



ILLINOIS



MANITOBA

*MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON ECONOMIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION*

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

AND

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

(hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants")

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba have many common interests and enjoy a long-standing co-operative relationship, particularly in commerce and transportation;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba acknowledge the advantages to be gained by strengthening and broadening mutually beneficial relations between their two jurisdictions;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba recognize that lowering carbon emissions will require a combination of complementary energy sources and technologies, including clean, renewable hydro power, wind, solar, and advances in “greening” traditional energy sources;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba share an interest in expanding their innovation economies by leveraging regional partnerships to promote a climate of research, innovation, and technology development and commercialization within the Midwest;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba recognize the value of co-operation to protect and preserve the natural legacy of their respective rivers and waterways through the sharing of expertise on the distinctive challenges posed by development and on the environmental policy priorities essential to sustainable future development;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba see value in enhancing collaboration and co-operation on transportation and logistics matters of mutual interest and benefit to their respective business communities;

WHEREAS Illinois and Manitoba see value in sharing information on crime prevention initiatives to foster safer communities;

THEREFORE consistent with the laws and existing treaties between their respective nations, Illinois and Manitoba intend to:

AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

TRADE, TOURISM, TRANSPORTATION AND INLAND PORTS

- Work together to identify target sectors for joint initiatives including, but not limited to, lifesciences and biotechnology, agribusiness, manufacturing, clean energy, environmental sciences, and information and communication technologies;
- Work together to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships and alliances between private sector companies in Illinois and Manitoba;
- Explore opportunities for joint trade promotion and joint promotional activities related to the tourism, cultural and sports sectors;
- Exchange best practices/lessons learned in assisting the private sector with inland port development;
- Examine options for co-operative activity to facilitate development of strategic partnerships/ collaborations between the jurisdictions’ respective inland ports, particularly as they relate to value-added and complementary services supporting their respective business communities; and
- Examine options to share knowledge/best practices and leverage their respective networks to facilitate general trade, supporting areas such as enhanced co-operation at joint (US/Canada) border facilities, enhanced co-operation on commercial vehicle inspection activities, trade security demonstrations, and activities that support secure and efficient cross-border traffic.



INNOVATION ECONOMY

- Examine options for co-operative activity in existing and emerging knowledge/innovation economy partnerships in the Midwest; and
- Leverage collaborative efforts amongst members in existing corridors (e.g. Mid-Continent Knowledge/IQ Corridor, Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor) with a particular focus on trade and business development, knowledge/innovation economy development, lifesciences, biotechnology, and information technology development.

WATER

- Exchange knowledge/best practices in water and river management, clean water research and development, conservation district programs, Great Lakes management and joint public education and programming on large rivers, wetlands, and watershed management;
- Examine opportunities to establish a “Sister River” relationship between Illinois and Manitoba given their similar challenges and successes with water quality, river and large lake management, flood mitigation and innovative approaches to watershed/wetlands management. Consideration could be given to asking other states in the region to participate;
- Share innovative approaches regarding preparation for future challenges and issues related to water due to climate change, environmental and/or other future pressures;
- Seek to co-operate on issues related to watershed management and re-naturalization, urban development, hydro-power engineering and other related issues; and
- Share current and future scientific research results, gather data and share knowledge of river and waterway management systems and natural resources.

CLEAN ENERGY

- Exchange knowledge/best practices to assist in developing a broader awareness of how jurisdictions can develop and implement clean energy solutions in the region; and
- Examine options for clean energy trade/services.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Exchange knowledge/best practices to gain a broader understanding of how jurisdictions can improve crime prevention activities, particularly among children and youth.
- Share innovative approaches and strategies to implement and deliver crime prevention programs.

IMPLEMENTATION/PROMOTING THE RELATIONSHIP

Illinois and Manitoba recognize the benefits of ongoing, regular contact between their respective governments to promote trade and economic development and identify areas in which there are opportunities for joint co-operation. Therefore, Illinois and Manitoba intend to:

- Designate state and provincial government representatives to serve as principal points of contact and liaison to promote co-operation in areas of mutual interest. These representatives will report at least annually to the Governor and the Premier on progress under the Memorandum of Understanding;



- Advance common interests by encouraging and promoting opportunities for joint research and development activities and business relationships in each jurisdiction;
- Identify and encourage priority activity in areas that facilitate meaningful opportunities for follow-up activity by their respective departments, research institutions and private sectors;
- Promote and facilitate bilateral exchanges;
- Monitor progress on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding; and
- Consider proposals for other co-operative initiatives that may be developed during the term of the Memorandum of Understanding.

LIMITATIONS

1. Neither Participant intends to be responsible for the actions of third parties or associates who may be involved in the activities in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any contractual, financial or other legal obligations for the Participants.

ENTRY INTO EFFECT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. The Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date it is signed by the Participants and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from that date.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding can be renewed for an additional five (5) years through mutual written consent of the Participants.
3. The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended with the mutual written consent of the Participants. Any such amendments will come into effect on the date determined by the Participants.
4. Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing the other Participant with at least one (1) month written notice of its intention to terminate.

Signed in duplicate this 26th day of March, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois.

For the Government of the
State of Illinois

For the Government of the
Province of Manitoba

original signed by

original signed by

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor

The Honourable Greg Selinger
Premier