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AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

QUÉBEC

AND FRANCE

**ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION
OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

THE PREMIER OF QUÉBEC

AND

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,

MOTIVATED by the common desire to facilitate the mutual recognition between France and Québec of professional qualifications of individuals practicing a regulated profession or trade;

CONSIDERING THAT this recognition must above all be founded on the principle of protecting the public;

BUILDING on the close cooperation among universities and the extensive student mobility that have existed between France and Québec for several decades and which have contributed to establishing reciprocal confidence;

RECALLING the Social Security Agreement between France and Québec;

CONFIDENT of the benefits to be gained from better cooperation between them in order to create conditions favourable to the practice of regulated professions and trades;

DETERMINED to see legislation in France and Québec adopted in this regard;

HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON PROCEDURE FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

France and Québec agree to the establishment of a common procedure for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications of individuals practicing a regulated profession or trade. France and Québec are determined to take all measures necessary to see that their respective competent authorities apply this common procedure for the effective recognition of professional qualifications and enter into arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications leading to the practice of regulated professions and trades, in accordance with the procedure stipulated in Appendix I.

The competent authorities are described in Section I of Appendix II of this Agreement.

2. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

The effective implementation of this common procedure will come about through the earliest possible introduction of the necessary legislative, regulatory and administrative measures in France and Québec.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles must prevail in applying the common procedure:

- a) protecting the public, especially public health and safety;
- b) maintaining the quality of professional services;
- c) compliance with French language standards;
- d) equity, transparency and reciprocity;
- e) effectiveness of the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The Agreement applies to professions and trades regulated by France and Québec with the exception of the public service and ministerial officials listed in Section II of Appendix II.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Competent authorities may enter into arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications when:

- a) the profession or trade is regulated in France and Québec;
- b) the formal qualifications were obtained from an authority in France or Québec that is recognized within their respective territories;
- c) the legal capacity to practice a regulated profession or trade is in effect and was obtained in France or Québec.

In cases where the common procedure leading to an arrangement for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications is appropriate, it is conducted in accordance with the timeframes provided in Appendix III.

6. OUTCOMES OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNITION

The recognition of professional qualifications obtained in France or Québec allows beneficiaries to meet the professional qualifications required for obtaining legal competency to practice in the host territory. This recognition corresponds to the regulated professions or trades for which they are qualified in the home territory. The nationality of the beneficiaries is irrelevant to obtaining such recognition. Once recognition has been established, beneficiaries may apply for authorization to practice.

7. RECOURSE

The mutual recognition of professional qualifications allows for the possibility of effective recourse for the benefit of the applicant. In cases where the applicant is refused recognition, he/she is provided an effective path of appeal to an authoritative body whose composition is different from the one that rendered the application decision. This authoritative body will re-examine the application within a reasonable timeframe after gathering comments, when appropriate, from the applicant and the competent authority, in compliance with applicable legislation.

8. BILATERAL COMMITTEE

France and Québec establish a Bilateral Committee for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

The Bilateral Committee is composed of five representatives from France and five representatives from Québec. It is co-chaired by a representative from France and a representative from Québec holding cabinet rank. The Committee is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Agreement.

The Bilateral Committee is assisted by a Secretariat composed of two sections, a Québec section and a French section. The Secretariat is provided with the requisite staffing to carry out its functions and is managed by two secretaries general.

The structure and functions of the Bilateral Committee and Secretariat are described in Appendix IV.

9. COOPERATION TO FACILITATE RECOGNITION

When a regulated profession or trade is regulated in only one of the two territories, France and Québec work together, using the common procedure stipulated in Appendix I as a guide, to facilitate the recognition of professional qualifications required in the host territory.

10. FLOW

In accordance with legislation in effect in France and Québec respectively, provisions pertaining to the entry, length of time spent and employment of foreigners in the respective territories of France and Québec are not affected by this Agreement.

11. PUBLICIZING THE LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

France and Québec will ensure that their laws, regulations and all pertinent information pertaining to the implementation of this Agreement are published or made available in another manner within a reasonable timeframe in order to enable competent authorities and applicants to become aware of them.

12. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

France and Québec ensure the protection of the information they share in compliance with legislation that applies in each of their territories for the protection of information.

13. APPENDICES

The Appendices are an integral part of this Agreement.

14. EFFECTIVE DATE

France and Québec mutually inform each other of the entry into force of legislative, regulatory and administrative measures adopted as quickly as possible for the Agreement's implementation.

This Agreement goes into effect the day of its signing.

Done at Québec City, on October 17, 2008, in duplicate.

**PREMIER
OF QUÉBEC**

**PRESIDENT
OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC**

Jean Charest

Nicolas Sarkozy

APPENDIX I

COMMON PROCEDURE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION I

Definitions

For the purposes of the Agreement and this Appendix:

1. ***“regulated profession or trade” means:***

Activity or group of activities, the pursuit of which or one of its modes of pursuit is subject, directly or indirectly, by virtue of legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions to the possession of specific qualifications, hereafter designated as “professional qualifications.”

2. ***“formal qualifications” means:***

Diplomas, certificates, attestations and other evidence issued by an authority recognized or designated by France or Québec pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions certifying successful completion of professional training obtained as part of an authorized process in France or Québec.

3. ***“learning program” means:***

Program encompassing the learning conditions necessary for recognition of professional qualifications.

4. ***“scope of practice” means:***

Activity or group of activities covered by a regulated profession or trade.

5. ***“legal competence to practice” means:***

Permit or any other acknowledgement required to practice a regulated profession or trade whose issuance is subject to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

6. ***“competent authority” means:***

Any body designated in Appendix II by France or Québec and authorized by one of them to recognize professional qualifications.

7. ***“professional experience” means:***

Effective and legal practice of the regulated profession or trade taken into account as part of the common procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications.

8. ***“adaptation period” means:***

Pursuit of a regulated profession or trade in the host territory under the responsibility of a qualified person, such period of supervised practice possibly being accompanied by further training. This period of supervised practice shall be subject to an assessment. The detailed rules governing the adaptation period, its assessment as well as the professional status of the person under supervision shall be laid down by the competent authority in the host territory as appropriate under the legislative and regulatory provisions of France and Québec.

9. ***“aptitude test” means:***

Test conducted by competent authorities in France or Québec that is limited exclusively to the applicant’s professional knowledge or competence.

SECTION II

Common procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications

Chapter 1: Common procedure for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications by competent authorities

In accordance with the terms of this Agreement, competent authorities examine the professional qualifications of the regulated professions and trades in order to enter into arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications in accordance with the provisions that follow.

In so doing, the competent authorities ensure compliance, in France, with the minimal training conditions as stipulated by French legislation and, in Québec, with the conditions stipulated by Québec legislation.

ARTICLE 1

In order to establish the conditions for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the competent authorities, on the basis of the principle of reciprocal confidence, verify the overall equivalence of the scopes of practice, formal qualifications or learning programs of the regulated profession or trade in question.

ARTICLE 2

Scopes of practice, formal qualifications or learning programs are not equivalent overall when a substantial difference exists, such as defined in Article 3.

ARTICLE 3

1. A substantial difference between scopes of practice exists when one or several of the activities covered by a regulated profession or trade in the host territory does not exist within the corresponding profession or trade in the home territory and when this difference involves specific training that is required in the host territory and that deals with substantially different subjects than those for training in the home territory.

2. A substantial difference between formal qualifications exists when the subjects covered by training in the home territory and those required in the host territory entail significant differences in terms of duration and/or content (level of study, major educational focuses, overall subjects and areas) and when knowledge of these subjects is essential to the practice of the regulated profession or trade.

In terms of duration, a difference of at least one year constitutes a significant difference.

3. A substantial difference between learning programs exists when there are significant differences in terms of duration and/or program content in the home territory and the host territory, and when these factors affect essential conditions for practicing the regulated profession or trade.

In terms of duration, a difference of at least one year constitutes a significant difference.

COMPENSATORY MEASURES

ARTICLE 4

1. When the competent authorities determine that there exists a substantial difference between formal qualifications or learning programs, these authorities must assess whether the substantial difference can be compensated by the applicant's professional experience.

