



AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA

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 NOVA SCOTIA IS REPRESENTED BY:

The Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

The governments of Quebec and Nova Scotia are hereafter referred to as “the Parties”.

WHEREAS Quebec is the only francophone State in North America and given this position wishes to exercise collaborative leadership with regard to the Francophonie and Nova Scotia has had a significant Acadian and francophone community since the 17th century and has committed to contribute to the preservation and growth of the Acadian and francophone community and to provide for the delivery of French-language services by designated departments, offices, and agencies of Government with the passing of the French-language Services Act and its Regulations;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec wishes to support the development of francophone and Acadian communities and ensure the sustainability of the French presence in Canada and to do so, intends to draw on the 2.6 million French speakers and francophiles in Canada outside of Quebec, illustrating the essential role of the French language in the founding of Canadian society;

WHEREAS Quebec and Nova Scotia wish to acknowledge the importance of their historical relations and intend to pursue, indeed intensify, their close collaboration and ensure that it further contributes to the preservation and vitality of the French fact in Canada, by increasing relations and exchanges between Quebec society and Nova Scotian society;

WHEREAS Nova Scotia is determined that this cooperation bring important benefits to its Acadian and francophone community and that it bring about concrete actions in the areas deemed relevant by the Parties, and by doing so ensure the promotion, development and vitality of the French language and French-speaking cultures of Nova Scotia, as well as of the Canadian Francophonie as a whole;

WHEREAS Quebec and Nova Scotia have maintained an ongoing relationship with respect to the Francophonie since the signing of the first Cooperation and Exchange Agreement in 2002 and the Parties deem it appropriate to update and enrich this first Agreement.

THE PARTIES AGREE TO SHARE AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE AND TO COOPERATE IN MANY AREAS, NAMELY WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, EARLY CHILDHOOD, ECONOMY AND IMMIGRATION.

Part I: EDUCATION

Article 1

The Parties will foster exchanges of information on French teaching methods and exchanges of specialists in these areas, namely by organizing activities focused on improving and developing teaching methods and the professional development of teachers, school administration and other stakeholders in the area of education. They will also exchange information on integrating culture into the classroom and continue to foster exchanges of students between the two provinces.

Part II: YOUTH

Article 2

The Parties will promote exchanges that seek to allow Acadian, Francophone and Québécois youth to get to know each other better and become familiar with their respective cultures and develop a sense of belonging to the Canadian Francophonie.

Part III: CULTURE

Article 3

The Parties will promote cooperation and exchanges in all areas of arts and heritage, namely in the fields of literature, performing arts, dance, visual arts, crafts, libraries, archives, museums and folklore.

Part IV: COMMUNICATIONS

Article 4

The Parties will promote cooperation and exchanges in all areas of communication and promotion of the French language, in particular projects and programs that seek to develop and put in place audiovisual and information technology products and services related to education, culture and information, namely compact discs, videos, newspapers, community media, language and terminology resources and new information and communication technologies.

Part V: TOURISM

Article 5

The Parties will foster cooperation and exchanges in areas of activity of their respective tourism industries. These exchanges will notably cover welcoming and tourism information practices, tourism training in French, the use of new technologies in tourism, and the development of products.

The Parties agree to collaborate closely to undertake projects that foster the exploration and preservation of Canada's francophone heritage, namely the *Réseau des villes francophones et francophiles d'Amérique* and a tourist and heritage route for the Canadian Francophonie.

Part VI: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Article 6

The Parties will promote the exchange of information in the areas of health and social services, in particular with respect to training and the delivery of care and services in French.

Article 7

The Parties will promote cooperation between institutions and will foster the undertaking of activities that will boost exchanges between Quebec and Nova Scotia with regard to health and social services in French.

Part VII: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Article 8

The Parties will promote cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise with regard to early childhood, notably relating to policies, programs, training and delivery of services in French.

Part VIII: ECONOMY

Article 9

The Parties will foster cooperation between francophone economic development organizations in all areas deemed relevant for the development of economic exchanges in French and work together in order to promote francophone entrepreneurship and improve business practices in French.

Part IX: IMMIGRATION

Article 10

The Parties will share their expertise and best practices with respect to immigration, the selection of francophone immigrants, integration and sustainable settlement practices for immigrants, francization, education, training of stakeholders and teaching staff, and online francization programs.

Part X: OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

Article 11

The Parties will exchange information and expertise and cooperate in all other areas deemed relevant with respect to the Francophonie and consistent with the general objectives of this agreement.

Part XI: MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Article 12

The Quebec Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie as well as the Nova Scotia Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie will meet at least once every two years to share and discuss developments with respect to the Canadian Francophonie as well as to adopt quinquennial priorities for action in the areas deemed to be priorities by the Parties.

Article 13

In order to develop the quinquennial priorities for action, a tripartite meeting will be held, bringing together representatives from the Quebec *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes*, Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, the organization representing the Nova Scotian Francophonie. This meeting will seek to determine the priorities for action that will be recommended to the ministers for the next five years.

The Parties, after consulting with the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, the organization representing the Nova Scotian Francophonie, will target initiatives which are in keeping with the priorities for action and whose outcomes are deemed to be significant for the Canadian Francophonie and for the vitality and development of the Nova Scotian Francophonie, while ensuring their promotion.

Article 14

Each year, a Standing Cooperation Commission, made up of senior public servants responsible for the Canadian Francophonie at the Quebec *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes* and at Nova Scotia Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, will meet in person or by teleconference or videoconference in order to evaluate the results achieved over the previous year, identify courses of action for the year to come and, if appropriate, draft recommendations to their respective ministers.

Part XII: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 15

The Parties will determine and allocate each year, by mutual agreement and in accordance with the budgetary processes and policies in effect within their respective governments, the funds necessary for the application of this agreement. All funds allocated to funding projects that fall under this agreement are subject to budget appropriations approved by their respective legislatures.

The Parties will each allocate the sum of \$50,000 annually to the implementation of the Agreement from 2016–2017 to 2020–2021 and for the subsequent fiscal years, the amount will be agreed upon by the Parties in the Quinquennial Action Plan.

Article 16

This agreement, which replaces the Quebec–Nova Scotia Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange of September 2002, will come into force on the date set out below. It can be amended upon written consent of both Parties and terminated by either party, subject to written notice of at least six months.

SIGNED THIS 5Th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016, IN BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH, EACH VERSION HAVING THE SAME FORCE.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA
SCOTIA,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
QUEBEC,

Michel P. Samson
Minister of Acadian Affairs
and Francophonie

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