



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**(hereafter called “the Memorandum”)**

**between**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA OF CANADA**

**(hereafter called “British Columbia”)**

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION OF COLOMBIA**

**(hereafter called “Colombia” – hereafter referred to as the “Participants”)**

The Ministry of Education of the Province of British Columbia of Canada, in this Memorandum represented by Mr. Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education, and the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Colombia, represented herein by the Minister of National Education, Ms. Yaneth Giha Tovar, of legal age, domiciled in Bogota, identified with ID No. 52.419.469, as the Minister of Education, appointed by Decree No. 1841 of November 15, 2016, duly appointed and entitled to contract pursuant to the regulation in force and applicable, hereinafter referred to jointly as the Participants,

### **Considering**

- a) the strong cultural ties between the Province of British Columbia, Canada and the Republic of Colombia;
- b) the importance of forging strong reciprocal relationships in support of jobs, trade and economic growth between the Participants;
- c) that multicultural and multilingual education is a powerful means of fostering understanding and solidarity between peoples;
- d) that multicultural and multilingual education, in addition to preserving cultural identity, is also a means of cultural enrichment for the cooperation between the Participants;
- e) that this is the first Memorandum of Understanding between both Participants;
- f) the Participants strive for cooperation and promotion of cultural values and a better mutual understanding between their citizens;





Have come to the following understanding:

## 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.1 The Participants have established that the main objective under this Memorandum of Understanding is to promote educational collaboration between the two Participants, increasing mobility processes of teachers, students, and education experts, in order to:

- a) Promote relationships between citizens of the Province of British Columbia and the Republic of Colombia that enhance opportunities for intercultural collaboration;
- b) Foster knowledge and appreciation of their respective cultures;
- c) Enrich the Participants' educational communities by exposure to each other's educational processes, theories and practices, including pedagogy, curriculum development, design, and assessment; and
- d) Encourage professional growth opportunities for educators and administrators of the Province of British Columbia and the Republic of Colombia.

1.2. All plans, programs and activities under this Memorandum of Understanding will promote high academic standards.

## 2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants will explore cooperative activities in the following areas:

### 2.1. Visiting Teachers

- a) Participants will work to collaborate on the promotion of opportunities for educators to practice or study in the other Participant's schools and learning institutions, professional development and programs of study offered by British Columbia Boards of Education and BC Certified Offshore Schools in the Republic of Colombia.
- b) It is acknowledged that Participants are responsible for setting professional certification requirements within their jurisdictions and that a visiting teacher must meet the certification requirements of the respective jurisdiction in order to be eligible to practice in Colombia or in the Province of British Columbia.





## **2.2. Student Mobility**

- a) Participants will collaborate on the promotion of opportunities for high school students to study in the other Participant's schools and learning institutions, providing, introductions to school districts and individual schools where appropriate.

## **2.3. BC Certified Offshore School(s) in Colombia**

- a) The Ministry of Education of the Province of British Columbia of Canada will encourage any BC certified offshore schools operating in the Republic of Colombia to share best practices and other educational information with other Colombian schools and educators in the region.

## **2.4. High School Student Exchanges**

- a) The Participants will explore the development or promotion of academic mobility schemes, including
  - i. Short term student and educator exchanges,
  - ii. Cooperative relations between Colombian and BC educational institutions,between their jurisdictions, promoting opportunities for collaboration between schools, school districts, and governments where appropriate.

## **2.5. Knowledge Exchange**

- a) The Participants will seek to provide knowledge and expertise to the other jurisdiction in order to facilitate successful implementation of joint cooperation opportunities.
- b) The Participants will explore opportunities to promote understanding of their respective education systems, by means of one or more of the following: joint seminars, symposiums, conferences, and workshops.
- c) The Participants may facilitate visits from government officials and/or scholars from the other jurisdiction with the purpose of learning about the experience that each Participant is offering. The costs of these visits will be considered according to the content of the Part 5.1 of this Memorandum of Understanding.





### **3. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION**

- 3.1 Participants will each designate a representative for the coordination and efficient management of activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, and advise the other Participant within one (1) month of the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding who that contact person will be.
- 3.2 The Participants will develop a work plan of cooperative educational activities through their representatives within three (3) months of the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.3 The Participants' representatives will meet annually in person or through technology to jointly develop an annual report for their respective governments on the progress made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

### **4. DURATION**

- 4.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect on the date of its last signature by the Participants and will remain valid for four (4) years after which will automatically be renewed for one-year periods, to a maximum of eight (8) years.
- 4.2 The Participants may amend this Memorandum of Understanding upon mutual written consent.
- 4.3 The Participants may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six (6) months written notice to the other Participant.

### **5. COSTS**

- 5.1 Unless they mutually decide otherwise in writing, the Participants will bear their own costs resulting from their participation in this Memorandum of Understanding.







**6. OTHER**

6.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create any binding legal obligations between the Participants.

Signed in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in the English and Spanish languages, each version being equally valid.

**Representing the Government of British  
Columbia**

**Representing the Ministry of National  
Education, of the Republic of Colombia**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Byng", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Byng  
Deputy Minister of Education  
Date: December 14, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yaneth Giha Tovar", written over a horizontal line.

Yaneth Giha Tovar  
Minister of National Education  
Date: December 28, 2016

**Witnessed by the Colombian Embassy in Canada, as represented by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolás Lloreda Ricaurte", written over a horizontal line.

Nicolás Lloreda Ricaurte  
Ambassador of Colombia in Canada  
Date: December 14, 2016

