



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 EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT OF THE
KINGDOM OF SPAIN

(hereafter called "Spain") – (hereafter referred to as the "Participants")

This Memorandum of Understanding is established between the Ministry of Education of British Columbia, represented by Mr. Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education, and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of the Kingdom of Spain, represented by Mr. Carlos Gómez-Múgica Sanz, Ambassador of Spain to Canada.

Considering the strong cultural ties between the Kingdom of Spain and the Province of British Columbia, Canada;

Considering that multicultural and multilingual education is a powerful means of fostering understanding and solidarity between peoples and nations;

Considering that multicultural and multilingual education, in addition to preserving cultural identity, is also a means of cultural enrichment;

Spain and British Columbia, in order to strive for cooperation and promotion of cultural values and a better mutual understanding will explore opportunities to collaborate to enhance multilingual educational programming in the Participants' respective jurisdictions.



Therefore, both Participants will consider:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Spain and British Columbia have established that the main objective of the Memorandum is to maintain the collaborative relations between the two Participants, to encourage teaching Spanish language and culture in the Province of British Columbia, and teaching English and/or French language and Canadian culture in the Kingdom of Spain, in order to:

- a) Promote relationships between citizens of the Province of British Columbia and the Kingdom of Spain;
- b) Foster knowledge and appreciation of their respective cultures;
- c) Enable a bilingual and multicultural education which prepares students who participate in these programs for future personal, academic and professional success; and
- d) Enable professional growth opportunities to educators and administrators of the Province of British Columbia and the Kingdom of Spain.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation between the Participants will be explored through the following:

II.1 Special Language Advisor for Spanish

- a) A Special Language Advisor for Spanish (Advisor) from the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain may be appointed to assist British Columbia with educational improvement initiatives related to Spanish language acquisition and bilingual education, as well as with any other areas of cooperation established by the Memorandum.
- b) The Advisor will provide, to schools offering Spanish language programs in the Province of British Columbia, specific teacher training activities, pedagogical guidance, and development of educational projects using technological support and, when available, classroom resources and curricular materials.



II.2 Visiting Teachers

- a) Both Participants will collaborate on the promotion of Spain's Visiting Teachers Program, and may be involved in the selection and assignment of educators, who may be contracted by a board of education or school authority on an annual basis and for a maximum of three years, unless exceptional circumstances occur which require modification of said time limits. The teachers are subject to the rules and conditions of employment applicable in British Columbia, including teacher certification and contract completion, and following the obligations arising from the applicable Spanish legislation.
- b) Setting Professional certification requirements is the responsibility of the receiving jurisdiction (Province or State), in order to comply with respective legislative requirements.

II.3 Training Programs for Teachers and Administrators

Spain, working with British Columbia, may promote the enrollment of educators and administrators of boards of education or school authorities in courses offered by Spanish universities for the teaching of Spanish language and culture and Spanish as a second language.

II.4 International Spanish Academies

- a) British Columbia and Spain will promote the implementation of International Spanish Academies (ISAs) in British Columbia, with the main objective to enhance a high level of bilingual education with the support of Spain and Spanish institutions dedicated to the promotion of the Spanish language.
- b) Incorporation into the ISA network will require a specific agreement signed between the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain, the participating school and its school authority. This agreement will outline the scope and the requirements of the program.
- c) "School authorities" in British Columbia includes public school boards of education and independent school authorities; both are independent legal entities.
- d) In addition to supports offered to Spanish language programs, those schools designated as an ISA will receive additional support from Spain as outlined in the agreement with the school authority.



- e) ISAs will be subject to British Columbia regulations and policies as applicable to personnel, students, education programs and school operation in general.

II.5 Other Ongoing Initiatives

- a) Both Participants will encourage student and educator exchanges between their respective jurisdictions.
- b) Both Participants will promote twinning relationships between schools in the Province of British Columbia offering Spanish language and culture programs and corresponding schools in the Kingdom of Spain offering English or French language programs.
- c) Both Participants will promote the Language and Culture Assistants program among Senior College students as well as University Graduates both in the Province of British Columbia and the Kingdom of Spain. In the implementation of this item, British Columbia's Ministry of Education will work with British Columbia's Ministry of Advanced Education to develop and distribute appropriate promotional materials.
- d) During the course of the Memorandum, British Columbia may enter into a specific agreement with one or more legal entities operating within the Kingdom of Spain to open one or more British Columbia Certified Offshore Schools, in accordance with the respective legislation and policies of each jurisdiction.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

The Participants will each designate a representative for the coordination and efficient management of activities under this Memorandum, and advise the other Participant within one (1) month of the signing of this Memorandum.

Through these representatives, the Participants will meet in person or through technology within three (3) months of the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding to develop a workplan of cooperative educational activities.

The Participants, through the aforesaid 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.



IV. COST

Each Participant will bear its own costs, if any, resulting from its participation in this Memorandum, and will fund the activities referred to in this Memorandum with the resources available in their respective budgets and in accordance with their respective laws.

V. DURATION

- V.1 This Memorandum is established for four (4) years, beginning upon signing, and may be terminated by either Participant provided that at least six (6) months written notice is given.
- V.2 During the term of the Memorandum, either Participant may add provisions for its improvement as determined by both Participants.
- V.3 Unless cancelled by either Party, this Memorandum will automatically be renewed for one-year periods, to a maximum of eight (8) years.

This Memorandum is not legally binding and not subject to international law.

This Memorandum is signed in English and in Spanish and both versions are equally valid in the Province of British Columbia, Canada and in the Kingdom of Spain.

Signed in Victoria, British Columbia, on December 1, 2016.

**Representing the Government of British
Columbia**

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

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister of Education

**Representing the Ministry of Education,
Culture and Sport of Spain**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Gómez-Múgica Sanz", written over a horizontal line.

Carlos Gómez-Múgica Sanz
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to
Canada