

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF MARYLAND

AND

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Hereinafter “Maryland”

AND

THE GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC

Hereinafter “Québec”

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”, and individually as a “Party”,

WHEREAS, Maryland and Québec developed a cooperative, productive, and friendly relationship through the Cooperation Agreement Between the State of Maryland and the Gouvernement du Quebec, concluded on November 24, 2020;

WHEREAS, Maryland and Québec desire to strengthen their friendly relations as well as their cooperation and collaboration on mutual activities and projects as set forth in this Agreement;

WHEREAS, Maryland and Québec both desire to establish a framework of cooperation and collaboration in business, economic development, health, scientific research, education, technology, the environment, and agriculture that reflects the good will of the Parties;

AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE

This Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Parties with a view to carrying out activities or projects in areas of common interest likely to generate concrete benefits for Maryland and Québec. Within this framework, the Parties encourage the development of partnerships between public, private or associative organizations and institutions, particularly those of government agencies, educational institutions, civil society, and the business community of Maryland and Québec, so as to work towards economic development, educational enrichment, and sustainable environmental and social protection.

ARTICLE 2 AREAS OF COOPERATION

Without excluding other areas of cooperation deemed strategic which they may agree upon at a later date, the Parties agree to cooperate and collaborate as a matter of priority in the following sectors of common interest:

- a) Economic prosperity and trade;
- b) Research and innovation, including quantum technologies, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), aerospace technology and research, robotics, and digital and emerging technologies;
- c) Life sciences, biotechnology, BioHealth, medical technology, and medical equipment;
- d) Sustainable transportation;

- e) Environmental protection and addressing environmental damage, combatting climate change, clean renewable energy, innovative green technologies, and biodiversity preservation;
- f) Travel and tourism;
- g) Public health;
- h) Culture and the arts.

ARTICLE 3 MEANS OF ACTION

In order to achieve their objectives and to maintain effective and continuous cooperation and collaboration, the Parties undertake some or all of the following actions:

- a) Holding high-level political meetings to exchange on matters of common interest;
- b) Exchanging information, documentation, expertise, and best practices on topics of common interest;
- c) Organization of colloquia, seminars, conferences, symposia, exhibitions, and fairs in the State of Maryland and Québec;
- d) Exchange of experts, professors, and professionals as part of training, research, and innovation activities in both regions;
- e) Implementation of joint cooperation initiatives in areas of common interest;
- f) Support businesses, research centers, and other research and development organizations of Maryland and Québec in funding potential partners for common research and innovation projects;
- g) Any other means which the Parties may mutually agree.

ARTICLE 4 IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH A WORKING GROUP

In order to implement this Agreement, the Parties establish a Maryland-Québec Working Group consisting of three (3) to five (5) representatives appointed by each Party.

Unless the Parties agree to a different time period, the Working Group meets semi-annually by videoconference or otherwise to establish and update an action plan arising from this Agreement. The Maryland-Québec Working Group is also responsible for:

- a) Identifying and approving activities and projects to be carried out as part of a cooperation program, in priority sectors of common interest;
- b) Establishing the terms and conditions for carrying out the agreed activities or projects, and determining the resources required from each Party for their implementation;
- c) Reviewing the progress of ongoing activities or projects, assessing their results, and making any necessary adjustments;
- d) Considering any other matter relating to the application and interpretation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Each of the Parties establish, as far as it is concerned, the necessary mechanisms for consultation and coordination with those interested in the cooperation and exchanges provided for in this Agreement. The Parties may encourage the participation of the public or private institutions whose activities affect the areas and sectors listed in Article 2 and which support implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Pursuant to this Agreement, each Party authorizes the other Party to use any exchanged information only for the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

This Agreement expresses the Parties' good faith intention to cooperate and collaborate in carrying out the activities and projects described herein, using only their own financial and other resources and shall not impose any financial or other liability upon the other Party. In addition, the present Agreement is limited to (a) each Party's appropriation of sufficient funds to carry out their intended cooperation and collaboration on mutual activities and projects and (b) each Party's required compliance with its own respective laws, rules, and regulations that are applicable.

The implementation of cooperation activities and projects under this Agreement remains subject to each Party's available budgetary resources.

ARTICLE 8
NON-EXCLUSIVITY

This Agreement does not limit the ability of a Party to pursue cooperation agreements with any other entity.

ARTICLE 9
AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION

This Agreement may be amended at any time, by mutual agreement of the Parties, notably to include new areas of cooperation or to increase existing levels of cooperation and supplement them, as appropriate, by means of an exchange of letters specifying the effective date of the amendment. Any such amendment or modification shall be attached to and made part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 10
TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT

This Agreement enters into force and effect on the day it is signed by the Parties for a period of five (5) years. This Agreement is renewable by tacit agreement for identical five (5)-year periods.

**ARTICLE 11
TERMINATION**

Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the other Party at least thirty (30) days in advance. If such notice is given, the Parties shall take the necessary steps to ensure the completion of any activities or projects undertaken jointly in accordance with this Agreement. Upon termination, the Parties shall preserve all records derived in furtherance of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 12
DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement is resolved by negotiation between the Parties.

**ARTICLE 13
REPLACEMENT**

This Agreement shall supersede as of its entry into force, the Cooperation Agreement Between the Gouvernement du Québec and the State of Maryland, signed in Montréal on October 15, 2020 and in Baltimore on November 24, 2020.

Signed in duplicate, in French and English, both texts being equally authentic. Each Party shall retain one copy of each signed Agreement for their records.

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND

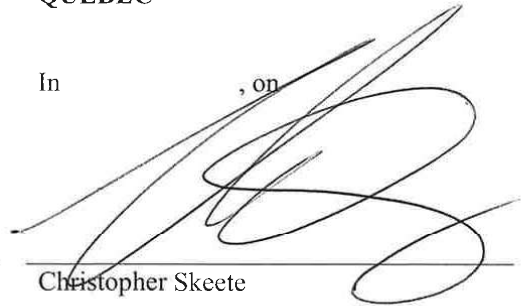
**FOR THE GOUVERNEMENT DU
QUÉBEC**

In *Baltimore*, on *5/18/2026*

In _____, on _____



Susan C. Lee



Christopher Skeete

Secretary of State and Chair of the
Governor's Subcabinet for International
Affairs

Minister of International Relations and La
Francophonie