2. The competent authorities determine the professional experience required in order to compensate for the substantial difference.

ARTICLE 5

1. When the competent authorities determine that a substantial difference exists between formal qualifications or learning programs that cannot be compensated by professional experience and/or that a substantial difference exists between the scopes of practice in question, these authorities may require that compensatory measures be taken.

2. Compensatory measures preferably take the form of an adaptation period or, if required, an aptitude test. Additional training may also be required when it proves to be the only possible way to ensure the protection of the public, especially the protection of public health and safety.

3. All compensatory measures must be proportionate, as minimally restrictive as possible and take into account the applicant's professional experience.

TYPICAL MANDATORY PROCEDURES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

ARTICLE 6

Subject to what is provided for in this section, after examining the overall equivalence of the scopes of practice, formal qualifications or learning programs, the competent authorities agree, by arrangement, on methods for recognizing professional qualifications in order to practice regulated professions and trades, in accordance with articles 7 through 11.

ARTICLE 7

If the scopes of practice, formal qualifications or learning programs in question are equivalent overall, the competent authority then recognizes the applicant's professional qualifications.

ARTICLE 8

If the formal qualifications or learning programs are equivalent overall and if a substantial difference with respect to the scopes of practice is counterbalanced by a compensatory measure, then, once the applicant successfully completes the applicable compensatory measure, the competent authority recognizes the applicant's professional qualifications.

ARTICLE 9

If the scopes of practice are equivalent overall, but a substantial difference exists with respect to the formal qualifications or the learning programs, this is preferably counterbalanced by professional work experience or, failing that, by a compensatory measure. In such cases, if the applicant has the requisite professional experience or successfully completes the applicable compensatory measure, the competent authority recognizes the applicant's professional qualifications.

ARTICLE 10

If the substantial difference between formal qualifications or learning programs and scopes of practice is counterbalanced by a compensatory measure, then, once the applicant successfully completes the applicable compensatory measure, the competent authority recognizes the applicant's professional qualifications.

ARTICLE 11

If the substantial difference between scopes of practice is counterbalanced by a compensatory measure and the substantial difference between the formal qualifications or learning programs is counterbalanced by professional experience, then once the applicant successfully completes the applicable compensatory measure, the competent authority recognizes the applicant's professional qualifications.

INCOMPATIBILITY

ARTICLE 12

In the event that the scopes of practice are incompatible, the competent authorities will be unable to work out an arrangement for the recognition of professional qualifications for the regulated profession or trade in question.

ARTICLE 13

In the event that the training or learning programs are incompatible, the competent authorities will be unable to work out an arrangement for the recognition of the professional qualifications of the regulated profession or trade in question.

Chapter 2: Timeframe for processing applications

ARTICLE 14

The competent authority of the host territory acknowledges receipt of the applicant's file within one month after receiving it and informs the applicant as soon as possible of any missing documentation, should this be the case.

ARTICLE 15

Applications for recognition of professional qualifications required in order to obtain legal competence to practice a regulated profession or trade are examined as soon as possible. Applicants are informed of the conditions for recognition of their qualifications within three months following submission of their complete application file. The reply shall be duly reasoned. However, the time allotted for a response may be extended by one month.

Chapter 3: Documentation and formalities

ARTICLE 16

Via arrangements for the recognition of professional qualifications, the competent authorities in France and Québec agree upon the list of documents needed for examining an application for recognition of the professional qualifications required in order to obtain legal competence to practice the regulated profession or trade in question and for the issuing of such recognition.

Chapter 4: Application and monitoring of arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications

ARTICLE 17

The competent authorities submit a draft of all arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications to the Bilateral Committee for an advisory opinion before the arrangements are signed.

ARTICLE 18

The competent authorities who sign arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications inform the Bilateral Committee of the signing.

