

BETWEEN

The Government of New Brunswick, as represented by the Premier of New Brunswick and the Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport, Minister Responsible for Francophonie and the Immigration and Repatriation Secretariat

AND

the Gouvernement du Québec, as represented by the premier ministre du Québec and the Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes, de la Francophonie canadienne, de l'Accord sur le commerce intérieur, de la Réforme des institutions démocratiques et de l'Accès à l'information

WHEREAS there are historical ties binding New Brunswickers and Québécois;

WHEREAS in 1969, the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of New Brunswick signed an Agreement for Co-operation and Exchange in Matters of Education, Culture and Communications; in 1992, a cooperation agreement on fisheries and aquaculture; and in 2001, an additional protocol to the Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange in Matters of Education, Culture and Communications, which expanded cooperation between the two governments into the areas of health, social services, and tourism;

WHEREAS the two governments also signed other agreements over the years in the fields of finance, postsecondary education, health, public safety, procurement, transportation, e-government, and the crab fishing industry;

WHEREAS the current of cultural, social, and economic exchanges between Québec and New Brunswick is still strong, notably because of their shared border;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the only Canadian province that recognizes the equality of the use and status of English and French in its territory;

WHEREAS New Brunswick and Québec recognize the advantages of ongoing collaboration between their two governments;

The parties agree to renew their cooperation according to the following provisions:

OBJECTIVES

The parties agree to increase the number of areas of cooperation between their respective governments and the exchange of information and sharing of expertise. This increased cooperation is designed to further promote the common interests of the parties in the field of the French language and culture, and in other fields of economic and social nature, in order to improve public service delivery, and to promote their mutual interests, especially in interprovincial, federal-provincial, and international discussions.

The parties also agree to step up their collaboration efforts in all other fields of mutual interest.

The collaboration between the two governments will be concentrated in the following sectors:

A. FRANCOPHONIE COMPONENT

- 1.1 The parties agree to support initiatives that promote the development of the Francophonie and support the development of the French language and culture.
- 1.2 The initiatives may cover different activity sectors, including culture and communications, rural, local, and regional development, economy and tourism, education, employment and income security, the international Francophonie, immigration, youth, the French language, early childhood and the family, and health and social services.
- 1.3 The initiatives may also be undertaken in any other field deemed relevant and in keeping with the general objectives of this Agreement.

B. SECTORIAL COMPONENT

2. E-GOVERNMENT

The parties agree to share information about their best practices in the use of information and technology, especially in the fields of geomatics and geographic and land information and online services such as placement and labour market information where such arrangements would not conflict with any pre-existing arrangements with any other government or partner, and to cooperate in the development and implementation of government services online, for example, in geographic information and the organization of events favouring the development of e-government.

3. ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The parties will encourage cooperation and the exchange of information on their best practices in areas of mutual interest related to Aboriginals, such as health care, education, land and natural resources, public safety, negotiations and economic projects involving Aboriginals, to support and promote Aboriginal culture and the economic development of the communities concerned.

4. MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

- 4.1. The parties will encourage the exchange of information on policies, programs, and activities in the area of municipal infrastructures related to drinking water, wastewater, and local road networks. Exchanges may deal with, among other things, technical aspects, technological innovations, financing, the development of knowledge relating to municipal infrastructures, and pilot projects that may result in applications likely to be of interest to the parties.
- 4.2. The parties will encourage collaboration between communities, institutions, organizations and companies in the field of rural, local, and regional development.

5. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

- 5.1. The parties will take measures in order to encourage businesses and organizations involved in economic development to participate in international economic events held in Québec and in New Brunswick, and will foster meetings and networking between Québec and New Brunswick companies.
- 5.2. The parties will also encourage their respective business communities to establish partnerships and to take measures in terms of economic cooperation.

6. CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The parties will implement programs and carry out activities to encourage cooperation and exchanges in all sectors of the arts and humanities, cultural industries, heritage and museums, and communications, to contribute to the development of the culture and communications sectors, and the expansion of the market for the cultural industries product of New Brunswick and Québec.

