

Minnesota-Manitoba Agreement

on

Educational Cooperation

September 19, 1989

INTRODUCTION

On November 21, 1988, Premier Filmon of Manitoba and Governor Perpich of Minnesota signed into the Minnesota-Manitoba Agreement on Economic Cooperation and Trade Opportunities. Also, on January 1, 1989, the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement, as signed by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States, and ratified respectively by the Parliament of Canada and the United States Congress, came into effect.

OBJECTIVES - THE REASONS FOR COOPERATION

The Premier of Manitoba and the Governor of Minnesota are committed to building on these cooperative agreements. The two Governments, in addition to sharing a strong interest in expanding economic development and employment opportunities throughout the State and the Province, as evidenced by the agreement signed in November 1988, are equally committed to assuring full and equitable access to education services for residents throughout their jurisdictions.

The State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba share a strong commitment to enhancing education services to ensure that present and future generations of Minnesotans and Manitobans are fully prepared to take advantage of emerging opportunities given the increasingly global nature of our societies.

To enhance the economic cooperation already initiated, the two jurisdictions recognize the need to encourage a better understanding of their respective cultures through greater exchanges of students and teaching professionals from the elementary to the post-secondary levels and by pursuing other promising initiatives in education and research.

The Governor of Minnesota and the Premier of Manitoba believe that enhanced educational research, and cultural cooperation, in addition to the economic activities

initiated earlier, will provide a favorable climate for mutual understanding, economic growth, increased trade, job creation, and cultural enrichment.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COOPERATIVE APPROACH

A limited number of Minnesotans and Manitobans already benefit from each other's post-secondary education opportunities. The expansion of the range of cooperative activities and the creation of mechanisms to facilitate new cooperative ventures are the objectives of this agreement.

To provide a focal point for expanded and improved cooperation in education and research between Manitoba and Minnesota and to assist in the achievement of the objectives of this agreement, the State and the Province agree to establish:

1. A Minnesota-Manitoba Working Group on Education Cooperation, consisting of designated officials of the Department of Education and Training of the Government of Manitoba and the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- 2. An advisory committee of the Working Group representing the appropriate elementary, secondary, and post-secondary communities.
3. The Working Group shall meet at least twice a year and shall report progress to the Governor and to the Premier.

PRIORITIES FOR MINNESOTA-MANITOBA COOPERATION IN EDUCATION

1. The Premier and the Governor agree to invite the executive heads of the Manitoba post-secondary institutions, the Executive Director of the Manitoba Universities Grants Commission, and members of the Minnesota Higher Education Advisory Council to an inaugural meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba in the fall of 1989. The meeting will be co-chaired by the Minister of Education and Training of the Province of Manitoba and the Executive Director of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board. The purpose of the meeting is to explore the areas of greatest interest and potential for cooperation and to set in motion provisions of this agreement.

These might include joint research projects or faculty exchanges in fields such as sustainable development, transportation, education accessibility for minorities, agriculture, and future directions for rural communities.

2. The State of Minnesota under the direction of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board will sponsor a Manitoba-Minnesota symposium in association with the annual Minnesota Governing Board's meeting scheduled for February 14-15, 1990. The theme suggested is distance education. An annual symposium will be held alternately in Manitoba and Minnesota. In January 1991, Manitoba will be hosting the national conference of Canadian community colleges. Appropriate Minnesota educators will be invited to participate in this conference which will be considering issues of concern in both jurisdictions.
3. The Manitoba-Minnesota Working Group charged with the implementation of the objectives of this agreement will invite, in the fall of 1989, representatives of the State's and the Province's vocational-technical post-secondary education institutions to establish a body to facilitate the exchange of courseware, other materials, and explore forms of mutual assistance.
4. The two governments will undertake to facilitate:
 - a. The admission of Manitoba and Minnesota residents to each other's respective institutions without residence restrictions, but based on prevailing practices and procedures of the individual institutions.
 - b. The establishment of equitable tuition and fee arrangements so that non-residents, in each other's jurisdiction, would be charged at the same rates as charged to residents in each case.
 - c. Establishment of portability of Provincial/State scholarships and financial aid for exchange students.
5. State and provincial officials will discuss the establishment of a reciprocal agreement to make the Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunication Exchange (MINITEX) service available to Manitoba post-secondary institutions. This will provide stu-

dents, faculty, and researchers with access to the library holdings of participating institutions in Manitoba, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota at reasonable costs. This will provide the institutions within these jurisdictions with an expanded research, reference, and study inventory, and enable institutions to readily access highly specialized research literature not available in their own institutions. This service will also enable Manitoba post-secondary institutions to increase the holdings available to students and faculty at considerably less cost than if each library had to acquire the holdings itself.

6. The Working Group charged with the development of the present agreement will identify existing cooperative efforts with a view to encourage and assist in their further development.
7. The Governor and the Premier instruct the Working Group, after consultation with the post-secondary community, community leaders, and government officials, to identify in its first annual report to the Premier and Governor, directions for additional cooperative efforts between the Province and the State in the areas of education and research.

PUBLIC AND SECONDARY STUDENT EXCHANGES

The Governor and the Premier also wish to encourage far greater interaction among young Minnesotans and Manitobans, with particular emphasis on students in junior high schools and high schools. Priority under this agreement will be given to increasing the number of school exchange visits, to be facilitated by the appropriate agencies in Minnesota and Manitoba. Financial support will be sought from a variety of sources, including private sector sponsors. Program details will be developed by the Manitoba Department of Education and Training, and the Minnesota Department of Education.

CONCLUSION

The Governor and the Premier regard this agreement as complementary to, and supportive of the November 21, 1988 Minnesota-Manitoba Agreement on Economic Cooperation and Trade Opportunities, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the efforts of the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada to improve overall cooperation and relations between the two neighboring countries.

Signed at St. Paul, Minnesota this 19th Day of September, 1989.



The Honorable Rudy Perpich
Governor of Minnesota



The Honorable Gary Filmon
Premier of Manitoba