

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**RENEWED MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON TRADE, TOURISM
AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION**

BETWEEN THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
AND THE
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba, as neighbors sharing a common border, have established an enduring and positive relationship based on many mutual interests; and

WHEREAS Minnesota and Manitoba wish to build upon the experience of previous agreements between the two jurisdictions, such as the 1988 Minnesota-Manitoba Agreement on Economic Co-operation and Trade Opportunities and the 1989 Minnesota-Manitoba Agreement on Educational Co-operation, among others, and

WHEREAS Manitoba and Minnesota recognize:

- the dramatic, 282 per cent increase in the value of two-way trade between the province and the state in the last decade;
- the growing overall importance of trans-boundary relationships between Canada and the United States, and between Minnesota and Manitoba;
- the increasing interrelationship of the economies of both jurisdictions and the co-operative efforts between the business communities on both sides of the border, including the work of organizations such as the Canada-Minnesota Business Council;
- the advantages to be derived from the strengthening and broadening of mutually beneficial trans-boundary relations;
- the value of close consultations and co-operation on bilateral issues and the need to ensure open lines of communication and sharing of publicly available information; and
- the importance of working in concert with their respective national governments in matters of international significance.

Therefore, in a spirit of promoting closer relations, the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba intend to work co-operatively to the fullest possible extent consistent with law and existing treaties between their respective nations to:

1. Promote and Facilitate Bilateral Trade

Bilateral trade between Minnesota and Manitoba now approaches US \$1.5 billion annually. The Governments of Minnesota 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.

The Governments of Minnesota and Manitoba, co-ordinated by the Commissioner of Trade and Economic Development in Minnesota and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Mines in Manitoba, therefore, propose to:

- 1.1. work together to identify target sectors for joint initiatives, including but not limited to agribusiness, transportation manufacturing, and information technologies;



- 1.2. explore opportunities for joint trade promotions, beginning with the sharing of publicly available information on priority markets and planned promotional activities, followed by the identification of possible joint trade missions to targeted markets;
- 1.3. support regional and federal initiatives to facilitate the border movement of goods and people;
- 1.4. facilitate the avoidance and resolution of disputes and potential cross-border irritants through close communication between state and provincial agencies; and
- 1.5. share publicly available information on and learn from each others' best practices and the world-class expertise found in both jurisdictions; and
- 1.6. promote common goals by encouraging co-operation and understanding between governments, business, legislators and citizens of Minnesota and Manitoba.

2. Promote and Encourage Regional Co-operation in Tourism

The Governments of Minnesota and Manitoba intend to work together to expand bilateral and regional tourism opportunities. The Governments' senior tourism officials, who will operate under the direction of the Commissioner of Trade and Economic Development in Minnesota and the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism in Manitoba, will explore a joint tourism strategy that will include:

- 2.1. the development of plans for joint tourism marketing initiatives, including assessment of travel markets, potential marketing partners and an outline of objectives and strategies;
- 2.2. identification of common tourism travel products in such emerging areas as eco-tourism, birding, and cultural opportunities that build upon regional advantages;
- 2.3. the development and promotion of vacation corridors that provide access to the region.

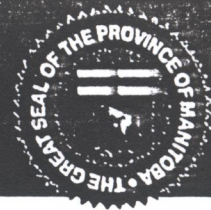
A recommendation will be provided to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism and the Commissioner of Trade and Economic Development by January 2002.

3. Enhance the Effectiveness of the Manitoba-Minnesota Energy Market

For many years, Manitoba has been a key supplier of reliable electric power to Minnesota. The Governments of Minnesota and Manitoba recognize the need to encourage the expansion of transmission infrastructure and other measures to strengthen regional energy systems.

Therefore, the Governments of Minnesota and Manitoba, through the Commissioner of Commerce in Minnesota and the Minister of Conservation and the Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Hydro Act in Manitoba, propose to:

- 3.1. share publicly available information on new energy generating capacities, including hydroelectricity, ethanol, wind, solar, and hydrogen;



- 3.2. continue their ongoing dialogue on energy infrastructure issues, including but not limited to environmental and public health considerations, siting processes and facilities, and regulatory processes; and
- 3.3. explore joint public education initiatives related to transmission and energy-related issues.

4. Promote the Ongoing Relationship

The Governments of Manitoba and Minnesota 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 formal or informal co-operation.

Therefore, the Governor of Minnesota and the Premier of Manitoba intend to:

- 4.1. monitor progress on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding;
- 4.2. designate state and provincial government representatives to serve as principal points of policy contact and liaison to promote co-operation in areas of mutual interest;
- 4.3. encourage the executive departments of the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba to work together to promote co-operative efforts within their respective areas of responsibility;
- 4.4. explore other co-operative initiatives on matters of common interest, such as education, cultural and sports exchanges, animal health, agricultural harmonization, flood management and control, and transportation, that will be considered complementary to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Dated at Winnipeg, this 13th day of July 2001.

Original Signed By:

The Honorable Jesse Ventura
Governor, State of Minnesota

Original Signed By:

The Honorable Gary Doer
Premier, Province of Manitoba