



MANITOBA



NEW BRUNSWICK

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INTERPROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION

BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA,
REPRESENTED BY THE
PREMIER OF MANITOBA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK,
REPRESENTED BY THE
PREMIER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Hereinafter designated as the parties.

WHEREAS, Manitoba and New Brunswick share many common interests and concerns relating to the well-being of their citizens and delivery of services to their populations, and

WHEREAS, Manitoba and New Brunswick share a mutual interest, as members of the Canadian federation, in contributing positively and constructively to dialogue with other governments on measures to strengthen the Canadian economy and Canadian unity, and

WHEREAS, Manitoba and New Brunswick have a history of productive co-operation and sharing of information on a number of key intergovernmental and international issues, including a common interest in promoting and protecting their interests with respect to fiscal and other constitutional matters, and

WHEREAS, the governments of Manitoba and New Brunswick are committed to interprovincial co-operation in general and to strengthening bilateral co-operation between New Brunswickers and Manitobans for the interests of their provinces, regions and of Canada as a whole.

THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree to the following:

1.0 PURPOSE

The parties agree to promote increased co-operation and information sharing between their respective governments for the purposes of improving public services and promoting their mutual interests in interprovincial, federal-provincial, and international discussions.

2.0 SCOPE OF CO-OPERATION

Strengthened co-operation between New Brunswick and Manitoba will focus initially on ten specific areas which follow.

2.1 Improving Children's Programs

In support of early childhood development, both provinces have introduced unique and innovative prenatal programs to assist expectant mothers with the objective of improving the health of low-income pregnant women and their newborn children. The parties agree to co-operate in the evaluation of their respective programs, share best practices and work together on future program development. The parties further agree to explore opportunities to co-operate in the area of early intervention in the primary grades within the education system.

2.2 Fiscal Arrangements

The parties are committed to the improvement of federal-provincial fiscal arrangements. Both parties agree to promote better fiscal balance, both vertical and horizontal, in the Canadian federation. To this end, the parties share the joint goals of strengthening the Equalization Program and restoring the federal government's contribution to social program funding to more adequate levels.

The parties agree to share information on the state of federal-provincial fiscal arrangements and to co-operate as appropriate in the development and articulation of common positions as they relate to this issue.

2.3 Health

Both parties are committed to innovation in the provision of quality, accessible, publicly funded, and sustainable health care services to their residents. The parties agree to continue sharing best practices and information to assist in the delivery of quality health care and agree to consider additional areas for collaboration.



2.4 Income Support Reform and Reducing Barriers to Work

Both parties are interested in the efficient and effective delivery of income support programs and services to their citizens. This includes ensuring people have access to the supports and programs they need in order to allow them to enter or to re-enter the labour market. The parties agree to:

- 2.4.1. work together on pilot projects to improve an individual's self-sufficiency by providing the support needed to enter and stay in the labour market;
- 2.4.2. compare approaches of provincial and federal income support programs and taxation measures for low-income individuals and families, with the objective of providing a more integrated and client-focused approach to federal and provincial programs;
- 2.4.3. articulate, to the federal government, common positions on:
 - i. the need to clarify roles and responsibilities of each order of government in the area of income support services;
 - ii. the need for greater flexibility under the Employment Insurance Act and their respective Labour Market Development Agreements to allow people with jobs to receive support for training.

2.5 Economic Development

The parties are interested in co-operating in the area of economic development and are committed to the principles of eliminating business barriers within Canada, including those that may exist between provinces. Both parties are committed to the Agreement on Internal Trade and, as such, agree to:

- 2.5.1. communicate and share information in areas of trade policy and trade practices;
- 2.5.2. make best efforts to avoid the use of incentives that may result in artificial and unproductive 'bidding' competition for new businesses and which place an undue burden on taxpayers; and
- 2.5.3. communicate and share information on innovative alternative approaches to generating new economic development for their respective communities and regions and to champion community economic development models nationally.

2.6 Emergency Measures

The New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization and the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization enjoy a collaborative relationship on matters related to federal involvement in Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, national emergency preparedness training, and national disaster mitigation. The parties agree to pursue, through their respective emergency measures organizations, a joint arrangement for providing mutual assistance in augmenting the human resources available to each jurisdiction in times of emergency.

2.7 Fire Marshal Services

Both parties, through their respective fire marshal/commissioner's offices, are committed to co-operation and co-ordination in the area of fire and life safety through the sharing of common best practices and pursuing collaborative opportunities in providing fire service training.

2.8 Francophone Relations/Services

The parties agree to share information, resources and best practices on their mutual efforts to enhance the provision of services to their respective francophone communities. The parties agree to explore areas of co-operation in the area of French language services, more particularly with respect to issues identified as priorities by the Ministerial conference on Francophone affairs.

2.9 International Relations

The parties agree to share information in developing their respective international strategies that reflect a strategic approach to building stronger relationships with the international community.



The parties further agree to share resources and best practices in their work related to improving governance structures in other countries, including South Africa, where both provinces have twinning programs financed in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

2.10 E-government

Both Manitoba and New Brunswick are developing new and innovative ways of implementing information technology for the benefit of their residents. The parties agree to share best practices in the use of information and technology within government and in the provision of on-line services to the public. In particular, they agree to share best practices for enhancing the security of on-line government services.

3.0 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The parties agree to establish a Management Committee to co-ordinate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. The Co-Chairs of the Management Committee will be the Deputy Ministers responsible for intergovernmental and federal-provincial relations in each province.
- 3.2 The Management Committee will develop a workplan to implement this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.3 The Management Committee will assess progress on an ongoing basis, identify new opportunities for collaboration and report progress to the Premiers.
- 3.4 The Management Committee will convene a minimum of four times per year, via meetings and/or teleconference.
- 3.5 The Premiers of New Brunswick and Manitoba agree to convene twice a year, via meetings and/or teleconference, to assess progress and evaluate new opportunities for collaboration.

4.0 TERMS AND PROVISIONS

This agreement will be in force as of the date of its signature. It may be terminated, by written notice of either party to the other, six months prior to the desired termination date.

To ensure continued relevance of the agreement with current issues, the parties may, by joint agreement, amend this Memorandum of Understanding at any time by exchange of letters.

This agreement is signed in English and French, both versions being equally authentic.

Signed in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Wednesday, this 23rd day of January 2002.

The Honourable Gary Doer
Premier of Manitoba

The Honourable Bernard Lord
Premier of New Brunswick