



WISCONSIN



MANITOBA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR COLLABORATION IN INNOVATION,  
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND  
ENHANCEMENT OF THE MIDCONTINENT  
KNOWLEDGE / “IQ” CORRIDOR

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

AND

THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Hereinafter designated as the Participants.

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba enjoy a long-standing co-operative relationship;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba share a strong interest in promoting a climate of research, innovation and technology development within their respective economies and recognize that the biosciences, life sciences, animal and human health, renewable energy and environmental industries have become dynamic growth-oriented sectors of the knowledge economy;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba have a strong interest in continuing to develop expertise in the sound management of freshwater including the development of technologies aimed at innovatively and effectively treating drinking water and wastewater in a cost-effective manner;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba share a strong expertise in innovation and have growing and vibrant industries and state-of-the-art research facilities and wish to pursue collaboration in innovative and emerging technologies and research;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba have expressed interest in enhancing and extending their respective Mid-continent Knowledge /“IQ” corridors by leveraging their existing partnerships as well as supporting Mid-continent transportation initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, bilateral trade between Wisconsin and Manitoba now exceeds CDN \$1.0 billion (US \$900 million) annually, and the Governments of Wisconsin and Manitoba share a strong interest in expanding this economic partnership and building on the shared potential of emerging export opportunities within the Americas and across the globe;

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin and Manitoba acknowledge the advantages to be gained by strengthening and broadening mutually beneficial relations and in further enhancing commercial ventures between their two jurisdictions;

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

## **AREAS OF CO-OPERATION**

### **1.0 – Promote and Facilitate Collaboration in:**

- Biosciences and Life Sciences;
- Agricultural and Human Health Research and Development;
- Renewable Energy and Environmental Industries and Research;
- Water Treatment and Management; and
- Transportation.

1.1 Encourage and promote opportunities for joint research and development activities and collaborative business relationships—with an emphasis on areas of common expertise;



- 1.2 Promote the cross-border 'knowledge corridor' to encourage co-operative research, incubation, and commercialization of innovative technologies and products;
- 1.3 Share publicly available information, both government-to-government and among relevant public and private stakeholders, on opportunities for strategic alliances, skills and technology transfer and research partnerships;
- 1.4 Foster company-to-company linkages, such as commercial joint ventures, licensing agreements and other business development opportunities;
- 1.5 Explore opportunities for joint participation in science-focussed symposia, workshops, reciprocal missions and joint economic development missions to targeted markets;
- 1.6 Create awareness of Manitoba and Wisconsin as centres of excellence in the areas identified above; and
- 1.7 Advance programs which identify and create career opportunities in these industries for each jurisdiction.

## **2.0 – Enhance Success of Technology Commercialization**

- 2.1 Stimulate a cross-border environment that encourages shared entrepreneurial activity, commercialization, and incubation of innovative technologies; and
- 2.2 Share best practices and expertise on the commercialization and incubation of innovative biosciences and life sciences, agricultural and health sciences, renewable energy, environmental and water technologies.

## **3.0 – Promote and Facilitate Bilateral Trade**

- 3.1 The Governments of Wisconsin and Manitoba, coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Department of Competitiveness, Training and Trade in Manitoba, therefore propose to:
  - Work together to identify target sectors for joint initiatives including but not limited to biotechnology, agribusiness, component manufacturing, energy and information and communication technologies;
  - Work together to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships and alliances between private sector companies in Wisconsin and Manitoba; and
  - Explore opportunities for joint trade promotions.

## **IMPLEMENTATION / PROMOTING THE RELATIONSHIP**

1. The Governments of Wisconsin and Manitoba recognize the benefits of ongoing, regular contacts between their respective governments to promote trade and economic development and identify areas in which there are opportunities for joint co-operation. Therefore Wisconsin 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;
  - 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 our respective departments, research institutions and private sector;
- Promote and facilitate bilateral exchanges; and
- Monitor progress on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## LIMITATIONS

1. Neither Participant intends to be responsible for the actions of third Participants 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. The Memorandum of Understanding can be renewed for an additional five (5) years through mutual written consent of the Participants.
2. 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.
3. Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing the other Participant with at least three (3) months written notice of its intention to terminate.

Signed in duplicate this 15 th day of October, 2009 in Madison, Wisconsin.

For the Government of the  
State of Wisconsin

For the Government of the  
Province of Manitoba

"Original Signed By"

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The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Governor

"Original Signed By"

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The Honourable Gary Doer  
Premier