

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

## **Between the government of Nova Scotia and The Highland Council, Scotland**

as represented by the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Province of Nova Scotia and the Convener, The Highland Council, Scotland, hereinafter referred to as the Signatories,

Recognize the unique connection that exists between the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland and Nova Scotia on the basis of a common language; a common culture; family ties; and emigration, who desire to exploit opportunities for cultural and economic development through tourism and cultural activities, wish to build on the past to create a stable and vibrant future, agree to:

- R develop close cooperation between their respective tourism, cultural and educational sectors, primarily in research and development of tourism, culture and educational activities
  - R develop interest in, encourage, and facilitate joint ventures and exchanges; and
  - R derive mutual benefits from an exchange of information and experience;
1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms the Signatories' desire to enhance and develop activities consistent with the needs and priorities of cultural, linguistic and educational development and enhancement,
  2. The Signatories will seek to identify needs and requirements in those areas of mutual benefit relevant to economic development, research and development, cooperative training activities, academic interchange, tourism and cultural events, and educational opportunities. This may be achieved by:
    - R meetings of various organisations, agencies and government departments with the aim of identifying areas of common interests and complementary skills, and to explore the potential for joint ventures or other cooperative arrangements;
    - R identification of research and development projects and programs that may be usefully undertaken on a cooperative basis;
    - R identification of mechanisms to foster productive linkages between the public, private and voluntary sectors in Nova Scotia and Scotland;
    - R identification of new tourism opportunities with growth potential that are capable of benefitting both parties, and identification of the ways to facilitate their development;
    - R exchange of information of activities, policies, legislation and regulations concerning

areas of interest;

R visits and exchanges of officials, personnel or other representatives on general or specific topics, including local government levels;

R implementation of agreed upon cooperation projects and programs; and

R encourage other forms of cooperative activities as may be decided by the Signatories from time to time.

3. The departments, institutions, organizations and other entities engaged in the promotion of tourism, cultural and educational cooperation may decide the forms and conditions for cooperation within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

4. The Signatories agree to establishing a small Coordinating Committee who may hold periodic meetings at mutually-agreeable times and who may appoint sub groups to take forward particular projects or initiatives.

5. The Committee may:

R discuss any matter pertaining to this Memorandum of Understanding;

R consider ways and means of promoting cooperation between the Signatories, i.e. a mutually-advantageous manner;

R establish mutually acceptable priorities in areas of interest;

R exchange information and encourage improved communication between individuals and institutions of Nova Scotia and Scotland;

R provide a forum for coordinating activities in the areas of cooperation set out in this Memorandum of Understanding;

R suggest further areas of cooperation;

R publicly advertise areas covered by this Memorandum of Understanding and report annually for review by the Signatories on progress;

R maintain liaison with appropriate consultative groups established by Nova Scotia and Scotland.

R establish a secretariat in Nova Scotia and Scotland to expedite the work of the Committee. The secretariat in Nova Scotia will be at the office of the Executive Director, Heritage Division, Department of Tourism and Culture. In Scotland the secretariat will be through the Highland Council's Gaelic Development Officer at the Council Offices, Tigh

na Sgìre, Portree, Isle of Skye.

6. Subject to the approval of the Signatories, agencies and organizations or other governments may participate in particular cooperative programs or projects.
7. This Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to the laws and regulations in force in Nova Scotia and Scotland.