

**MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**AND**

**THE FRENCH COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM**

hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties",

**RECOGNIZING** the vitality and potential of the French-speaking communities of Ontario and the French Community of Belgium;

**RECOGNIZING** the common values of both governments, their strengths, and their commitment to the ongoing development of their respective Francophone communities;

**RECOGNIZING** that the Francophonie represents a significant social, cultural and economic asset and an important lever for development at the national and international levels;

**INSPIRED** by the spirit of innovation, cooperation, strengthening of ties and the potential social and economic benefits;

**GIVEN** the joint declaration between the Province of Ontario, Canada and the French Community of Belgium, signed on September 22, 2021, aimed at strengthening their cooperation;

The Parties agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") is to:

- encourage and promote cultural, educational, and economic exchanges based on their shared Francophonie;
- share information and best practices to this end; and
- enhance collaboration in the areas of postsecondary education, culture, research, digital media, youth, and the promotion of the French language.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**AREAS OF JURISDICTION**

In accordance with their respective constitutional norms and areas of jurisdiction, the Parties shall develop such means of cooperation as they deem appropriate to establish a close and mutually beneficial relationship to ensure the achievement of the objectives of this MOU.

### **ARTICLE 3 AREAS OF ACTIVITY**

The Parties commit to act in the following areas:

- **Higher education**  
The Parties endeavour to facilitate the visibility and promotion of postsecondary education institutions in Ontario and the French Community of Belgium with a view to fostering closer ties between institutions of postsecondary education and exchanges of students, professors, and others.
- **Economic and Digital Francophonie**  
The Parties endeavour to work towards bringing together Francophone youth and Francophone organizations in the media, creative, digital, and innovative sectors of their jurisdiction.
- **Research**  
The Parties endeavour to promote closer ties between organizations and research support programs in their jurisdiction, with a view to foster joint research projects and exchanges of researchers, particularly at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels.
- **Culture**  
The Parties endeavour to work towards bringing together artists, particularly emerging artists, cultural organizations, producers, and broadcasters in their jurisdiction, particularly in the music, film, theater, digital arts, and design sectors.
- **Youth**  
The Parties endeavour to promote relations and exchanges between youth and youth support organizations in their jurisdiction.

### **ARTICLE 4 REPRESENTATIVES**

The Parties entrust the implementation of this MOU to the following persons as the points of contact, hereinafter referred to as the "Representatives":

For the Province of Ontario:

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Attention: Jean-Claude Camus  
Francophone Affairs Division  
Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs  
700 Bay Street, 25th Floor, Suite 2501  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 0A2

For the French Community of Belgium:

General Delegate of Wallonia-Brussels in Quebec for the General Administrator of Wallonia-Brussels International in Canada  
Attention: Sharon Weinblum  
Wallonia-Brussels General Delegation in Québec  
43 De Buade Street, Suite 520  
Quebec City, Quebec, G1R 4A2

### **ARTICLE 5 APPLICATION**

To implement this agreement, the Representatives endeavour to meet annually to:

- study and approve, for the areas of activity identified in Article 3, an annual action plan aimed at supporting the objectives of the MOU identified in Article 1;
- examine, through a joint evaluation starting in the second year of the term of the MOU, the implementation status of the annual action plan;

- study, if necessary, any question relating to the application and interpretation of this MOU; and
- report on the outcomes of these discussions.

## **ARTICLE 6 AMENDMENTS**

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties by an exchange of signed letters signed by the Parties specifying the effective date of the amendments.

## **ARTICLE 7 FINAL PROVISIONS**

This MOU is not legally binding and does not create any legal, equitable, or financial rights, obligations, or liabilities for the Parties.

Each Party will bear its own costs in performing its activities under this MOU.

The term of this MOU shall commence on the date as specified in Article 8 and shall continue for a period of four (4) years unless it is terminated or not renewed as provided for herein. It shall be automatically extended for further two-year terms unless either Party gives written notice to the other at least sixty (60) days before the expiration of the initial term or any renewal term, as applicable, of the Party's intent not to renew.

This MOU may be terminated at any time by written notice of at least six (6) months prior to the expiration of the MOU, given by either Party to the other. In such a case, the Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure the completion of all actions jointly undertaken under the current annual action plan.

The Parties also understand and agree that nothing in this MOU shall obligate either Party to supply information that would be contrary to applicable law.

The Parties acknowledge that Ontario is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O 1990, c. F.31, as may be amended from time to time.

The Parties further acknowledge that Ontario is subject to the laws of Ontario and Canada and nothing in this MOU is intended to change that.

## **ARTICLE 8 EFFECTIVE DATE**

This MOU shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the last date of the execution of this MOU.

Signed in Djerba this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022, in both English and French and in duplicate.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

FOR THE FRENCH COMMUNITY OF  
BELGIUM

*(Original signed by)*

*(Original signed by)*

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The Honourable Caroline Mulroney  
Minister of Francophone Affairs of the  
Province of Ontario

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The Honourable Pierre-Yves Jeholet  
Minister-President of the French  
Community of Belgium