



Ministerio de Educación, Política Social y Deporte

Manitoba

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CITIZENSHIP AND YOUTH
OF THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, CANADA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL POLICY AND SPORTS
OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION

Considering the mutual interests of the Kingdom of Spain and the Province of Manitoba, Canada in fostering understanding and cooperation between their respective citizens;

Considering the ever-increasing importance that the Spanish language has in the Province of Manitoba;

Considering that multicultural and multilingual education are excellent methods of facilitating understanding and solidarity between peoples and countries;

Considering that multicultural and multilingual education, in addition to preserving cultural identity, lead to cultural enrichment and knowledge enhancement;

Considering that knowledge of the Spanish language constitutes an important key to opening opportunities for Manitoba's citizens;

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain (hereinafter "Spain-MEPSYD") and the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth of the Province of Manitoba (hereinafter "Manitoba-ECY") intend to sign the following Memorandum of Understanding for the encouragement and enhancement of Spanish language programming in schools in the Province of Manitoba, in terms set forth in the following Paragraphs.



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I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

I.1. The main objective for the cooperative programs that will be initiated by this MOU is the improvement of the quality and extent of the teaching of Spanish language and culture in the Province of Manitoba, in order to:

- a) Promote relationships between citizens of Manitoba and Spain;
- b) Foster knowledge and appreciation of their respective cultures;
- c) Provide students who enroll in these programs with a bilingual and multicultural education that trains them for future personal, academic and professional success; and
- d) Provide professional development opportunities to teachers of Manitoba and Spain.

I.2. The MOU covers schools that teach Spanish language and/or other subjects of the curriculum in Spanish, according to the organizational and curricular models developed by Manitoba-ECY and its school divisions to satisfy the demands and needs of the school population.

I.3. All plans and programs subject to this MOU will promote high academic standards for students in Spanish.

II. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

The following programs will form the basis of cooperation between Spain-MEPSYD, who will finance its initiatives according to its running budget, and Manitoba-ECY:

II.1. Visiting Teachers:

Each school year, Manitoba-ECY will assist school divisions in placing a number of qualified teachers from Spain-MEPSYD in early, middle or senior-years schools in the Province of Manitoba.

- a) Manitoba-ECY, in collaboration with Spain-MEPSYD, will promote the placement of teachers from Spain who are specially qualified to teach in Spanish bilingual programs and/or Spanish language and culture, in schools in the Province of Manitoba. These teachers will be considered visiting teachers, and they will be involved in the educational system of the Province.



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- b) Manitoba-ECY and Spain-MEPSYD will invite school divisions to take part in the program and will select those that will participate each year.
- c) The teachers may be contracted by the school divisions for one to three school years, unless exceptional circumstances occur as to require modification of said time limits and prior, written permission has been granted by Spain-MEPSYD, Manitoba-ECY and the school divisions.
- d) Before a contract can be signed with a Manitoba school division, the teachers will need to provide documentation of a criminal records check done by Spanish police authorities.
- e) Manitoba-ECY will:
 - (i) Inform Manitoba school divisions of the opportunity to employ visiting teachers from Spain and encouraging the divisions take advantage of this opportunity.
 - (ii) Select, together with Spain-MEPSYD, which school divisions will participate in the program and the number of visiting teachers to be assigned to each division on an annual basis.
 - (iii) Collaborate with school divisions to designate experts to evaluate the ability of visiting teachers to teach in the schools of the Province.
 - (iv) Collaborate with Spain-MEPSYD and the school divisions to assist teachers in obtaining the necessary visas and authorizations from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
 - (v) Provide the selected teachers with the appropriate accreditation required to work in the school system of the Province of Manitoba.
 - (vi) Collaborate with Spain-MEPSYD in preparing and implementing in-service training courses for participating teachers as outlined in this Memorandum.
- f) Spain-MEPSYD will:
 - (i) Advertise vacant positions to be filled by visiting teachers each school year.
 - (ii) Implement a pre-selection process of those who have the basic academic and professional requirements.
 - (iii) Collaborate in the final selection process, for which the school divisions and Manitoba-ECY are ultimately responsible.



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- (iv) Defray the travel and accommodation costs for Manitoba's designated experts to travel to Spain to make a final selection of those teachers pre-selected by Spain-MEPSYD. Other means of selecting candidates may also be considered.
 - (v) Organize in-service training courses for visiting teachers in collaboration with Manitoba-ECY.
- g) Manitoba school divisions will:
- (i) Collaborate with Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY in the selection of teachers.
 - (ii) Pay the visiting teachers salaries commensurate with their education and experience. The appropriate classification and experience level for salary purposes would be something determined by the school division and exchange teacher.

