



COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

REGARDING THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC,

represented by the Ministre responsable de la
Francophonie canadienne,
and by the Ministre responsable des Relations
canadiennes,

hereinafter referred to as “Québec”

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA,

represented by the Minister responsible for Francophone
Affairs,

hereinafter referred to as “Manitoba”;

collectively called “the Parties”

CONSIDERING THAT the sustainability and the vitality of the French language rely on government support and also on the determination of the individuals and civil society organizations that sustain it in everyday life;

CONSIDERING THAT the French language is in a minority situation in Canada and in decline, and because of its situation, it requires focused attention and warrants specific measures to ensure its sustainability and vitality;

CONSIDERING THAT the Francophonie contributes significantly to Canada’s social fabric and that the French language affords Canada a distinct advantage on the world stage, especially in the economic and diplomatic realms;

CONSIDERING THAT Québec is actively involved within the Canadian Francophonie, in the renewal of Francophone solidarity in Canada and in the self-fulfillment of Francophone and Acadian communities, and that it undertakes to ensure the sustainability of French in Canada;

CONSIDERING THAT French is the only official language of Québec and the sole common language of the Québec nation, constituting one of the foundations of its identity and distinct culture;

CONSIDERING THAT Québec, in its capacity as the sole French-speaking State in North America, intends to exercise mobilizing leadership with respect to the Francophonie and undertakes to fully assume its specific responsibility in respect to the promotion and enhancement of the French language in Canada;

CONSIDERING THAT in March 2022, Québec renewed the *Politique du Québec en matière de francophonie canadienne* and included in it its desire to renew the cooperation agreements pertaining to the Canadian Francophonie with the governments of the provinces and territories of Canada;

CONSIDERING THAT there has been a vibrant French-speaking community in Manitoba since the 18th century and that the province wishes to create an environment where all Manitobans can live and receive services in the official language of their choice, and where conditions exist for the Francophone community to evolve and flourish;

CONSIDERING THAT in June 2025 Manitoba launched broad public consultations on how it can become a truly bilingual province and that it hopes to use the results to develop a long-term strategy on bilingualism to promote its French-speaking population and the added value of the French language in all sectors across the province;

CONSIDERING THAT the Parties have maintained constant relations in the realm of the Canadian Francophonie since the conclusion in November 1988, of the first cooperation agreement;

CONSIDERING THAT the most recent cooperation agreement with respect to the Canadian Francophonie dates from January 18th, 2016, and that there is a mutual desire to renew the agreement;

CONSIDERING THAT the Parties wish to attest to the importance of their relations not only on a historical basis but also on a contemporary one and that they intend to broaden their collaboration and ensure that it further contributes to the maintenance and blossoming of French in their respective territories by multiplying relations and exchanges between governments and between Québec society and Manitoba society;

CONSIDERING THAT dialogue with civil society organizations and the establishment of partnerships between them are essential to the realization of the desired collaboration under this agreement;

THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 1: Purpose of the agreement

Through this agreement, the Parties are seeking to promote cooperation with respect to the Canadian Francophonie between Québec and Manitoba by means of intergovernmental collaboration and joint funding of projects.

SECTION 2

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

ARTICLE 2: Exchanges of information and best practices

The Parties agree to:

- exchange information pertaining to the development and strengthening of the French language, the vitality of Francophone communities, public policies and public service offerings, their respective international initiatives in these areas, and projects and initiatives of common interest to Francophone communities in Manitoba and Quebecers;
- communicate their best practices in respect of any question that can positively affect Manitoba's francophone community and Quebecers;
- facilitate contacts between civil society organizations in Québec and Manitoba.

ARTICLE 3: Collaboration between sectoral government departments

In their capacity as the main spokespersons in the realm of the Canadian Francophonie and in their respective governments, the representatives of the Ministère de la Langue française (MLF) and the Francophone Affairs Secretariat (FAS) in Manitoba agree to:

- facilitate contacts between each government's sectoral departments;
- facilitate contacts between civil society organizations in Québec and Manitoba and the other government's sectoral departments, as required;
- take the appropriate measures, as the Parties may agree on, to promote all such links.

SECTION 3

COLLABORATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

ARTICLE 4: General principles

The Parties agree to jointly fund projects stemming from civil society organizations that target exchanges of expertise and the strengthening and creation of partnerships between Québec and the Francophone communities in Manitoba, including in the education sector, to enhance the vitality of French-speaking civil societies and the French language in their territories.

ARTICLE 5: Support for civil society organizations

The Parties agree to actively support civil society organizations in Québec and Manitoba, especially in the development of collaborative projects, while maintaining respect for their respective responsibilities.

ARTICLE 6: Financial commitment, reserved budget allowances, and equivalent financial support

Subject to the budgetary resources available and the approval of each government's competent authorities, each of the Parties agrees to allocate annually a minimum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to fund the projects mentioned in Section 3. The contribution of Québec will come from the MLF, while the contribution from Manitoba will come from the FAS and the Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF) with each contributing twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

Subject to approval from the appropriate authorities within each government, the Parties must ensure that a sufficient budget allowance is earmarked for the implementation of this agreement.

The Parties agree to use this budget allowance solely for the purpose of jointly funding projects. The intergovernmental collaboration initiatives described in Section 2 must be funded autonomously or through specific agreements.

The Parties can, if necessary, agree to increase the annual budget to support the realization of special projects.

The Parties agree that the financial support allocated by each government to a project must be equivalent to that of its counterpart, subject to exceptions that may be agreed to by the Parties.

ARTICLE 7: Types of projects

The projects funded under the cooperation agreement must satisfy concrete needs and meet at least one of the two of the following objectives:

- strengthen ties between Quebecers and Francophones in Manitoba;
- broaden the use of French and the visibility of Francophone cultures in Manitoba.