ARTICLE 19

In accordance with the parameters established by the Bilateral Committee, the competent authorities listed in Appendix II report annually to the Committee on the progress of their work on reaching arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

ARTICLE 20

The competent authorities collaborate closely and mutually assist one another in facilitating the implementation of this Agreement. They must inform the Bilateral Committee of any difficulties that arise with respect to its enforcement or the enforcement of the arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. The competent authorities ensure the protection of the information they share, in accordance with the legislation for the protection of information in effect in their respective territories.

APPENDIX II

LIST OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Section I: List of authorities responsible for regulated professions or trades in France and Québec

For France:

For the purpose of this agreement, the list of competent authorities responsible for regulated professions and trades as defined by Directive 2005/36/EC adopted on September 7, 2005 concerning the recognition of professional qualifications is as follows:

- Architect:
 - o Ordre des architectes (order of architects)

- Social Service Assistant:
 - o Ministère du travail, des relations sociales et de la solidarité / Direction générale des affaires sociales (DGAS)
(ministry of labour, social relations and solidarity / social affairs branch)

- Hearing Aid Dispenser / Audiometric Technician:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)

- Lawye:
 - o Conseils de l'ordre
(councils of the order)

- Hairdresser; Automobile Repair Specialist; Body Repair Specialist; Cycle and Motorcycle Repair Specialist; Agricultural, Forest and Public Works Materials Repair Specialist; Structural, Building and Finish Work Trades; Plumber; Heating Engineer; Electrician; Climate Control Engineer and Water, Gas and Electric Network Installer; Chimney Sweep; Aesthetician; Dental Technician; Baker, Pastry Chef, Butcher, Pork Butcher, Fish Merchant and Ice Cream Maker; Blacksmith:
 - o Réseau consulaire des Chambres de métier et de l'artisanat (CMA)
(consular network of chambers of trades and crafts)

- Genetics Counsellor:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)

- Wine and Spirits Broker:
 - o Réseau consulaire des Chambres régionales du commerce et de l'industrie (CRCI)
(consular network of regional chambers of commerce and industry)

- Dietician:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)

Director of a company specializing in the voluntary sale of personal property at public auction:

- o Conseil des ventes volontaires de meubles aux enchères publiques
(council of voluntary sales of personal property at public auction)
- Occupational Therapist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Professional Accountant:
 - o Conseil supérieur de l'Ordre des experts-comptables
(professional accountants authority)
- Surveyor:
 - o Ordre des géomètres-experts
(order of surveyors)
- Nurse:
 - o Professional Order (currently being created)
- Radiographer / Radiotherapist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Physiotherapists:
 - o Ordre professionnel
(professional order)
- Medical Doctor:
 - o Ordre des médecins
(order of doctors of medicine)
- Optician / Dispensing Optician:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Speech and Language Therapist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Orthoptist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Osteopath:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Chiropodist / Podiatrist:
 - o Ordre professionnel
(professional order)
- Pharmacist:
 - o Ordre des pharmaciens
(order of pharmacists)

- Dental Practitioner:
 - o Ordre des chirurgiens-dentistes
(order of dental practitioners)
- Professions involving prosthetics or other fittings: Orthodist-Prosthetist, Epithesist / Maxillofacial Prosthetist, Ocularist, Pedorthist, Orthoprosthetist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Psychomotor Therapist:
 - o Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports
(ministry of health, youth and sport)
- Midwife:
 - o Ordre des sages-femmes
(order of midwives)
- Veterinarian:
 - o Ordre des vétérinaires
(order of veterinarian surgeons)

For Québec:

- a) List of professional orders:
- L'Ordre professionnel des acupuncteurs du Québec
(Québec Order of Acupuncturists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des administrateurs agréés du Québec
(Québec Order of Chartered Administrators);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des agronomes du Québec
(Québec Order of Agrologists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des architectes du Québec
(Québec Order of Architects);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec
(Québec Order of Land Surveyors);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des audioprothésistes du Québec
(Québec Order of Audioprosthetists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des avocats du Québec (Barreau du Québec)
(Québec order of advocates - Québec Bar);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des chimistes du Québec
(Québec Order of Chemists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des chiropraticiens du Québec
(Québec Order of Chiropractors);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des comptables agréés du Québec
(Québec Order of Chartered Accountants);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des comptables généraux licenciés du Québec
(Québec Order of Certified General Accountants);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des comptables en management accrédités du Québec
(Québec Order of Chartered Management Accountants);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec
(Québec Order of Guidance Counsellors);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des conseillers en ressources humaines et en relations industrielles agréés du Québec

