



Two Nations One City

Memorandum of Understanding for the Terms of Reference between both the Sault Ste. Marie Ontario and Michigan Economic Development Corporations for the **Joint International Relations & Economic Growth (JIREG) Committee**

A. ESTABLISHMENT

In order to form a more enduring capacity to promote, study, and foster international relations and economic growth in the international Sault Ste Marie area, the Economic Development Corporations of the Cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Michigan do hereby jointly create a **Joint international Relations and Economic Growth Committee.**

B. PURPOSE

The Committee for Joint International Relations and Economic Growth (JIREG) shall have the following purposes:

1. To study, promote and foster international relations and economic growth in the twin Cities of Sault Ste. Marie Michigan and Ontario.
2. To help stimulate economic growth in the general Sault Ste. Marie Regions of Ontario and Michigan.
3. To evaluate, assess and, when feasible, promote the implementation of the joint programs and projects in any or all of the following strategic growth sectors areas:
 - a. Trade
 - b. Manufacturing (value added steel & forest products)
 - c. Multi-modal & Transportation related (logistics, air cargo, warehousing & distribution)
 - d. Education
 - e. Health
 - f. Information Technology e-Commerce
 - g. Energy & Environment
 - h. Bio-industry (bio-products; biotechnology & biomass)
 - i. Aviation (maintenance, repair, overhaul, assembly, avionics)
 - j. Tourism & Retail Development
 - k. Other joint interests as determined by the JIREG Committee.
4. To act as a collaborative and coordinating entity for various international joint efforts undertaken by parallel organizations for the two Sault's.

C. COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The JIREG Committee shall be composed of members who shall be appointed by each of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporations (SSMEDC). It shall be the prerogative of the two EDC's to select and appoint such representatives for not longer than and up to a six year period as they believe best represents the interests of their respective communities in connection with the Purposes of the JIREG Committee.

3. JIREG Membership: The JIREG Committee shall consist of the following Community representatives:

Sault Ste. Marie Michigan Representatives with Voting Rights

- a. Executive Director EDC
- b. Tourism Director EDC
- c. Executive Director Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce

Sault Ste. Marie Ontario Representatives with Voting Rights

- a. Director Executive Director Business SSMEDC or CEO SSMEDC
 - c. Executive Director Tourism
 - b. General Manager Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce
- >Interim Staff: Director International Relations & Global Logistics

Additional Members/Task Forces or Resource Representatives:

The JIREG Committee may appoint ad-hoc members as it may so determine to advance the purposes of the JIREG Committee. The JIREG Committee may invite knowledgeable persons to any meeting as additional resources to the Committee as required such as:

President Algoma University, President of Lake State University, VP President Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology, Port Director, US Customs and Border Protection, General Manager International Bridge Authority, Canada Border Services Agency and both American and Canadian Government Officials from different levels of Government.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS:

Projects or programs identified by the JIREG Committee as meeting the purposes of the organizations shall be designated as falling into one of the two project areas:

1. **Parallel Organization Projects**: Joint projects or programs deemed to be of assistance to the goals of the two communities but that rely primarily on the initiatives of existing organizations in the two communities shall be referred to such an organizations for their joint consideration and any subsequent implementation measures that they may so determine. The JIREG Committee will not usurp any local or organizational prerogatives and will simply act as an idea generator, coordinating and collaborative entity in these cases.

In a related manner, the JIREG Committee will actively encourage joint partnerships and joint programs between any parallel organizations and will request only that the JIREG Committee be kept informed as to progress on any such initiatives so that they can be better integrated, where possible, with other related ongoing initiatives.

2. **Universal Projects**: The JIREG Committee may identify joint projects or programs that are beyond specific mandate or capabilities of any one organization. In these cases, the Committee will issue a Draft Position Paper on the matter at hand, and will authorize the circulation of such Position Paper to all organizations or interests deemed appropriate. Concurrence or approval of the Position Paper by the representative organizations will authorize the JIREG Committee to initiate whatever implementing actions as set forth in the paper.

E. STAFFING: For the interim the SSMEDC Director International Relations & Logistics SSMEDC Ontario will act as interim recording secretary until the JIREG Committee determine otherwise see a need for staffing arrangements.

Date Approved 8th day of July 2014 Date Approved 8th day of July, 2014