

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

**REGARDING THE REVITALISATION
OF THE ONTARIO-QUÉBEC TRADE AND
COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

Represented by Mr. Philippe Couillard, in his capacity as Premier ministre du Québec, by Mr. Jacques Daoust, in his capacity as Ministre de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et des Exportations, and by Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, in his capacity as Ministre responsable des Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes et de la Francophonie canadienne,

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Represented by Madam Kathleen O'Day Wynne, in her capacity as Premier of Ontario, and by Mr. Brad Duguid, in his capacity as Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2009, the Government of Ontario and le gouvernement du Québec concluded the Ontario-Québec Trade and Cooperation Agreement (hereafter the "OQTCA");

WHEREAS the OQTCA forms an economic partnership aimed at enhancing economic integration between the Parties and ensuring markets are open, efficient and stable within the Ontario-Québec region;

WHEREAS the significant history of cooperation between Ontario and Québec has allowed them to address economic challenges and opportunities together in an open and cooperative manner to increase economic competitiveness and prosperity;

WHEREAS Ontario and Québec continue in their resolve to reduce and eliminate, to the greatest extent practicable, barriers to the movement of persons, goods and services and to investments and investors;

WHEREAS Ontario and Québec share common interests, such as enhancing productivity and stimulating innovation, enhancing trade and investment opportunities for our businesses, and further integrating our energy markets;

WHEREAS on August 21, 2014, the Premiers of Ontario and Québec expressed their mutual commitment to enhancing the economic relationship between Ontario and Québec by re-invigorating the OQTCA;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Parties mandate their ministers responsible for economic development to proceed with the revitalization of the OQTCA concluded in September 2009, with the objective of:

- Enhancing the Ontario-Québec region as a centre of productivity and innovation and as an export hub within Canada;
- Encouraging businesses in Ontario and Québec to extend their operations within the Ontario-Québec region;
- Promoting investment within Ontario and Québec;
- Stimulating economic growth and job-creation within the two provinces;
- Enhancing current and past levels of economic cooperation between Ontario and Québec;
- Encouraging new economic initiatives which go beyond those which have already been achieved.

2. GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Ontario and Québec will align OQTCA government procurement commitments with those of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) by April 30, 2015, to ensure that Ontario and Québec suppliers are treated no less favorably than EU suppliers.

3. OTHER AREAS OF COLLABORATION

Ontario and Québec will work to:

a) Enhance the OQTCA Regulatory Cooperation Chapter (Chapter Three):

- A working group will assess how Ontario and Québec could further enhance their commitment to share information on proposed regulations and on regulatory best practices with a view to having a tangible impact on business.

b) Conduct Joint Trade Missions

- Ontario and Québec will explore opportunities to conduct joint trade missions for industries of mutual interest, or, to countries or regions of mutual interest, with a view to leveraging existing resources and international linkages.

c) Re-establish the OQTCA Private Sector Advisory Committee

- The Committee will be re-established to provide strategic insight and advice to Ministers on areas of economic cooperation, and to identify barriers to trade between the provinces.

d) Strengthen the Energy Cooperation Chapter (Chapter Four)

- Ontario and Québec will identify ways to enhance and expand existing cooperation provisions through an update to the Energy Chapter.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The Secretariat, as defined by Article 2.3 of the OQTCA, will work to ensure the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The OQTCA Secretariat shall provide the Ministerial Council with regular reports and updates on this Memorandum of Understanding.

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding derogates from the powers, rights or privileges of the legislatures or governments of Ontario and Québec, including any powers, rights or privileges relating to language, nor can it affect the interpretation of any legislation, regulation, by-law or order made under an Act, or the validity of measures undertaken by Ontario or Québec, or by one of their public bodies.

Either party may terminate this agreement by providing at least three months written notice to the other party.

The Parties may amend any provision of this agreement by a written agreement signed by each party.

Signed, on this 21 day of November 2014, in French and English, both versions being equally authentic.

SIGNED ORIGINAL

Philippe Couillard
Premier ministre

SIGNED ORIGINAL

Kathleen O'Day Wynne
Premier

SIGNED ORIGINAL

Jacques Daoust
Ministre de l'Économie, de l'Innovation
et des Exportations

SIGNED ORIGINAL

Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development,
Employment and Infrastructure

SIGNED ORIGINAL

Jean-Marc Fournier
Ministre responsable des Affaires
intergouvernementales canadiennes et
de la Francophonie canadienne