

**Cooperation Protocol Regarding the Canadian Francophonie
between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of New Brunswick**

I. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

1. **RECOGNIZING** the vitality and potential of the Francophone communities of Manitoba and New Brunswick;
2. **RECOGNIZING** the common values of Manitoba and New Brunswick, their respective strengths and their commitment to the ongoing development of their respective Francophone communities;
3. **RECOGNIZING** that la Francophonie constitutes a significant social, cultural and economic asset as well as an important lever for development, both nationally and internationally;
4. **CONSIDERING** the Manitoba/New Brunswick Memorandum of Understanding on Interprovincial Co-operation, signed on January 23, 2002, the Government of Manitoba and the Government of New Brunswick (the "**Parties**") declare their intention to strengthen their collaboration and enter into this Cooperation Protocol that provides the framework for the pursuit of these shared objectives, and more specifically:
 - A. To encourage and promote cultural, educational and economic exchanges within the framework of their common Francophonie;
 - B. To share information and best practices in this regard; and
 - C. To increase collaboration in research and higher education, economic and community development, the municipal sector, arts and culture, the digital sector, the youth sector, French education, and other areas in order to:
 - i. support the vitality of the Acadian and Francophone communities of New Brunswick and Manitoba;
 - ii. develop structured partnerships to protect and promote Francophone culture and heritage; and
 - iii. promote networking for Francophone business owners, explore new markets and facilitate entrepreneurial innovation with a view to supporting Francophone economic development.
5. **INSPIRED** by the spirit of innovation, cooperation, strengthening ties and by the potential social and economic benefits, this Protocol:
6. **CONFIRMS** the commitment of the Parties to strengthen their relationship and to work together to identify concrete areas of collaboration that support their common vision.

II. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

1. In the spirit of mutual benefit, the Parties share a willingness to collaborate in the following areas:

- A. Research and higher education;
- B. Economic development;
- C. Community development;
- D. Municipal sector;
- E. Arts et culture;
- F. Digital sector;
- G. Youth sector; and
- H. French language education.

III. FORMS OF COLLABORATION AND ACTIVITIES

1. The Parties agree to endeavour to carry out each of the activities including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. Developing and facilitating opportunities for the exchange of ideas, business practices and processes, including those relating to the delivery of government services in French. These exchanges can take various forms and involve culture, education and the economy, thus promoting ongoing dialogue and a better understanding of the diverse needs of Francophone communities, which will contribute to the strengthening of interprovincial relations and cohesion.
 - B. Sharing and promoting new and existing practices in favour of Francophone youth, provincial collaboration with partners in the municipal sector, as well as in the arts, culture, digital and education sectors. These activities could include bringing together artists, cultural organizations, producers and presenters in their respective provinces in the fields of music, film, theatre, digital arts and design. In the area of education, collaborative activities could be put in place to foster relationships and exchanges between young people and youth support organizations.
2. The collaboration and activities specified in Section III(1) will be identified as the **“Projects”**.
3. The Parties will also endeavour to foster closer links between organizations and research support programs in their respective fields of competence, with the aim of promoting joint research projects and exchanges between researchers. Activities could aim to increase the visibility of post-secondary institutions in Manitoba and New Brunswick offering programs in French.

IV. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, EARMARKED ENVELOPES AND EQUIVALENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. Subject to the availability of budgetary resources and the approval of the competent authorities of each government, each Party undertakes to have an adequate budgetary envelope reserved for the implementation of the Projects. The minimum annual sum of this envelope will be twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

2. The Parties agree to use this envelope exclusively for the purpose of joint project funding. The intergovernmental collaborative initiatives described in Section III(3) must be funded on a stand-alone basis or through specific agreements.
3. The Parties may agree, if they wish, to increase the annual budgetary envelope – by adding an appendix to the current protocol – to support the implementation of special projects that fall outside the scope of the envelope set aside for the Projects.
4. The Parties agree that the financial support provided to a Project by each government will be equivalent to that of its counterpart, subject to such exceptions as may be agreed upon by the Parties in an appendix to the current Protocol.

V. TYPES OF PROJECTS

1. Projects funded in cooperation must respond to concrete needs outlined in the funding request for this program and achieve at least one of the following two objectives:
 - A. Strengthen ties between Manitoba's Francophones and New Brunswick's Acadians and Francophones;
 - B. Increase the use of French and the visibility of Francophone cultures through projects that promote outreach, exchange and collaboration between communities in Manitoba and New Brunswick.
2. Cooperatively funded Projects must also:
 - A. Foster collaboration between not-for-profit organizations in Manitoba and New Brunswick;
 - B. Be conducted mainly in French.

VI. REPRESENTATIVES

1. The Parties entrust the implementation of this Protocol to the following persons as points of contact (the "**Representatives**"):
 - A. **For the Province of Manitoba:**

Attn: Teresa Collins, Executive Director
Francophone Affairs Secretariat
teresa.collins@gov.mb.ca

B. For the Province of New Brunswick:

Attn: Vicky Deschênes, Executive Director
Official Languages Secretariat
Department of Intergovernmental Affairs
Vicky.Deschenes@gnb.ca

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

1. For the implementation of this Protocol, the Representatives will endeavour to meet annually in order to:
 - A. Consider and approve, for the areas of collaboration defined in Section II, an annual action plan to support the overall objectives described in Section I;
 - B. Review, beginning in the second year of the Protocol, through a joint assessment, the status of implementation of the annual plan of action;
 - C. Consider, as necessary, any question relating to the application and interpretation of this Protocol; and
 - D. Report on the results of these discussions.

VIII. AMENDMENT

1. This Protocol may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the Parties, by exchange of signed letters specifying the date of entry into force of the amendments.

IX. GENERAL

1. This Protocol has no binding legal force and does not create any legal, equitable or financial obligations, liabilities, or rights for the Parties.
2. Each Party will bear its own costs for activities carried out under this Protocol.
3. The term of the Protocol will commence on the date specified in Section X and will continue for a period of four (4) years. Upon expiration, unless there is agreement to the contrary between the Parties, the Protocol will be extended automatically for the same length of time and under the same conditions.
4. This Protocol may be terminated at any time by either Party by written notice to the other Party at least six (6) months prior to its expiry. In this case, the Parties will take the necessary measures to complete all actions undertaken jointly under the ongoing annual action plan.
5. The Parties also understand and agree that nothing in this Protocol requires either party to disclose information contrary to the Parties' applicable laws regarding access to information and protection of personal information.

X. EFFECTIVE DATE

1. This Protocol will come into force on June 25, 2026.

Signed this June 25, 2026, in English and French, in duplicate.

For the Province of Manitoba

Original signed by:

The Honourable Glen Simard
Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs

For the Province of New Brunswick

Original signed by:

The Honourable Robert Gauvin
Minister responsible for La Francophonie