7. EDUCATION

- 7.1. The parties will exchange information on programs, teaching methods and learning processes, including distance education.
- 7.2. The parties will encourage exchanges of teachers, administrators and students at all levels and in all disciplines, and will encourage the establishment of close ties between educational institutions at all levels and between education associations.
- 7.3. The parties will foster the exchange of relevant information on the nature, operation and use of bursary programs and other forms of student assistance.
- 7.4. The parties will foster the conclusion of agreements for the reciprocal recognition of credits and education or training programs at all levels, and will look at opportunities to facilitate student mobility between educational institutions.

8. ENVIRONMENT

The parties will continue the existing cooperation in the field of environment, and renew their endorsement of the objectives of the Agreement between Québec and New Brunswick concerning Transboundary Environmental Impacts.

9. FAMILY

The parties will encourage exchanges of information on policies and programs relating to childhood and family.

10. IMMIGRATION

The parties will promote exchanges of information and the sharing of best practices on immigration, especially with regard to immigrant integration and retention.

11. YOUTH

- 11.1. The parties will encourage exchanges, internships and all learning opportunities designed to enable young people to undertake training and acquire knowledge, and to become better acquainted with each other and each other's customs.
- 11.2. The parties will promote the exchange of information on policies, programs and activities dealing with youth, and will encourage the sharing of expertise and resources to ensure the well-being and quality of life of young people.

12. JUSTICE

The parties will promote exchanges in the field of justice in areas of mutual interest, including the administration of justice, the judicial system and legislation.

13. MOBILITY OF LABOUR

The parties agree that an open labour market is conducive to job creation. In this regard, the parties reaffirm their commitment to facilitate labour mobility between the two provinces to the fullest extent possible.

14. FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

- 14.1. The parties will encourage exchanges designed to stimulate the development of commercial fisheries and aquaculture, including aquaculture research and development, such as financial risk management of aquaculture farms, fish and seafood packaging procedures, technology transfer, exploitation and innovation of marine resources and biotechnologies, product marketing, and means to foster the diversification of marine product transformation businesses.
- 14.2. The parties will encourage the development of recreational fishing, notably in relation to regulations, community management, habitat management, scientific support, and integrated resource planning.
- 14.3. The parties agree to consult each other in developing their respective positions on fisheries and aquaculture management.

15. AGRICULTURE AND AGRIFOOD

- 15.1 The parties will continue to foster information and expertise exchange on animal health including the implementation and settling of an efficient and harmonized traceability system.
- 15.2 The parties will encourage knowledge and expertise exchange regarding R&D in the area of vegetal and animal productions, through the various centers of expertise gathered on their territory.

16. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- 16.1. The parties will encourage and support cooperation between their governments in order to share best practices in the development of R&D, and innovation.
- 16.2. They will encourage and support, within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, relationships between their business communities, and research and postsecondary institutions, in an effort to expand and intensify collaboration in research and advantageous use of knowledge springing from R&D, including the marketing of the same.

17. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 17.1 The parties acknowledge the importance of maintaining dynamic intergovernmental relations, and agree to consult each other more, notably in order to contribute to the Federation's evolution, and to solve problems such as fiscal imbalance as well as any other item identified by the two governments.
- 17.2 The parties will foster the information exchange on international relations and on the role of federal entities in international fora, especially with regard to the multilateral Francophonie and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and will determine cooperation opportunities likely to result therefrom.

18. NATURAL RESOURCES

- 18.1. The parties will encourage the exchange of information on public land management policies, programs and practices.
- 18.2. In relation to wildlife, the parties will promote the exchange of information to help better protect endangered species along the Quebec/New Brunswick border, the transfer of expertise between organizations on inventories and the management of data on rare species, collaboration with a view to enforcing wildlife protection regulations along the border, and exchanges of a more technical nature concerning, among other things, integrated resource management and the management of certain large categories of wildlife species.

19. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- 19.1. The parties will continue to foster the exchange of information relating to health and social services in fields of mutual interest, mainly through the round table already in place, especially in health services and the delivery of health care and social services. They will also promote careers in the health field, particularly to young people.
- 19.2. The parties will encourage the cooperation and, where appropriate, the signing of agreements between institutions, and the implementation of activities to foster exchanges between Québec and New Brunswick with respect to health and social services.

