



**Letter of Intent**  
**School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences at Fleming College**  
**&**  
**The Pidwa Wilderness Reserve**

This Letter of Intent (LOI) confirms the intent of Fleming College's School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences (SENRS) and The Pidwa Wilderness Reserve (PWR) to partner for the purpose of delivery of a semester abroad in the Ecosystem Management Technician (EMT) program commencing in the winter of 2018. SENRS at Fleming College and the Pidwa Wilderness Reserve are hereafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" or individually as a "Party".

**The Parties:**

*School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences (SENRS)*

Fleming's School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences (SENRS) at the Frost Campus in Lindsay serves approximately 1,700 full-time students and has prepared graduates for entry into careers in the environment and natural resources sector of Canada's economy for over 45 years. The campus offers 30 programs in Environmental, Natural Resource Sciences, and the success and reputation of our graduates is nationally recognized and respected. The high regard in which our graduates are held by employers constitutes our most significant success. SENRS has been recognized as a leader in sustainability both in our educational programs and practices. The College's Strategic Mandate Agreement identifies SENRS as an area of differentiation and expertise and our Strategic Plan emphasizes our commitment to applied learning. More information is available at <http://flemingcollege.ca/school/environmental-and-natural-resource-sciences>

The Ecosystem Management Technician (EMT) diploma program has been offered at SENRS for 20 years and during the last 5 years has offered an optional 2 week field placement experience at the Pidwa Wilderness Reserve. More information about the EMT program is available at <http://flemingcollege.ca/programs/ecosystem-management-technician>

*The Pidwa Wilderness Reserve*

The Pidwa Wilderness Reserve, located in Limpopo Province, South Africa, is a 24,000 hectare wilderness reserve committed to restoring the lowveld ecosystem to its inherent structure and function through monitoring, research and active management strategies when and where they are needed. The Askari Wilderness Conservation Programme (Askari WCP) supports the vision of Pidwa through its volunteer programme, which provides individuals from across the globe with an opportunity to actively contribute to and participate in the daily management, wildlife research and monitoring activities taking place on the reserve. In a world where habitat loss is the most significant threat to biodiversity at all levels of ecological organization, it is essential to secure, increase and improve these wild habitats. The goal of Pidwa is to restore the ecosystem balance that existed prior to human interference; to regain and secure a functioning ecosystem in which wildlife can thrive. Additional information can be found on the Pidwa/Askari website at <http://www.askariwcp.com/>

## Strategic Alignment

Fleming's Ecosystem Management Technician program highlights a holistic approach to the management of human activity within ecosystems. Students study ecosystem composition, structure and function in wilderness, rural, and urban landscapes, and acquire a broad range of technical skills, as well as the flexibility to adapt to changing job requirements. Students participate in the monitoring and assessment of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, conduct resource inventories and environmental sampling, complete ecological field research projects, and develop plans for the restoration and management of public and private landscapes. Students also learn to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to analyze ecosystems at a variety of scales.

The Ecosystem Management program established the following strategic priorities for the program from 2012 - 2017:

1. Ensure and enhance the acquisition of essential employability skills that are current and relevant – critical thinking, ethics, studentship, life-long learning and being a global citizen.
2. Technology enhancement across the curriculum.
3. **Enhance global, international and national experiences through possible Co-op / internship and exchange opportunities for both faculty and/or students (e.g. semester abroad, international placement and short faculty run applied field courses).**
4. Pursue applied research opportunities and other projects which allow students to be entrepreneurs.
5. **Strengthen existing articulation agreements and pursue others (e.g. Acadia University). Explore possible agreements with other colleges and universities provincially, nationally and internationally.**
6. Ensure currency in program skills by connecting with colleagues, alumni, Advisory Committee members and employers.

The addition of an international semester abroad program for Ecosystem Management students directly aligns with program strategic priorities #3 and #5 above.

## Details of Semester Abroad Partnership

Fleming College will:

- Select 6-10 students from the third semester of the program to complete their semester four diploma requirements at Pidwa (12 weeks between January and April)
- Ensure that Askari is in agreement with selection process of the students
- Ensure that students adhere to rules and protocol consistent with the expectations of the College and the Reserve and remove students who are not complying
- Others as determined prior to signing a formal agreement
- NOTE: Students at Fleming College will be responsible for the costs associated with completion of the diploma (tuition fees)

Pidwa Wilderness Reserve (Askari WCP) will:

- Provide input into the selection process of the students
- Establish and collect a fee to cover the costs of accommodation and meals for the Fleming College students

- Make the College aware of any student issues or concerns in a timely manner
- Others as determined prior to signing a formal agreement

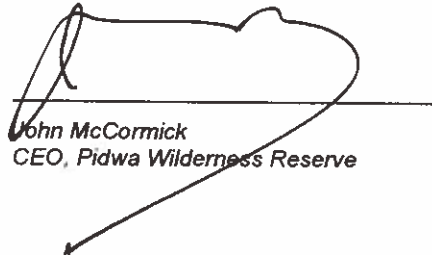
**Principles:**

1. The Parties agree to frequent and ongoing communication. At least 1 formal meeting will be scheduled annually with key staff members from each party.
2. Each Party will appoint a lead contact person.
3. Any media release regarding a partnership initiative will be approved by and coordinated by the Parties in advance and include the logos of each of the organizations.
4. All activities that take place at either of the Parties' project sites or facilities shall be conducted in strict accordance with any and all environmental, health, safety, security and other applicable rules established by the responsible Party and each Party shall exercise reasonable diligence to ensure that their employees and students are made aware of and comply with such rules.
5. Each Party agrees to hold in strict confidence all information of the other Party that comes into its possession as a consequence of their involvement with any activities agreed to pursuant to this memorandum of understanding that is not public information and they shall not disclose such information to any third parties without the other Party's prior consent, unless required to do so by law. Each Party shall exercise reasonable diligence to ensure that their employees and students are made aware of and comply with this obligation.
6. This Letter of Intent will be replaced by a formal MOU/Agreement by September 2016 and may include a university partner as may be required.

Signed at Askari/Pidwa on this date April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



Linda Skilton  
Dean/Principal, SENRS, Fleming College



John McCormick  
CEO, Pidwa Wilderness Reserve