



**AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**WITH RESPECT TO THE FRANCOPHONIE**

**IN THIS AGREEMENT,**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC IS REPRESENTED BY:**

The Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie,

And

**THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IS REPRESENTED BY:**

The Minister of Agriculture and Minister responsible for the Francophone Affairs Program.

The governments of Quebec and British Columbia are hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”.

**WHEREAS** Quebec and British Columbia have maintained relations with respect to the Francophonie since 2005 when they entered into the first Agreement for cooperation and exchange on Francophone Affairs, and both provinces want to support and strengthen the richness and diversity of the Francophonie;

**WHEREAS** Quebec is the only Francophone state in North America and as such intends to exercise collaborative leadership with respect to the Francophonie, and concurrently, there has been a firmly established French-speaking community in British Columbia since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Quebec wishes to support the development of the Francophone and Acadian communities and to ensure the long-term future of the French fact in Canada, and in order to do so, it intends to draw on the assistance of the 2.6 million Francophones and Francophiles outside Quebec throughout the rest of Canada, thereby ensuring the determining role of the French language in the foundation of Canadian society;

**WHEREAS** British Columbia is determined that this cooperation yields significant benefits for the future of its French-speaking community and that it translates into concrete actions in areas deemed relevant by the Parties, thereby ensuring the promotion, development and vitality of the French language and Francophone cultures in British Columbia and throughout the Canadian Francophonie;

**WHEREAS** on November 23, 2005 the governments of Quebec and British Columbia entered into an Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange on Francophone Affairs and they deem it appropriate to renew and enhance that agreement;

**THE PARTIES AGREE TO SHARE AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE AND TO COOPERATE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, PARTICULARLY EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD, YOUTH, CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, FRENCH LANGUAGE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IMMIGRATION, TOURISM, AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.**

### **Title I: EDUCATION**

#### **Article 1**

The Parties agree to promote the exchange of information on methods of teaching French, and the exchange of specialists in these fields, particularly by organizing activities focused on developing and improving pedagogy, and on providing professional development for teachers, administrators and other persons involved in the field of education. They also agree to exchange information on practices for integrating the cultural component in the classroom and to promote student exchanges, in addition to exchanges and cooperation in the area of adult education, particularly with respect to the teaching of French as a second language.

### **Title II: EARLY CHILDHOOD**

#### **Article 2**

The Parties will encourage cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise in the area of early childhood, particularly with respect to programs, training, the delivery of French-language services, in a perspective of French language transmission.

### **Title III: YOUTH**

#### **Article 3**

The Parties will encourage exchanges designed to help young Francophones become better acquainted with each other and more familiar with their respective cultures, in order to develop a sense of belonging to the Canadian Francophonie.

### **Title IV: CULTURE**

#### **Article 4**

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

### **Title V: COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Article 5**

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in the field of communications, including as regards the development of audio-visual and computerized services related to education, culture and information.

## **Title VI: FRENCH LANGUAGE**

### **Article 6**

The Parties will support the sharing of information concerning the promotion of French, increased availability of French-language public information, in both print and online formats, and access to linguistic and terminological resources in French, especially computer tools.

## **Title VII: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Article 7**

The Parties will support collaboration among Francophone economic development organizations in all areas deemed relevant to the growth of economic exchanges in French.

## **Title VIII: IMMIGRATION**

### **Article 8**

The Parties will share their expertise and best practices in the area of Francophone immigration, integration and successful settlement of newcomers, education, training of settlement workers and teachers, and programs designed to integrate immigrants in French.

## **Title IX: TOURISM**

### **Article 9**

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges in the various sectors of activity of their respective tourist industries. These exchanges will involve practices with respect to tourist reception and information, French-language training in tourism, the use of new technologies in tourism, and development of products.

The Parties agree to collaborate closely in the creation of projects that promote discovery and preservation of the historic Francophone heritage in Canada, in particular the *Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique* [North American Francophone and Francophile Cities Network] and a tourism and heritage corridor of the Canadian Francophonie.

## **Title X: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Article 10**

The Parties will encourage exchanges of information on health and social services, especially with regard to the development and distribution of French-language information tools, as well as training and the delivery of health care and services in French.

### **Article 11**

The Parties will promote cooperation and the implementation of activities that will foster exchanges between Quebec and British Columbia on health and social services.

## **Title XI: OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION**

### **Article 12**

The Parties will cooperate in any other area that they deem relevant and consistent with the general objectives of this Agreement.

## **Title XII: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

### **Article 13**

The Quebec minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie and the British Columbia minister responsible for the Francophone Affairs Program shall meet at least once every two years to share and discuss developments with respect to the Canadian Francophonie and to adopt the Five-Year Action Priorities.

### **Article 14**

In order to develop the Five-Year Action Priorities, a bipartite meeting shall be held between representatives of the Quebec *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes* and the British Columbia Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, the latter having consulted beforehand with the Francophone organizations of British Columbia. The purpose of this meeting will be to identify the priority areas for action over the next five years that will be recommended to the ministers.

In connection with the Action Priorities, the Parties will be able to target initiatives that are expected to provide structure and significant impacts to the Canadian Francophonie and to enhance the vitality and development of British Columbia's French-speaking community, and will ensure that they are promoted.

### **Article 15**

Every year, a Standing Cooperation Commission, consisting of senior officials responsible for the Canadian Francophonie within the Quebec *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes* and the British Columbia Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, will meet in person or communicate by teleconference or videoconference to assess results achieved over the preceding year, identify proposed directions for the upcoming year, and submit recommendations to their respective ministers in this regard.

## **Title XIII: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 16**

Every year, the Parties will determine and allocate, upon mutual agreement and in accordance with the budgetary processes and policies in effect within their respective governments, the funds necessary for the implementation of this Agreement. The allocation of monies for the funding of projects under this Agreement is subject to appropriations voted by their respective legislatures.

Each of the Parties will allocate, annually, a maximum of \$50,000 for implementation of the Agreement in the year 2017-2018, which amount will gradually grow to a maximum of \$75,000 in 2021-2022.

For subsequent fiscal years, the amount will be agreed upon between the Parties in the Five-Year Action Priorities.

**Article 17**

This Agreement, which replaces the Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange on Francophone Affairs between the Government of Quebec and the Government of British Columbia that was signed on November 23, 2005, shall take effect upon being signed by the Parties. It may be amended upon written consent of the Parties and may be terminated by either of the Parties upon at least six months' notice in writing.

DATED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2017 IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH, EACH VERSION BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
QUEBEC,

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Norm Letnick  
Minister of Agriculture and Minister  
responsible for the Francophone Affairs  
Program

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