



AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES

IN MATTERS OF THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES IN MATTERS OF THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

BETWEEN: **THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC** represented by: The
Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian
Francophonie

AND: **THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN** represented by:
The Premier

The Government of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan are hereafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”.

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan signed an agreement for a cooperation and exchanges program on matters of education in April 1995, and both governments have agreed it would be appropriate to update and improve this agreement;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan have maintained links in matters of the Francophonie for over twenty years, and the two societies, which include a French-speaking population, wish to support and strengthen the wealth and diversity of the Francophonie;

WHEREAS, on the one hand, Quebec is the only Francophone state in North America and, as such, intends to exercise a unifying leadership in terms of the Francophonie and, secondly, that Saskatchewan has a dynamic Francophone community;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec wishes to support the development of Francophone and Acadian communities and to ensure sustainability of the French language in Canada and that it intends on doing so by relying on the 2.6 million French and Francophile speakers within Canada outside of Quebec, thereby ensuring the determining role of the French language in the underpinnings of Canadian society;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan wish to testify to the importance of their relationship on a historical basis and intend to pursue and intensify close cooperation and thus ensure that this contributes even more to the maintenance and development of the French fact in Canada, through the multiplying of contacts and exchanges between Quebec society and the Fransaskois community;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the Government of Saskatchewan have determined that this commitment to greater cooperation results in concrete actions in relevant domains, thereby ensuring the promotion, development and longevity of the French language and of French-language cultures.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE PARTIES AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

Title I: OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 1

Through this agreement, the parties agree to share, to exchange information and expertise, and to cooperate in several areas, especially in the fields of education, early childhood, youth, culture, communications, the French language, economy, immigration, tourism, health and social services, and community development, all according to the modalities mentioned below.

Title II: EDUCATION

Article 2

The Parties agree to promote the exchange of teachers and other education specialists working in the private or public sectors, from elementary school to post-secondary as well as in the sharing of methods for teaching French and the exchange of specialists in this field.

Article 3

They will promote the organization of activities (lectures, courses, seminars, workshops or missions) focused on improving or developing the teaching and the establishment of cooperation ties between educational institutions and between education associations.

Article 4

They will promote, with the cooperation of the institutions involved, the exchange of young people during the school year, to enable them to get to know and become more familiar with their respective communities and will promote the organization of cultural tours in the schools or post-secondary institutions.

Article 5

They will promote access for qualified Saskatchewan students to French-language programs offered by Quebec universities.

Title III: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Article 6

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchange of best practices and expertise in the area of early childhood, particularly with respect to policies, programs, training and delivery of services in French, all of which are conducive to the transmission of the French language.

Title IV: YOUTH

Article 7

The Parties will encourage exchanges as a means of allowing young Francophones to become acquainted with one another, to become more familiar with their respective cultures and to develop a sense of belonging within the Canadian Francophonie, as well as leadership capacities.

Title V: CULTURE

Article 8

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in all areas of the arts and heritage, especially in the areas of literature, performing arts, visual arts and crafts, libraries, archives, museums and folklore.

Titre VI: COMMUNICATIONS

Article 9

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges throughout the field of French language communications, taking into account the evolution of media supports, as well as digital creation and distribution. These exchanges will encourage the implementation, particularly, of projects and programs for the development and implementation of audiovisual and computerized goods and services related to education, culture and information, as well as newspapers, community media, and new information and communication technologies.

Title VII: FRENCH LANGUAGE

Article 10

The Parties will share their expertise in the promotion of French and encourage the exchange of specialists. They will exchange best practices and expertise on the management and implementation of their respective government's linguistic policies.

Title VIII: ECONOMY

Article 11

The Parties will promote cooperation between Francophone organizations offering opportunities in all areas considered relevant to the development of economic exchanges in French and combine their efforts in order to promote Francophone entrepreneurship and improve French-language business practices.

Title IX: IMMIGRATION

Article 12

The Parties will share their expertise and best practices in immigration, Francophone immigration selection, integration and sustainable settlement of immigrants, francization, pedagogy, training of stakeholders and teaching personnel and of online francization programs.

Title X: TOURISM

Article 13

The Parties will promote cooperation and exchanges in various activity sectors of their respective tourism industries. These exchanges will mainly involve welcoming and tourist information practices, use of new technologies in tourism, and product development.

They also agree to cooperate closely in the implementation of projects that promote the discovery and preservation of Francophone historical heritage in Canada, including the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network of North America and the National Francophone Heritage, Culture and Tourism Corridor.

Title XI: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Article 14

The parties will encourage and supervise the exchanges of best practices in the domains of health and social services, particularly concerning training, the delivery of health care and services as well as social services in French, including elder care.

Title XII: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Article 15

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges of best practices and expertise in the domain of community development, particularly concerning community governance, ethics, human resources development and financial management.

Title XIII: INFORMATION TRANSMISSION AND EXCHANGES

Article 16

The Parties agree that all exchanges and transmission of information under this Agreement, including personal or confidential information, will be made in accordance with the Parties' respective laws regarding access to information and protection of personal information.

Title XII: MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Article 17

For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, the Parties will form a Cooperation Committee composed of their respective representatives, for one party drawn from the Secrétariat du Québec aux Relations canadiennes and for the other party from the Francophone Affairs Branch, Intergovernmental Affairs of the Executive Council of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The members of the Cooperation Committee will invite representatives from the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, an organization that speaks on behalf of Saskatchewan's francophone community, to observe and participate in the Committee's discussions without voting rights.

The Cooperation Committee will meet in person, via teleconference, or videoconference:

- 1) each year to evaluate the results of the most recent full fiscal year, to identify courses of action and initiatives that would have significant and determinative impacts during the upcoming fiscal year and, as needed, to prepare recommendations for the Parties, including changes to the Agreement; and
- 2) every five years, starting from the date the Agreement goes into effect, to recommend to the Parties Five-year Action Priorities that consider the needs of francophone and Acadian communities, as well as changes to make to the Agreement, as needed.

Article 18

The Parties will meet in person, via teleconference or videoconference, at least once every two years to exchange and analyze the situation of Canadian francophonie, as well as to discuss the recommendations made by the Cooperation Committee.

Title XV: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 19

Subject to the available budgetary resources and approval of the relevant authorities for each government, the objective of each Party is to allocate funds for the implementation of the Agreement to a maximum of the following amounts for the first five fiscal years:

- \$16,440 in 2017-2018;
- \$19,180 in 2018-2019;
- \$21,920 in 2019-2020;
- \$24,660 in 2020-2021;
- \$27,400 in 2021-2022.

For subsequent years, amounts will be agreed between the Parties as per the Five-year Action Priorities as accepted, and subject to the third paragraph of Article 20 of the Agreement as well as the required governmental approvals.

Title XVI: ENACTMENT, MODIFICATION, TERMINATION

Article 20

This Agreement goes into effect on the last date of signing by the Parties.

This Agreement replaces the Agreement between Québec and Saskatchewan for a Program of Exchanges and Cooperation in the Area of Education, signed on April 1, 1995.

This Agreement may be modified by an amending agreement written and signed by the Parties, subject to the necessary government approval.

This Agreement may be terminated by either of the Parties upon written notice of at least six months.

SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES IN MATTERS OF THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE IN FOUR COPIES, TWO IN FRENCH AND TWO IN ENGLISH.

GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC,
by:

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN, by:

Jean-Marc Fournier
Minister Responsible for Canadian
Relations and the Canadian
Francophonie

Honourable Brad Wall
Premier