically, the Consortium expects the representatives of each member organization to contribute to various agreed-upon CoPEH-Canada activities, e.g.

a) Carrying out work to be done for grants received by CoPEH-Canada

b) Contributing to grant applications

c) Co-organizing and attending certain conferences and other types of dissemination activities

d) Co-designing and teaching courses and workshops

e) Supporting the ongoing learning of and the activities carried out by the Emerging Scholars and Practitioners (ESaP) of CoPEH-Canada

7.3 It is recognized and understood that individual Consortium member organizations may decide not to actively participate in any given activity undertaken by the Consortium, and that any learning activity associated with courses offered at institutions would be subject to regular approvals by the relevant member organizations.

Article 8. Organizational Structures and Functions of the Consortium

To achieve its mission, the Consortium is to have the following organizational structures: a Steering Committee, a Core Team and an annual meeting of the steering committee.

8.1 Steering Committee composition and annual meeting

8.1.1 The Steering Committee is composed of one representative of each member organization. Wherever and whenever possible, decisions by the Steering Committee will be made by consensus.

8.1.2 The purpose of the steering committee is to:

a) Establish the Consortium’s bylaws, rules, policies and procedures;

b) Set up operating procedures;

c) Decide upon / reaffirm the guidelines for collaborative work;
d) Ensure the composition and content of the mandates of the various committees;

e) Evaluate and approve action plans;

f) Determine membership and the term limits of the Core Team;

g) Adopt the operational budget proposed by the Core Team.

8.1.3 The Steering Committee shall meet, face-to-face or by teleconference, at least once a year.

8.2 Core team

8.2.1 The Core team is responsible for implementation of decisions taken by the Steering Committee.

8.2.2 The Core team is composed of three Co-Chairs, each from different member organizations throughout Canada, selected by the Steering Committee. The Co-Chairs are supported by national, regional and project specific coordinators.

8.2.3 The Core Team has the following responsibilities:

a) Provide administrative support to the Consortium and the Steering Committee;

b) Prepare the Consortium meetings and ensure the implementation of decisions;

c) In general, assume the overall coordination and budgetary management;

d) Provide direction for the Consortium, make decisions consistent with the guidelines provided by the Steering Committee and report back to the Steering Committee.

Article 9. Relations with Third Parties

9.1 To implement the Consortium’s mandate, the Core team may designate and authorize Consortium members to enter into agreements with the Canadian and provincial governments, international cooperation agencies, corporations, foundations, other networks and consortia as well as all other interested entities to support the development of the Canadian Community of Practice in Ecosystem Approaches to Health.

9.2 All agreements arranged with third parties are subject to the conventions of the mandated member organization and appropriate oversight by an authorized representative of the member organization of the Consortium prior to signing. Being independent of one another, no agreement between one member organization and a third party is binding to another member organization without their prior consent.

9.3 The parties are independent contractors and have no power or authority to assume or create any obligation or responsibility on behalf of each other. This MOU shall not be construed to create or imply any partnership, agency, joint venture or employer-employee relationship between the parties.
Article 10. Project Management

10.1 Member organizations participating in a project jointly agree on the terms of their collaboration and designate the institution that will assume the financial management of the project.

10.2 Any projects or activities undertaken under the auspices of this MOU will adhere to the Intellectual Property rules of the relevant university and/or organization.

Article 11. Modifying the Memorandum of Understanding

Modifications to the Memorandum of Understanding can be proposed and implemented by the Steering Committee at their annual meeting.

Article 12. Duration of the Agreement and Terms of Withdrawal

12.1 The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect the last date of signature execution by a founding member, and will run for five years. At term, it may be renewed with the written consent of all member organizations wishing to continue participation in the Consortium.

12.2 A member organization may withdraw from the Consortium prematurely by giving notice to the Steering Committee 60 days prior to the withdrawal. A member organization who withdraws from the Consortium will honor the commitments it made in ongoing projects before its withdrawal.

Article 13. Dispute Resolution

Member organizations agree that any dispute concerning the Consortium shall be resolved as amicably as possible.
Article 14. Signatures

La présente Convention peut être signée en plusieurs exemplaires, dont chacun doit être considéré comme un original et tous ensemble, constituent un seul et même acte.

Pour
Université du Québec à Montréal
Signé à Montréal, le 17-6-2016
Par

Pierre Mongeau, doyen de la Faculté de communication

René Côté, vice-recteur à la Vie académique
For
University of Northern British Columbia
Signed in Prince George, March 15, 2016
By

[Signature]

Dr. Geoffrey W. Payne, Interim Vice-President Research
For
York University
Signed in Toronto, ________________________________ 2016
By

Noël Sturgeon, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies

Harvey Skinner, Dean of the Faculty of Health

Robert Haché, Vice-President Research & Innovation
For
University of Toronto
Signed in Toronto, le ___________________________ 2016
By

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Howard Hu, Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health
For
Université de Moncton
Signed in Moncton, le ______________________ 2016
By

Lise M. Dubois, Assistant Vice-President, Research