



BAS-RHIN



MANITOBA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA, CANADA
AND
THE CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DU BAS-RHIN, FRANCE

hereafter referred to as "the Participants"

WHEREAS, the Participants share many common interests and concerns relating to the well-being of their respective citizens and the delivery of services to their populations;

WHEREAS, the Participants have linguistic, cultural and historical affinities as a result of the presence of a vibrant French-speaking community in Manitoba since the 18th century and the official status of the French language in Manitoba in the legislative, judicial and educational spheres;

CONSIDERING, the ties forged between the Participants since the signing of the September 25, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and particularly in the economic sphere, initiated by the *Agence de développement économique du Bas-Rhin, Alsace International* and the *Agence nationale et internationale du Manitoba*;

WHEREAS, the Participants wish to reinforce existing bonds and create new ones;

WHEREAS, the Participants intend to work co-operatively by promoting and facilitating economic ties, the sharing of experience and intercultural exchanges among stakeholders in both regions, in a manner consistent with the legislation and treaties in force in their respective countries;

Hereby consent to the following:

- 1.(a) The following co-operation areas are considered as priorities with respect to this MOU:
 - (i) economic and scientific co-operation, particularly in biotechnology and life sciences, agri-food, environmental technology, and transportation;
 - (ii) sharing of experience in the areas of energy and climate change, youth policy and risk behaviours, policies that support senior citizens and persons with disabilities, particularly in connection with health and information technology;
 - (iii) intercultural exchanges, notably those that involve young people and the Francophone community;
- (b) The Participants will explore other co-operative initiatives on matters of common interest to be determined.
2. The Participants will make available human and financial resources for the implementation of this MOU, in accordance with their financial means and annual budgets and based on projects put in place.
3. In the framework of their co-operation, the Participants may, based on the areas concerned, work with other French and Canadian communities involved in decentralized co-operative partnerships.
4. The Participants will name specific contacts to ensure the implementation of this MOU on their behalf. These individuals will endeavour to meet at least annually to assess progress made.
- 5.(a) The Participants are deemed to have entered into this MOU upon signing. The MOU will take effect on June 22, 2009, after the deliberation of the Conseil Général, and remain in effect until December 31, 2014. It will be reviewed by the Participants prior to or during the fifth year;
- (b) The Participants may amend this MOU in writing by mutual consent;
- (c) The Participants may renew this MOU in writing by mutual consent.

Signed in duplicate in Strasbourg on this 17th day of June, 2009, in English and French, both versions being equally authoritative.

For the Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin, France

For the Government of Manitoba, Canada

original signed by

original signed by

Guy-Dominique Kennel
President of the Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin

Andrew Swan
Minister, Manitoba Competitiveness, Training and Trade