

**CANADA-MANITOBA AGREEMENT  
WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPLEMENTARY PROJECT  
AIMING TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF  
THOSE ENTITLED TO FRENCH SCHOOLS**

**2005–2006**

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**PREAMBLE**

Participation of entitled students to French schools is approximately 33% in Manitoba. The objective of this project is to complement the additional strategies identified by Manitoba in its action plan under the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction 2005-2006 to 2008-2009*, whose goal is to increase the attendance rate by entitled students to 36% by the end of the 2008-2009 year. This objective is certainly in keeping with Canada's growth objective as set out in its Action Plan. Although more modest than Canada's target, which is a 68.0% participation rate, the Manitoba attendance rate represents a major challenge that will require the active involvement and support of all stakeholders. Meeting this objective would give a new boost to minority language education and, in the longer term, revitalize the French language community.

The *Project Aiming to Increase the Participation of those Entitled to French Schools* will specifically target preschool, and will be divided into two parts. First of all, it will attempt to promote French schools in communities by focusing on young families at risk, including exogamous homes. The promotional efforts will strive to make people more aware of the French school option and to show that its integration and support services constitute an interesting alternative to institutions that offer French as a second language programs, or English schools, and that it is really the only option that gives children a genuine Francophone identity. The development of the strategy to promote French schools will be based on the results of a study that will attempt to identify the factors that motivate parents to enrol, or not to enrol, their children in French school. The study will ask the DSFM to review its intake and integration infrastructure, to redefine the role of parents in their children's education, and to build on the kinds of support provided by the division to meet the needs and concerns identified in the study.

The project will also attempt to create conditions that are conducive to the preparation and integration of entitled children to French schools. The DSFM will work closely with its partners to facilitate and encourage access to early childhood services. These integrated services will accomplish a number of things, including meeting the language and identity needs of the children, by providing a more consistent level of competency and an easier transition to school. These services will be particularly important for children from predominantly English homes, who are weaker in French.

There will also be an effort to further develop full-time kindergarten programming by placing an emphasis on language development and on literacy for young children. This measure is based on the findings of several studies, including those of Fraser Mustard, that have demonstrated that early intervention with very young children significantly improves their likelihood of success. More to the point, improving and developing services at the kindergarten level will make it possible to follow up on existing early childhood interventions with respect to French language enhancement and developing children's culture and identity.

The impacts of the project will only be known a few years after its implementation. Two of the most important expected measurable outcomes are an enrolment increase in minority schools and a shorter transition phase. As the project complements other strategies that will be introduced by Manitoba as part of its action plan, its influence will support and strengthen the province's other interventions. Thus, the indicators that will make it possible to measure the project outcomes in the short term will be limited to the levels of access and participation that will result from the introduction of the project.

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**OBJECTIVE: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ENTITLED STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO GO TO FRENCH SCHOOLS AND PROVIDE THE SERVICES NEEDED FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND IDENTITY BUILDING**

**PROMOTION OF ACCESS**

<b>MEASURES</b>	<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>PLANNED INVESTMENT (in thousands of dollars)</b>		
(1) Begin a market study to identify what motivates parents to enrol or not to enrol their children in French schools.	1. Better understanding of the needs and attitudes that underlie parental choices. 2. Identification of targeted interventions.	1. Number of targeted interventions identified by the study.	<u>Canada</u> <u>\$32,300</u>	<u>Manitoba</u> <u>\$32,300</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>\$64,600</u>
(2) Improve promotion of Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) programs and services.	1. The DSFM is better known in all the communities where Francophones live. 2. Entitled persons are better informed about their right to an education in French. 3. The programs and services available from the DSFM are better known by all entitled Francophones. 4. The programs and services available from the DSFM are valued by the Francophone community. 5. The DSFM, as well as its programs and services, are better known and understood by members of the majority community.	1. Number of promotional tools and activities developed.	<u>Canada</u> <u>\$85,300</u>	<u>Manitoba</u> <u>\$85,300</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>\$170,600</u>

**INTEGRATION AND PREPARATION OF CHILDREN IN FRENCH SCHOOLS**

<b>MEASURES</b>	<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>PLANNED INVESTMENT (in thousands of dollars)</b>		
<p>(1) Working with interested partners, develop and offer early childhood support services in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. literacy, numeracy</li> <li>ii. education and awareness of parents</li> <li>iii. support for exogamous families</li> <li>iv. training for educational practitioners</li> <li>v. linguistic and cultural vitality</li> <li>vi. early identification and intervention – multidisciplinary services</li> <li>vii. research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to integrated programs (education, culture, social and health services) that meet the early childhood needs in a minority environment.</li> <li>2. Enhanced language and literacy performance.</li> <li>3. Better integration of the child in the school environment.</li> <li>4. Shorter transition phase for the students.</li> <li>5. Increased enrolment in minority schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Number of Francophone communities with access to a complete range of early childhood services.</li> <li>b. Number of children receiving early childhood support services.</li> <li>c. Student proficiency in oral expression as observed by educational practitioners in the classroom. **</li> <li>d. Student adaptability, as noted by practitioners in the classroom. **</li> <li>e. Average transition period for students. **</li> <li>f. Enrolment in minority schools.</li> </ul> <p>** This formative evaluation is to be performed once the children have integrated into the school.</p>	<u>Canada</u> <u>\$124,600</u>	<u>Manitoba</u> <u>\$124,600</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>\$249,200</u>
<p>(2) Improve the full-time kindergarten program (5 year olds) in DSFM elementary schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhanced performance in terms of language and literacy.</li> <li>2. Better integration of the child into the education system in Grade 1.</li> <li>3. Reduced transition period for students.</li> <li>4. Increase in enrolment for kindergarten.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enrolment in kindergarten.</li> <li>b. Student proficiency as observed by educational practitioners in the classroom. **</li> <li>c. Average time spent by students in the transition phase. **</li> </ul> <p>** This formative evaluation is to be performed once the children have integrated into the school.</p>	<u>Canada</u> <u>\$621,728</u>	<u>Manitoba</u> <u>\$621,728</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>\$1,243,456</u>
<p><b>TOTAL FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION:</b></p>			<u>Canada</u> <u>\$863,928</u>	<u>Manitoba</u> <u>\$863,928</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>\$1,727,856</u>