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**Bee prepared, there’s a new ‘buzz’ in downtown Edmonton**

Edmonton – The faculty and staff are ‘buzzing’ at MacEwan University. The university has launched an urban bee-keeping pilot project on the roof of Building 5 at City Centre Campus. The pilot project includes four rooftop Flow™ Hives.

Harvesting honey with the innovative Flow™ Hives requires less mess, less heavy lifting, and no expensive processing equipment. The Flow™ Hives technology allows bee keepers to see when the honey is ready through a clear end-frame viewing section. The extraction process is so gentle that the bees barely notice.

“Bees may be small, but they play a big role in human and ecosystem health,” said Kalen Pilkington, head of sustainability, MacEwan University. “Bees and other pollinators, which are vital to our food system, pollinate almost 80 per cent of all food crops according to a UN study,” added Pilkington.

Urban bee-keeping supports pollinators, specifically honey bees, whose populations are declining at an alarming rate due to environmental challenges including habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change.

The City of Edmonton recently approved the bee-keeping pilot project and the university will be joining City Hall, the Mosaic Centre, and Manasc Issac in keeping rooftop bees. The honey that is produced at the university will be sold through MacEwan Dining Services, with a projected ROI of two harvests over 18 months.

The bees will be taken care of by an on-site certified beekeeper, who will ensure the safety and security of the bee colonies. As part of the City of Edmonton license, neighbours immediately adjacent to Building 5 have been notified of the project.

The Urban Bee-Keeping Project aligns with the university’s sustainability pillar as it continues to develop creative approaches for a sustainable campus.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.