



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

between

The State of Victoria, Australia

and

The Province of Manitoba, Canada

for the development of a sustaining, mutually beneficial relationship

in

LIFE SCIENCES

Pursuant to the understanding that the Province of Manitoba (as represented by the Department of Energy, Science and Technology) and the State of Victoria (as represented by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development) (collectively “the Participants”) have strong interests and great scientific and technical expertise in Life Sciences, particularly in the fields of agricultural biotechnology and infectious disease & biosecurity research, the Participants wish to record their respective intent to explore and support concerted, cooperative, and collaborative efforts to enhance and strengthen activities between their respective jurisdictions.

This Memorandum of Understanding is for 3 years in the first instance, and will be reviewed thereafter. Each Participant has the right to discontinue the arrangements subject to a period of one month’s notice being given. The Memorandum of Understanding may also be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the Participants.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not create any contractual or other legal obligation to perform by either Participant, nor will the Participants be subject to any legal liability resulting from non-performance of any provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework under which the Participants will work diligently to share expertise and under which cooperative initiatives will be developed, and can be extended by mutual consent.

Therefore in the spirit of promoting closer relationships, and with the mutual understanding that this is a voluntary working agreement, the State of Victoria and the Province of Manitoba intend to work co-operatively to the fullest extent, where possible and appropriate, and where consistent with the law and existing treaties between their respective nations to:

1. Explore opportunities for joint participation in biosciences and life sciences-focused symposia, workshops, reciprocal missions, and joint economic development missions to targeted markets;
2. Explore opportunities for establishment of collaborative research projects between academic and public institutions in each jurisdiction, including (where the costs are managed by institutions) the exchange of scientific and academic staff, particularly in infectious diseases;
3. Encourage the establishment of company-to-company business relationships in life sciences, such as commercial joint ventures, licensing agreements, service contracts, etc (where the costs are managed by the organisations); and
4. Develop government-to-government relationships in areas such as continuous networking within the life sciences community, sharing of ideas, information, and best practices in public policy.

Signed, in duplicate, at Chicago, Illinois this ____ day of April 2006:

original signed by
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Hon. John Brumby, Minister
Innovation & Regional Development
State of Victoria
Australia

original signed by
.....
Hon. Dave Chomiak, Minister
Energy, Science and Technology
Province of Manitoba
Canada