Economic cooperation memorandum of understanding: British Columbia and Manitoba

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Manitoba sets out the roles and responsibilities in their partnership.

Memorandum of Understanding Between: The Government of British Columbia and The Government of Manitoba (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Parties")

WHEREAS interprovincial trade barriers cost Canada up to $200 billion annually, and their removal has the potential to increase Canadian GDP by as much as 7.9 per cent over the long term;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian economy is currently subject to economic and geopolitical uncertainty, including various tariffs and tariff threats on Canadian products, which threaten Canadian workers and businesses;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are committed to significantly expanding the ability of workers and businesses within their respective jurisdictions to take advantage of commercial opportunities across Canada, and in doing so strengthen Canada's economy;

AND WHEREAS the Parties trust federal, provincial and territorial regulatory bodies to make sound decisions that put the safety of Canadians first;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are demonstrating leadership by introducing enabling legislation aimed at leveraging recognition of regulatory requirements to significantly reduce barriers to trade with other provinces and territories, and entering into a reciprocal mutual recognition arrangement;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia has consistently demonstrated leadership by significantly reducing regulatory burdens for workers, including by having no Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) Chapter 7 labour mobility exceptions filed against Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba has consistently demonstrated leadership on internal trade with respect to the removal of Party-specific Exceptions (PSEs) under the CFTA and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), easing regulatory burdens and supporting the mobility of goods and people, including having no CFTA Chapter 7 exceptions against British Columbia, and is continuing to further open opportunities for trade and investment;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba is a leader on direct-to-consumer (DTC) sales of alcohol and is currently fully open.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree to:

1. Build on their respective legislation to remove internal trade barriers between them, so as to boost the flow of goods, services, investment, and workers, including through direct-to-consumer sales of alcohol and improved interprovincial labour mobility, while maintaining and strengthening levels of public safety and respecting the integrity and role of Crown corporations within certain provincial industries. Through British Columbia's legislation, *the Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act, the Labour Mobility Act,* and Manitoba's legislation, the *Fair Trade in Canada (Internal Trade Mutual Recognition) Act, The Labour Mobility Act, The Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act,* and *The Regulated Health Professions Act* , the Parties will strive to ensure that a good or equivalent service or registered worker that is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in British Columbia, is deemed acceptable for sale, use or work in Manitoba – and vice versa.

2. Encourage other Canadian jurisdictions to join Manitoba and British Columbia in driving progress on internal trade through their own legislation and remove regulatory differences that create barriers to trade across Canada, including through reciprocal mutual recognition.

3. Encourage other Canadian jurisdictions to strengthen their commitment to free trade in Canada by joining the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

4. Further facilitate interprovincial labour mobility by working together to identify options to align regulated occupations and registration.

5. To enhance market opportunities for producers and increase consumer choice, British Columbia will endeavor to enable DTC sales of alcoholic beverages from Manitoba producers in May 2026. Manitoban consumers can already direct purchase from British Columbia producers.

6. The Parties will also engage in discussions on additional opportunities to improve diversity of available alcoholic beverages between each other's jurisdictions.

7. Work to explore the possibility of including a dispute mechanism in each province's respective interprovincial trade statutes for businesses, unions and civil society organizations to challenge the appropriateness of mutual recognition for specific goods or services on the basis of workplace, environmental and public safety.

8. This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the understanding of the Parties with respect to their cooperation but is not legally binding and does not create any legal, equitable or financial rights, obligations or liabilities for either of the Parties.

Signed on the 21st day of July in the year 2025 in Huntsville, Ontario.

Premier Wab Kinew Government of Manitoba	Premier David Eby Government of British Columbia