Such projects must also:

- promote collaboration between civil society in Québec and civil society in Manitoba;
- be carried out predominantly in French.

ARTICLE 8: Organization of calls for projects

The Parties agree to organize at least one joint annual call for projects. The dates of the call for projects will be determined at the annual meeting of the joint committee (see Section 4).

The Parties undertake to promote through their respective communications channels each call for projects.

ARTICLE 9: Analysis of the grant applications

Representatives of each of the Parties must analyze the grant applications and their eligibility for funding under the cooperation agreement as stipulated by the joint committee (see Section 4).

Applications submitted via Québec's grant application platform must meet applicable standards under the Programme d'appui à la francophonie canadienne (PAFC) of Québec. The Government of Manitoba will also be using the PAFC application form to receive requests for funding.

Each Party agrees to confirm to the other the decision regarding funding within a reasonable time frame.

ARTICLE 10: Accountability

At the conclusion of each project funded, the accountability documents provided by the beneficiaries must include the information that each Party requires and be validated by the representatives of each of the Parties, as stipulated by the joint committee (see Section 4).

Each government may establish obligations regarding project accountability of civil society organizations and follow-up based on its respective administrative guidelines, including those for measuring the impact and scope of funded projects.

SECTION 4 IMPLEMENTATION

ARTICLE 11: Joint committee

The Parties establish a joint Québec–Manitoba committee to coordinate the cooperation activities that this agreement covers.

The committee is chaired by the assistant deputy minister responsible for the Promotion of the French Language, Partnerships and Canadian Francophonie of the MLF or by a representative of the MLF designated by the deputy minister of the MLF and by the executive director of the FAS or by a representative of the FAS designated by the executive director of the FAS. It is made up of representatives of the MLF, including representatives of the Bureau du Québec à Toronto (BQT), and representatives of the FAS. The Parties must designate each of the representatives. In the event that the designated person from the MLF or the FAS is unavailable to co-chair a meeting of the joint committee, the Party in question must designate a substitute from within its government, presuming that, if available, the head of office of the BQT would then co-chair for Québec.

Representatives from other departments of the Parties may be invited to participate at meetings of the joint committee where relevant.

The joint committee will meet at least once a year by videoconference or otherwise to:

- i. review the intergovernmental collaboration activities carried out during the preceding year, assess their outcomes and, if need be, make the requisite adjustments;
- ii. review the joint funding of the projects of civil society organizations carried out during the preceding year, assess their outcomes and, if need be, make the requisite adjustments;
- iii. define the collaborative activities in the realm of intergovernmental cooperation to be elaborated for the coming year;
- iv. establish for the coming year the necessary steps to encourage projects between civil society organizations that have the potential to be funded under the cooperation agreement;
- v. pinpoint the sectors of interest or those to be prioritized in the coming year;
- vi. determine the joint public communications approaches to be carried out;
- vii. study any other question regarding the application and interpretation of this agreement.

Furthermore, the joint committee commits to meet the Société de la francophone manitobaine (SFM) once a year to talk about projects supported under the cooperation agreement, to discuss avenues the Parties may wish to prioritise and to exchange on shared strategic objectives.

SECTION 5

ROLE OF THE BUREAU DU QUÉBEC À TORONTO

ARTICLE 12: Role

The BQT represents the Gouvernement du Québec in Manitoba. As such, it is the primary interlocutor of the government and civil society of Manitoba in the day-to-day follow-up of issues and in the organization of the visits of official representatives from Québec to the province. It acts as the Québec government's gateway to political and governmental partners as well as civil society organizations in Manitoba. The head of office also acts as the official representative of the Gouvernement of Québec at activities that take place in Manitoba.

SECTION 6

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 13: Coming into force

This agreement, which replaces the *Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Government of Manitoba with Respect to the Francophonie* of 2016, comes into force on the date of its signing by the Parties and is valid for a period of five (5) years, unless the Parties decide otherwise. Notwithstanding other provisions of this agreement, either Party may terminate the agreement with six (6) months' notice to the other party. Upon expiry, unless decided otherwise by the Parties, the agreement will automatically extend with the same conditions and for the same period.

ARTICLE 14: Amendment

This agreement may only be amended through the written consent of the two Parties subject to the requisite government approvals.

ARTICLE 15: Confidentiality

The Parties agree that any exchange or transmission of information stipulated in the context of this agreement, including personal or confidential information, will occur in compliance with the legislation of each of the Parties governing access to information and privacy.

SECTION 7

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES

ARTICLE 16: Choice of the representatives

For the purposes of the administration of this agreement, the Gouvernement du Québec is represented by the assistant deputy minister for the Promotion of the French Language, Partnerships and Canadian Francophonie of the Ministère de la Langue française:

Geneviève Lajoie.

genevieve.lajoie@mlf.gouv.qc.ca

The Government of Manitoba is represented by the executive director of the Francophone Affairs Secretariat:

Teresa Collins.

teresa.collins@gov.mb.ca

Each Party must notify the other Party in writing as expeditiously as possible of any change of representative.

Notice in this Agreement is deemed to have been effected on the day of delivery in person, electronic communication, or upon mailing of the notice.

SIGNED IN DUPLICATE, ONE COPY IN FRENCH AND THE OTHER COPY IN ENGLISH, EACH TEXT BEING AUTHENTIC.

FOR THE GOUVERNEMENT
DU QUÉBEC,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF MANITOBA,

Original signed by:

Original signed by:

Jean-François Roberge
Ministre responsable de la Francophonie
canadienne

Glen Simard
Minister responsible for Francophone
Affairs

On July 3rd, 2026

On July 3rd, 2026

Original signed by:

Jean Boulet
Ministre responsable des Relations
canadiennes

On July 14th, 2026