



COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

AND THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

CONCERNING

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LABRADOR

TROUGH AND

THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION

OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

2018

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WHEREAS the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and Québec commit to strengthen their cooperation in order to enhance responsible economic development to create and maintain robust and vibrant sustainable communities;

WHEREAS there are mining projects in the Labrador Trough and there is a history of economic ties between the towns of Labrador City, Wabush, Fermont, Schefferville and the surrounding area;

WHEREAS enhanced transportation infrastructure within Newfoundland and Labrador and Québec is a key component to economic growth and to creating a corridor of opportunity to support future development;

WHEREAS the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and of Québec have agreed to share information and advance issues of importance for the development of their provinces, including the development of the Labrador Trough and enhancements to road links through the extension of Route 138, improvements to Route 389 and Route 510 and assessment of a fixed link between Labrador and the island of Newfoundland;

THE PARTIES therefore agree as follows :

1. Development of the Labrador Trough

1.1 The Parties will share information and work cooperatively to further stimulate the development of mineral potential and promote the creation of high-quality jobs in the Labrador Trough, in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec.

1.2 The Parties agree to cooperate in areas of shared interest, including but not limited to

- geotechnical information and land use planning;
- infrastructure for the mining sector;
- labour and skills;
- telecommunications development; and,
- enhancements to government processes and business supports.

2. Improvement and Extension of Road Infrastructure

2.1 The Parties will share information and work cooperatively for the purposes of supporting a transportation corridor and promote the development of economic opportunities for businesses and citizens via an extension of Route 138 to Blanc-Sablon and the improvement of Route 389 and Route 510.

2.2 For this purpose, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will pursue ongoing improvements to Route 510 and also update a prefeasibility study related to the construction of a fixed link between Labrador and the island of Newfoundland. The Government of Québec will, in turn, continue construction work on Route 138 and improvements on Route 389 in coming years, as provided for in the Plan Nord.

3. Establishment of a joint working group

3.1 The parties agree to establish a steering committee for the purposes of implementing this Cooperative Agreement. For the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs will serve as co-chair, along with representatives from the government departments concerned and for the Gouvernement du Québec, the President and CEO of the Société du Plan Nord will serve as co-chair, along with representatives from the government departments concerned.

3.2 To support the Cooperative Agreement, joint working groups will be established and be responsible for the development and coordination of an action plan to be overseen by the co-chairs of the steering committee. If required, defined projects stemming from this agreement may be covered by specific agreements.

3.3 Co-Chairs will provide an annual report to Premiers with respect to the status of the Cooperative Agreement and progress made in the action plan.

4. General

4.1 Parties to this Cooperative Agreement will continue to have the ability to independently determine and pursue their own domestic objectives or priorities. Collaboration under this Agreement will be realized in accordance with the laws, regulations and policies of each jurisdiction.

4.2 Each party will be responsible for the costs of its own participation and involvement in this Cooperative Agreement.

5. Commencement, Review and Termination

5.1 This Cooperative Agreement will come into effect on the date it is signed by the Parties.

5.2 This Cooperative Agreement may be amended by mutual written consent of the parties.

5.3 Either Newfoundland and Labrador or Québec may terminate this Cooperative Agreement by providing at least two (2) month's prior written notice.

5.4 This Cooperative Agreement is not a legally binding agreement and places no legal obligations on either of the Parties. Any matter involving the interpretation or implementation of this agreement will be addressed by consultation between the Parties and will not be referred to a third party.

Signed in _____ on the _____ day of _____ 2018,
one copy in French and one copy in English, both texts being regarded as equally
authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

FOR THE GOUVERNEMENT
DU QUÉBEC

Dwight Ball
Premier

Philippe Couillard
Premier ministre