20. PUBLIC SAFETY

- 20.1. The parties will encourage the exchange of information and cooperation in the public safety and security sector in such areas as police cadet training, volunteer fire services training, emergency management, motor vehicle administration, utility vehicle law enforcement, film and video program, and general law enforcement initiatives as well as community and correctional services.
- 20.2. The parties will continue to support and encourage the cooperation between both governments with a view to sharing information to combat organized crime through a multi-disciplinary approach.

21. SPORT, RECREATION, AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The parties will encourage the exchange of information on policies, programs, and activities in the fields of sport, recreation and physical activity.

22. TOURISM

- 22.1. The parties agree on their mutual interest in developing bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the various sectors of their respective tourist industries. Such exchanges will deal mainly with hospitality services and visitor information, the use of new tourism technologies, the development of the offer of complementary tourism products, and promotional activities designed to support the marketing of these products.
- 22.2. To that end, the parties will develop strategic partnerships for research, training, hospitality services and visitor information, product development and marketing contributing to the tourism positioning of their province.

23. TRANSPORTATION

- 23.1. The parties recognize the importance of effective transportation network links between the two provinces for commercial, tourism and social purposes. They agree to cooperate to improve transportation systems, and to facilitate the free movement of persons and goods between Québec and New Brunswick, and to and from the United States, particularly along the Maritimes-Québec-Ontario trade corridor.
- 23.2. The parties will also work to further harmonize standards and regulations in effect in both provinces, and to defend their common positions to the federal government and other parties involved, with respect to policies, regulations and investments in transportation infrastructures.
- 23.3. The parties will continue to discuss transportation matters of mutual interest and concern, especially with regard to multimodal transportation planning, infrastructure management and financing, and the introduction of new technologies to improve the efficiency, safety and security of their transportation networks.

24. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 24.1. The premiers of New Brunswick and Québec agree to meet regularly to report on the progress achieved, to discuss matters of mutual interest, and to evaluate new opportunities for cooperation.
- 24.2. The parties agree to set up a Coordination Committee, which will see to the implementation of this Cooperation Agreement. The Coordination Committee will consist of the deputy ministers responsible for intergovernmental relations in each province, who will act as co-chairs, and/or their representatives designated for each of the two components of the Agreement.
- 24.3. The Coordination Committee will develop a work plan to implement the Cooperation Agreement at the request of the parties, to be adopted by them, which will, among other things, specify the priority areas of cooperation. The work plan, a copy of which is included in Schedule A, will be reviewed annually and will be developed with the departments concerned, which will be responsible for implementing the sections of the Agreement relating to them and on which they will report annually, and, upon request, to the Coordination Committee.
- 24.4. The Coordination Committee will evaluate annually the progress achieved under the Agreement and will report regularly to the premiers, and may, as appropriate, make any recommendations about new opportunities for collaboration.
- 24.5. To facilitate the exercise of its duties, the Coordination Committee may establish bilateral consultation committees in the areas of cooperation covered by the Agreement.
- 24.6. These consultation committees will be made up of representatives of the departments involved. They will make recommendations to the Coordination Committee about programs, activities or measures to be carried out or implemented, and the direction to follow under this Agreement.
- 24.7. The members of the Coordination Committee will meet at least once a year, in person or by teleconference.

25. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 25.1. This Agreement, which shall come into force as of its signature, may be cancelled by either party with at least six months' notice in writing.
- 25.2. To ensure the ongoing relevance of the Agreement and that it always reflects the desire of the parties, the parties may, at any time, amend the content through an exchange of letters.
- 25.3. The parties agree to implement the Agreement in accordance with their respective budget capacities.
- 25.4. This Agreement replaces the Agreement for Co-operation and Exchange in Matters of Education, Culture and Communications between the government of New Brunswick and the government of Québec, signed in 1969, the 1992 Québec-New Brunswick cooperation agreement on commercial fisheries and aquaculture, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange in Matters of Education, Culture and Communications between the Government of Québec and the Government of New Brunswick signed in 2001.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate in English and French, both texts being equally valid.

Dated at Moncton, New Brunswick, this 18th day of April, 2006.

For the Government of New Brunswick

For the Gouvernement du Québec

Bernard Lord
Premier

Jean Charest
Premier ministre

Percy Mockler
Minister, Wellness, Culture and Sport,
Minister Responsible for Francophonie
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Benoit Pelletier
Ministre responsable des Affaires
intergouvernementales canadiennes,
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