II.2. In-Service Training Programs for Teachers and Administrators

- a) Spain-MEPSYD will promote the enrolment of Manitoba teachers and administrators in courses on the teaching of Spanish language and culture and Spanish as a second or foreign language offered by Spanish universities. Spain-MEPSYD will offer a limited number of scholarships to defray part of the costs of said courses.
- b) Manitoba-ECY and the school divisions will take steps to recognize the courses taken by Manitoba teachers and administrators at accredited Spanish universities. Courses taken would be recognized for certification/reclassification purposes provided that they are deemed equivalent to university courses in Manitoba.
- c) Manitoba teachers will be strongly encouraged to have any courses they plan to take in Spain pre-approved for credit by one of Manitoba's public universities.

II.3. Spanish Language Consultant

- a) A Spanish Education and Language Consultant may be appointed by Spain-MEPSYD. The Consultant will assist Manitoba-ECY with educational improvement initiatives related to Spanish language acquisition and bilingual education, as well as with any other collaborative efforts established by this MOU.
- b) The Consultant will be actively involved in meetings and activities related to Spanish language and culture programs and professional development programs involving teachers of the Spanish language.



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- c) The Consultant will collaborate on the development and implementation of the Spanish Program of Studies by participating in the development and dissemination of teaching materials and conducting workshops on Spanish language and culture for teachers in the Program.
- d) The Consultant will assist in the selection of textbooks and the development/selection of distance learning resources for the teaching of Spanish, in accordance with the policies and procedures of Manitoba-ECY and the school divisions.
- e) Manitoba-ECY will accord the Consultant the same status and privileges as other educational consultants and advisors and will facilitate her/his recognition by the school divisions of the Province.
- f) The Consultant's salary and travel expenses will be financed by Spain-MEPSYD. He/She will not be an employee of Manitoba-ECY.
- g) Manitoba-ECY will make every effort to implement the Consultant's recommendations in so far as available resources permit.
- h) Manitoba-ECY will provide a temporary work-station for the Consultant as well as clerical assistance. The Consultant will have access to duplicating services, telephone usage, general office supplies and postage for the purposes of his/her work in Manitoba.

II.4. International Spanish Academies

- a) Manitoba-ECY and Spain-MEPSYD will cooperate in the implementation of a network of English/Spanish bilingual schools known as International Spanish Academies. The main objective of this initiative is to enhance the level of bilingual education with the support of Spain-MEPSYD and other Spanish institutions dedicated to the promotion of Spanish.
- b) In addition to participating in the programs mentioned in previous clauses of this Memorandum, schools integrated in this network will have access to: specific teacher training activities, pedagogical guidance, joint web-based educational projects with Spanish schools and, when available, classroom and curricular materials and resources.



II.5. Other Initiatives

- a) **E-exchanges:** Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY will discuss the development of e-mail exchanges among students and educators in classrooms in Manitoba and Spain as well as the development and maintenance of a Web site associated with these exchanges.
- b) **Student/Educator Exchange Program:** Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY will encourage student and teacher exchanges between schools in their respective jurisdictions.
- c) **Language Assistants:** Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY will advertise and promote opportunities for recent university graduates to work as Language Assistants in one another's jurisdictions.

III. EVALUATION

III.1. Representatives of Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY will develop an annual report relative to the implementation of this MOU. This report will include proposals for improvement and expansion.

III.2. Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY accept that specialists and supervisors of both jurisdictions will evaluate the initiatives outlined in this Memorandum. The two participants will receive their recommendations and will consider ways to implement the results of their evaluations.

IV. DURATION

IV.1. This MOU is established for five years beginning from the date that the final signature is affixed. It can be cancelled by either participant with at least six months written notice.

IV.2. During the term of the MOU, either participant may add provisions for its improvement when approved by both participants.

IV.3. Unless terminated this MOU will be renewed automatically for one-year periods, until a new agreement that substitutes or modifies it is signed.

IV.4. This MOU is executed by Spain-MEPSYD and Manitoba-ECY subject to the availability of funds.



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This MOU is signed in English and in Spanish and both versions are equally valid in the Province of Manitoba, Canada and the Kingdom of Spain.

Signed in Winnipeg on the 23rd day of July, 2008.

Representing the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth of the Province of Manitoba,

Gerald Farthing
Deputy Minister

Representing the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain,

Miguel Martínez López
Education Commissioner, Embassy of Spain in Canada