



COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC

WITH RESPECT TO

THE FRANCOPHONIE

IN THIS AGREEMENT,

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO IS REPRESENTED BY:

The Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs,

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC IS REPRESENTED BY:

The Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie.

The governments of Québec and Ontario are hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”.

WHEREAS Québec and Ontario have maintained ongoing relations with respect to the Francophonie since signing a first Cooperation and Exchange Agreement in 1969, and that both provinces are home to a significant French-speaking population and are committed to supporting and strengthening the richness and diversity of the Francophonie;

WHEREAS on the one hand, Québec is the only Francophone state in North America and, as such, is committed to playing a unifying leadership role with respect to the Francophonie and on the other, Ontario has had a vibrant Francophone community since the early 17th century;

WHEREAS the government of Québec wishes to support the development of Francophone and Acadian communities and to ensure the sustainability of the French fact in Canada and, in order to do so, intends to draw on the 2.6 million Francophones and Francophiles in Canada outside Québec, thereby ensuring the determining role of the French language in the foundation of Canadian society;

WHEREAS Ontario is determined that this cooperation will provide the Franco-Ontarian community with instrumental benefits for its future and that it will result in concerted action in the areas deemed pertinent by the Parties, thereby ensuring the promotion, development and vitality of the French language and French-speaking cultures in Ontario as well as the Francophonie across Canada;

WHEREAS the governments of Québec and Ontario signed a second Agreement for Cooperation and Exchanges with respect to Francophone Affairs in June 2006, and wish to update and enhance this agreement.

THE PARTIES AGREE TO SHARE AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE AND TO COOPERATE IN VARIOUS AREAS, INCLUDING CULTURE, EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD, HEALTH, IMMIGRATION, TOURISM, ECONOMY, YOUTH AND FRENCH LANGUAGE.

Title I: CULTURE

Section 1

The Parties will cooperate to promote the knowledge and development of their culture, including their heritage.

They will exchange information and expertise with respect to cultural policies and programs concerning Francophones.

They will jointly determine the areas they wish to prioritize and where they would like to develop common projects likely to encourage the development of the Francophone culture, including Québec and Ontario heritage.

Title II: EDUCATION

Section 2

The Parties will jointly participate on projects that allow them to meet challenges common to both French-language education systems, in particular integrating culture into the curriculum and pedagogical practice, maintaining high-quality educational services in distant regions, welcoming and integrating immigrant students, and issues related to changing demographics.

Section 3

They will exchange expertise and information with respect to the recognition of equivalences between courses and programs of studies in both provinces, and the transition from school to the workplace.

They will encourage, by means of the appropriate research and resources, the integration of culture into the curriculum, and the development and dissemination of best practices with respect to attitudes and expectations that encourage the use of the French language among youth.

Title III: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Section 4

The Parties will encourage cooperation and exchanges of information and expertise on early childhood, particularly with respect to policies, programs, training, and service delivery in French.

Section 5

They will explore the possibility of sharing expertise on training Francophone childcare staff, they will share information for the benefit of Québec with respect to decentralized childcare services management in Ontario, and they will share knowledge with respect to the planning of childcare needs and service quality assessment.

Title IV: HEALTH

Section 6

The Parties will contribute to the exchange of information and expertise in the area of health, especially with respect to terminology, training, and informing citizens, and the promotion of healthcare careers to youth.

Section 7

They will support cooperation and, if applicable, the signing of specific agreements between facilities and the implementation of activities to encourage lasting exchanges between Québec and Ontario with respect to health services in French.

Title V: IMMIGRATION

Section 8

The Parties will share expertise and best practices in Francophone immigration, successful settlement and integration of immigrants, pedagogy, training of workers and teachers and programs to better integrate immigrants in French.

Title VI: TOURISM

Section 9

The Parties will promote cooperation and exchanges in the various activity sectors of their respective tourism industries. These exchanges will concern in particular tourism reception and information practices, French-language tourism training, the use of new technologies in tourism, and product development.

They agree to cooperate closely to implement projects that promote the discovery and preservation of the 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 route of the Canadian Francophonie.

Title VII: ECONOMY

Section 10

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

Title VIII: YOUTH

Section 11

The Parties will facilitate exchanges and encourage joint initiatives between organizations of young Francophones to allow them to learn about each other, to get better acquainted, and to support the participation of youth in joint activities.

Title IX: FRENCH LANGUAGE

Section 12

The Parties will share their know-how with respect promoting the French language and will encourage the exchange of specialists and they will exchange information and expertise on the management and implementation of their government's linguistic policies.

Title X: OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

Section 13

The Parties will share information and expertise and will cooperate in any other area that they deem to be relevant with respect to the Francophonie and are consistent with the general objectives of this Agreement.

Title XI: IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Section 14

The Québec Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie and the Ontario Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs will meet at least once every two years to review and discuss developments with respect to the Canadian Francophonie and to adopt the five-year priorities.

Section 15

In order to develop the quinquennial priorities, a tripartite meeting will be held between representatives from the *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes du Québec*, the Office of Francophone Affairs of Ontario and the *Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario*. The purpose of this meeting will be to identify and recommend to the ministers the priorities for the following five (5) years.

The Parties, after consulting with the organization representing Ontario's francophones, will be able to target and promote initiatives related to the priorities that are expected to have a significant structural impact for the Canadian Francophonie and the vitality and development of Ontario's Francophonie.

Section 16

Each year, a Standing Cooperation Commission, composed of senior officials responsible for the Canadian Francophonie at the *Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes du Québec* and the Office of Francophone Affairs of Ontario, will meet, in person, by teleconference or videoconference, in order to assess the results obtained during the previous year, to identify actions for the coming year and, if applicable, to formulate recommendations to their respective ministers.

Title XII: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 17

Each year the Parties will, by mutual agreement and in accordance with the budgetary processes and policies in place for both governments, determine and allocate the necessary funds for implementing this agreement. Any allocation of project funding under this Agreement is subject to the appropriations voted by their respective legislatures.

Each Party will allocate a sum of at least \$100,000 for the 2017-2018 year to implement the Agreement, an amount that will gradually increase to a minimum of \$200,000 by 2021-2022.

For subsequent years, the amounts will be agreed to between the Parties in the quinquennial priorities.

Section 18

This Agreement, which replaces the June 2, 2006, *Agreement for Cooperation and Exchanges between the Government of Québec and the Government of Ontario with respect to Francophone Affairs*, comes into effect as of the date it is signed by the Parties. It may be amended by written consent of the Parties and terminated by either Party upon at least six months' notice in writing.

SIGNED THIS 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016, IN DUPLICATE, ONE COPY IN FRENCH AND ONE IN ENGLISH, BOTH TEXTS BEING EQUALLY AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
ONTARIO

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
QUÉBEC

Marie-France Lalonde
Minister responsible for Francophone
Affairs

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