

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR COLLABORATION IN TECHNOLOGICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION AREA  
BETWEEN  
CONSELHO NACIONAL DAS INSTITUIÇÕES DA REDE FEDERAL DE EDUCAÇÃO  
PROFISSIONAL (CONIF)  
AND  
COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES CANADA (CICan formerly ACCC)**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is endorsed by the two organizations in Brazil and Canada hereinafter referred to as CONIF and CICan represented respectively by their Chief Executive Officers. The aim of the MOU is to enhance the collaboration between the two organizations in the area of technical and professional education, and to develop joint initiatives that can lead to exchanges of knowledge and information related to post-secondary technical education systems in Brazil and Canada.

Whereas:

1. Brazil and Canada have had a long relationship dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with the establishment of diplomatic relations, and subsequently have enjoyed reciprocal visits from representatives of respective governments, as well as officials from recognized national public and private institutions and agencies.
2. CONIF is the national council that groups together the leadership of the 41 Federal Brazilian Institutions of Education, Science and Technology, with a total in excess of 1 million students in more than 560 campuses across the country. CONIF's mandate is to serve as a forum to discuss, propose and promote policies for the development of vocational and technological education, research and innovation.
3. CICan is a Canadian not-for-profit membership organization established in 1972 with the aim of representing the 150+ community colleges, institutes of technology, university-colleges, polytechnics, universities and CEGEPs (*Collège d'enseignements général et professionnel* – Québec) both in Canada and internationally, and on whose behalf it is mandated to provide leadership, support and advocacy in relations with governments, business and industry, and social and productive sector councils. On behalf of the members, one of CICan's role is to promote and disseminate information on the importance of the colleges in providing their learners with advanced skills for employment and good citizenship.

4. CICan member colleges and CONIF member institutions (CEFETs/IFs and the college Dom Pedro II) have collaborated over the past years on project initiatives that had for an aim to transform their respective technical education programs and establish international relations among themselves. Canadian colleges provided technical support on the implementation of four bilateral projects, namely the School-to-School Connection Project (2000-2005), Empowering Thousand Women Project (2007-2011), the Science Without Borders Program (2012-2015) and the Brazil-Canada Technological and Professional Fellowship in collaboration with SETEC-Ministério da Educação.
5. The establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships that go beyond the national borders of collaborating institutions has been recognized to be increasingly critical for the preparation of college level learners that will be able to meet the skills demanded by the highly technological globalized world which will require the future general of highly skilled employees to work closely together to solve common challenges in areas such as agriculture, health care, environment sustainability, renewable energy, transportation, information and communications technology;
6. CONIF and CICan jointly recognize that the creation of international partnerships accelerates the sharing of knowledge and information, and leads to the application of new ideas for the development of appropriate technical training methodologies and initiatives in technical assistance, knowledge exchange and student mobility;

Therefore:

1. CONIF and CICan agree to formalize the partnership through this MOU in order to ensure the success and close coordination of joint initiatives.
2. CONIF and CICan agree to collaborate closely in order to promote a number of initiatives in the different areas, including:
  - a. Enhance the mobility of both Canadian and Brazilian students so that they can choose to undertake part of their academic studies and/or internships in Canada or Brazil, and have these studies fully recognized by the respective institutions, so as to broaden their education level and acquire international competencies;
  - b. Enhance the international mobility of the faculty and administration staff so that they can learn from each other and explore the development of joint modules, courses and programs, and share in the exchange of knowledge and information;
  - c. Encourage exchanges of information among senior executives and managers of the respective institutions so that they may understand and appreciate each other's competencies and as such champion the development of sustainable and beneficial practical institutional partnerships, by sharing

- exemplary practices, research and learning materials in areas such as advocacy initiatives to their governments, members and governance;
- d. Explore joint applied research partnerships in areas of common interest and seek innovative solutions that can be applied by both Brazilian and Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), industry and business;
  - e. Explore the development of joint technical education project initiatives, and support the mutual search efforts for financial funding from government, or private and/or public sources to be identified jointly;
  - f. Collaborate on improving leadership development opportunities for member institutions' leaders both in Brazil and Canada;
  - g. Explore the possibilities of collaborating to support educational reform in developing countries such as in Africa and the Americas;
  - h. Evaluate and diffuse through various communication tools, the activities to be undertaken and the results of the joint cooperation to ensure the sustainable progression of mutual collaboration;
3. CONIF and CICan with their respective signatures agree to the following:
- a. Hold an annual meeting, alternating between Brazil and Canada, of their senior leadership to review the MOU, assess the progress of cooperation and determine the priorities, responsibilities, objectives and timelines for the year.
  - b. Prepare summaries and/or proposals of joint initiatives that are to be undertaken, specifying the respective roles of the two organizations within each initiative, and append these to the MOU as proof of continued collaboration.
  - c. Jointly or individually seek financial support from Brazilian and/or Canadian sources, including national, international and private funding agencies, to implement initiatives with efficiency.
  - d. All financial arrangements are to be negotiated on a case-by-case initiative, and will depend on the funding source for the sustainable implementation of the identified initiatives and the budget allocation for each partner.
  - e. Publicize these joint efforts to the membership of both organizations so that they are aware of the importance of the relationship and collaboration between Brazilian and Canadian education institutions created by their respective association.
4. In the event that one of the Parties wishes to modify the present MOU, or seek to withdraw from it before the date of expiry, they should provide written notification with a two (2) months advance notice to the other party. Modifications to the MOU must be approved by both Parties to take effect.
5. The MOU will remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of its signature, and may be renewed for a specified number of years at that time should the Parties wish to continue their relationship.

Signatories:

The referenced signing authorities of CONIF and CIGan hereby commit their respective signatures to this document prepared in Portuguese and English, both being of equal value in interpretation and on the date of \_\_\_\_\_ 2015.

For and on-behalf of CONIF

For and on-behalf of CIGan

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Signature

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Signature

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