- (Québec Order of Certified Human Resources Professionals and Certified Industrial Relations Counsellors);
- L'Ordre professionnel des dentistes du Québec (Québec Order of Dentists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des denturologistes du Québec (Québec Order of Denturologists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des diététistes du Québec (Québec Order of Dieticians);
- L'Ordre professionnel des ergothérapeutes du Québec (Québec Order of Occupational Therapists)
- L'Ordre professionnel des évaluateurs agréés du Québec (Québec Order of Chartered Appraisers);
- L'Ordre professionnel des géologues du Québec (Québec Order of Geologists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des huissiers de justice du Québec (Chambre des huissiers de justice du Québec) (Québec Order of Bailiffs – Québec Chamber of Bailiffs);
- L'Ordre professionnel des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec (Québec Order of Dental Hygienists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (Québec Order of Nurses);
- L'Ordre professionnel des infirmières et infirmiers auxiliaires du Québec (Québec Order of Nursing Assistants);
- L'Ordre professionnel des ingénieurs du Québec (Quebec Order of Engineers);
- L'Ordre professionnel des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec (Québec Order of Forest Engineers);
- L'Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec (Québec Order of Respiratory Therapists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des médecins du Québec (Collège des médecins du Québec) (Québec Order of Physicians – Québec College of Physicians);
- L'Ordre professionnel des médecins vétérinaires du Québec (Québec Order of Veterinary Surgeons);
- L'Ordre professionnel des opticiens d'ordonnance du Québec (Québec Order of Dispensing Opticians);
- L'Ordre professionnel des optométristes du Québec (Québec Order of Optometrists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec (Québec Order of Speech Therapists and Audiologists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des pharmaciens du Québec (Québec Order of Pharmacists);
- L'Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec (Québec Order of Physiotherapists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des podiatres du Québec (Québec Order of Podiatrists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des psychologues du Québec (Québec Order of Psychologists);
- L'Ordre professionnel des sages-femmes du Québec (Québec Order of Midwives);
- L'Ordre professionnel des techniciens et techniciennes dentaires du Québec (Québec Order of Dental Technicians);
- L'Ordre professionnel des technologistes médicaux du Québec

- Québec
(Québec Order of Medical Technologists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des technologues professionnels du Québec
(Québec Order of Professional Technologists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des technologues en radiologie du Québec
(Québec Order of Radiology Technologists);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec
(Québec Order of Certified Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des travailleurs sociaux du Québec
(Québec Order of Social Workers);
 - L'Ordre professionnel des urbanistes du Québec
(Québec Order of Town Planners).

b) List of Competent Authorities for Regulated Trades:

- Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
(department of employment and social solidarity);
- Ministère du Travail
(department of labour);
- Commission de la construction du Québec
(Québec construction commission);
- Parity committees formed under the Act respecting collective agreement decrees:
 - o Parity committee of the automotive service industry of the Eastern Townships;
 - o Parity committee of the automotive industry of the Lanaudière-Laurentides regions;
 - o Parity Committee of the automotive industry of Mauricie;
 - o Parity committee of the automotive industry of Montréal and the district;
 - o Parity committee of the automotive service industry of the Québec City region;
 - o Parity committee of the automotive service industry of the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region;
 - o Building materials joint committee.

c) Other competent authorities:

- Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
(department of education, recreation and sport);
- Ministère des Finances
(department of finances);
- Autorité des marchés financiers
(financial market authority).

Section II: List of public service and ministerial officials

For France:

- Legal Administrators and Agents;
- Lawyers at the Council of State and Court of Cassation;
- Solicitors;
- Judicial Auctioneers;
- Commercial Court Clerks;
- Bailiffs;
- Notaries.

For Québec:

- Notaries.

