

ECONOMIC COOPERATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

AND

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan (hereinafter “MICHIGAN”) and the Province of Ontario (hereinafter “ONTARIO”), collectively referred to as the “Participants”, in recognition of sharing the busiest Canada-U.S. border crossing and being each other's largest trading partner, have established an enduring and positive relationship based on mutual interests;

WHEREAS, ONTARIO and MICHIGAN have a strong and growing trade relationship and wish to build upon their previous Memoranda of Understanding on various types of Cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the Participants recognize:

- the significant trade and investment flows between the Participants in 2022, including bilateral trade of goods between ONTARIO and MICHIGAN valued at USD 62 billion, and bilateral foreign direct investment totalling USD 1.2 billion;
- that the Participants share the busiest border crossing in North America;
- the continued need for a strong economic relationship between Canada and the United States, including between sub-national trading partners;
- the advantages to be derived from the strengthening and broadening of mutually beneficial trade and investment relations between ONTARIO and MICHIGAN;
- the importance of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin in order to ensure a healthy environment, society and economy for this and future generations;
- the value of close consultations and cooperation between ONTARIO and MICHIGAN and the need to ensure open lines of communication and share publicly available information;
- the importance of working together with the Participants’ respective federal governments on matters of trade significance; and

- that the Participants share a strong interest in expanding their existing economic partnership and building on the shared potential of emerging export opportunities within North America and across the globe.

THEREFORE, in the spirit of promoting closer relationships, the Participants express in this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) their intention to cooperate in the following areas, consistent with applicable law and the pre-existing Memoranda of Understanding between the Participants.

Section 1. Promotion and Facilitation of Bilateral Trade

In line with the principle of mutual benefit, the Participants affirm their shared intention to:

1.1. target the following sectors and priority areas for joint initiatives:

- a) Advanced Technology and Academics Cooperation, including but not limited to robotics and cutting-edge manufacturing in the automotive sector;
- b) Cybersecurity;
- c) Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development;
- d) Alternative Clean Fuels, including hydrogen;
- e) Travel and Tourism;
- f) Traffic flow improvement and strategies to mitigate supply chain disruptions; and
- g) Strategies to increase Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption levels and supply chain collaboration in both jurisdictions.

1.2. work together to identify additional target sectors for joint initiatives, including but not limited to aerospace and aviation, manufacturing, food processing, energy, forestry and wood products, information and communication technologies, life sciences, and sporting events;

1.3. work together to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships and alliances between private sector companies in ONTARIO and MICHIGAN, which will strengthen such companies’ capacity to compete in international markets;

1.4. explore opportunities for joint trade promotions, beginning with the sharing of publicly available information on priority markets and planned promotional activities, followed by the identification of possible joint trade missions to targeted markets;

1.5. support regional and federal initiatives to facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people across the international borders between ONTARIO and MICHIGAN;

1.6. share publicly available information and learn from each other’s best practices and the world-class expertise found in both jurisdictions in the sectors and priority areas identified in this Section;

1.7. promote common goals by encouraging cooperation and understanding between private sector companies, municipal, state/provincial and federal governments, and citizens of ONTARIO and MICHIGAN;

1.8. facilitate the creation of new exchange programs or the enhancement of existing programs, as appropriate, to support collaboration between colleges, universities, and research institutions in ONTARIO and MICHIGAN;

1.9. promote forums for thought leaders in the fields of trade and economic development from both jurisdictions to exchange information on key trends in economic development affecting ONTARIO-MICHIGAN trade flows; and

1.10. work collaboratively as appropriate to help mitigate the impacts of unforeseeable events, such as natural disasters or public health emergencies, where operationally feasible.

Section 2: Cooperation on Government Procurement

2.1. ONTARIO and MICHIGAN will maintain an open dialogue on current and future procurement-related initiatives and developments, and areas for cooperation.

2.2. The Participants will form a Procurement Cooperation Council (“PCC”) to explore and advance opportunities in their government procurement markets. The PCC will be made up of government representatives selected by each Participant, and will convene at least once a year.

Section 3: Promotion of the Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor

3.1. Building on the deep collaboration in the ongoing construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Participants plan to work together and to encourage their respective federal governments, to:

- a) establish a seamless transportation infrastructure that includes the harmonization of regulations along the corridor, ensuring the free flow of equipment between both jurisdictions to increase supply chain integration, and more efficient and effective border crossings, including through the innovative use of transportation technologies; and
- b) as a result of the improvements made in the transportation infrastructure along the corridor, create a more competitive environment for private sector companies in both ONTARIO and MICHIGAN and therefore attract new investment in both ONTARIO and MICHIGAN.

Section 4. Coordination in Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Activities

4.1. The Participants have a long history of working collaboratively on the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. Accordingly, the Participants intend to explore opportunities to

coordinate their activities aimed at the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and the promotion of sustainable economic opportunities and quality of life around the Great Lakes.

Section 5. Promotion of the Ongoing Relationship

5.1. The Participants recognize the benefits of ongoing, regular contacts between them to promote trade and economic development and environmental cooperation and to identify areas in which there are opportunities for joint formal or informal cooperation. Therefore, the Participants express their shared intention to:

- a) monitor progress on the implementation of this MOU;
- b) designate representatives from each of the Participants to serve as principal points of policy contact and liaison to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest;
- c) encourage relevant departments within each Participant to work together with departments from the other Participant to promote cooperative efforts within their respective areas of responsibility; and
- d) explore and/or continue cooperating on initiatives of common interest, such as education, invasive species, transboundary air, water quality, resource recovery, agricultural harmonization, and transportation, which are complementary to cooperation under this MOU.

Section 6. Final Provisions

6.1. This MOU is not legally binding under the domestic law of either Participant or under international law and does not create any legal, equitable, or financial rights, obligations, or liabilities for the Participants.

6.2. This MOU is for an initial period of three years beginning on the date of signature. The MOU may be renewed for a fixed term in writing by the Participants.

6.3. Either Participant may cease cooperation under this MOU at any time upon written notice to the other Participant.

Signed on the 25th day of July in the year 2023, in [two (2)] original copies.

Governor
Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan

Premier
Doug Ford
Province of Ontario