



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MINNESOTA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

Trade, Tourism and
BETWEEN THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Economic Cooperation
AND THE
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

WHEREAS, the Governments of Minnesota and Manitoba recognize the importance to their citizens of maintaining the quality and supply of water for drinking, municipal and industrial uses, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and commerce; and

WHEREAS the Missouri and Hudson Bay watersheds have been separated over a geological time span and have evolved distinct ecological characteristics; and

WHEREAS the Dakota Water Resources Act contains language that contemplates the possible large-scale diversion of water from the Missouri to the Hudson Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS diversions of water from the Missouri watershed into the Hudson Bay watershed threaten the ecological integrity of water resources within the Hudson Bay watershed upon which Manitoba and Minnesota rely; and

WHEREAS the out-of-basin diversion of water from the Missouri to the Hudson Bay watershed could harm the well-being of the citizens of the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba;



Therefore, the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba propose to work co-operatively to the fullest possible extent consistent with law and existing treaties between their respective nations to:

1. mutually support each others' efforts to oppose water transfers between the Missouri and Hudson Bay watersheds;
2. mutually support each others' efforts to fully evaluate any incremental projects or studies in either the Missouri or Hudson Bay watersheds that are intended to be part of an eventual transfer of water between the watersheds;
3. communicate their concerns about inter-basin water transfers to their respective national governments.

Dated at Winnipeg, this 13th day of July 2001.

The Honorable Jesse Ventura
Governor, State of Minnesota

The Honourable Gary Doer
Premier, Province of Manitoba