APPENDIX III

TIMEFRAMES

SECTION I

List of professions and trades for which arrangements for the recognition of professional qualifications will be negotiated before December 31, 2009:

For France:

- a) List of professions concerned:
- Architects;
 - Social Service Assistants
 - Lawyers;
 - Professional Accountants;
 - Surveyors;
 - Engineers;
 - Medical Doctors;
 - Pharmacists;
 - Dental Practitioners;
 - Midwives;
 - Veterinarians.
- b) List of types of training leading to the practice of regulated activities associated with structural, building and finish work trades:
- Mosaic Cutter and Setter;
 - Building Machine Operator;
 - Roofing Felt Fixer;
 - Mason;
 - Cable Lift Mechanic;
 - Painter;
 - Resilient Flooring Layer;
 - Wood Construction Technician;
 - Energy/Climate System Technician;
 - Metal Worker.

For Québec:

- a) List of regulated professions concerned:
- Architects;
 - Land-Surveyors;
 - Advocates (other titles: Legal Counsels, Members of the Bar, Attorneys) ;
 - Chartered Accountants (CA);
 - Certified General Accountants (CGA);
 - Dentists;
 - Engineers;
 - Physicians;
 - Veterinary Surgeons/Veterinarians;

- Pharmacists;
- Midwives;
- Social Workers.

b) List of regulated trades concerned:

- Bricklayer-Mason;
- Tile Setter;
- Carpenter-Joiner;
- Roofer;
- Stationary Engineer;
- Ski Lift Mechanic;
- Heavy Equipment Operator;
- Shovel Operator;
- Painter;
- Resilient Flooring Layer;
- Ornamental Iron Worker.

Section II

For regulated professions and trades not mentioned in the preceding section, application of the common procedure must be completed by December 31, 2010 or before any other date determined by the Bilateral Committee.

APPENDIX IV

BILATERAL COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT

Structure

The Bilateral Committee establishes its own rules and procedures. It meets at least once a year, and as needed. France or Québec may request that a meeting be called. The Committee's decisions are rendered by common agreement.

The Bilateral Committee is responsible for keeping copies of the documents it produces and receives. It is also responsible for the rules that apply to its personnel in compliance with legislation in effect in France and Québec.

In accordance with their own rules, France and Québec designate an individual to serve as secretary general. Secretaries general are appointed for 4 years, after consultation between France and Québec.

The Secretariat assists the Bilateral Committee and ensures that its decisions are carried out.

The secretaries general consult one another in performing the tasks entrusted to them by the Bilateral Committee. Each secretary general prepares a report of his/her section's activities. The secretaries general forward and present their reports, as well as any proposals they deem appropriate, to the Bilateral Committee. They attend the Bilateral Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Duties

1. Without prejudice to any other responsibilities which France and Québec may confer upon it, the duties of the Bilateral Committee are as follows:

- a) Promote the goals of the Agreement and take all necessary measures to ensure its monitoring;
- b) Prepare and submit an annual report to France and Québec on the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement and make pertinent recommendations, should the need arise, for ensuring the smooth implementation of the Agreement;
- c) Request all information and documentation from France or Québec as well as from the competent authorities, in accordance with the obligations concerning the protection of information provided for in Article 12 of the Agreement and Article 20, Section II of Appendix I of the Agreement;

- d) Provide the competent authorities concerned with an advisory opinion on draft arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications;
- e) Receive and examine information and reports from competent authorities regarding the implementation and monitoring of this Agreement and arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications;
- f) Examine any difficulties experienced in implementing this Agreement and propose solutions;
- g) Assess the influx and outflux resulting over time from the implementation of the mutual recognition objective;
- h) Ensure that the list of competent authorities provided in Appendix II is kept current.

2. The Bilateral Committee shall submit its report to the Commission Permanente de Coopération franco-québécoise (France-Québec permanent cooperation commission) for information purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

The ministerial representatives responsible for the implementation of this Agreement have affixed their signatures in Québec City, on October 17, 2008.

QUÉBEC MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND MINISTER
RESPONSIBLE FOR LA
FRANCOPHONIE

FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR COOPERATION AND LA
FRANCOPHONIE

Monique Gagnon-Tremblay

Alain Joyandet