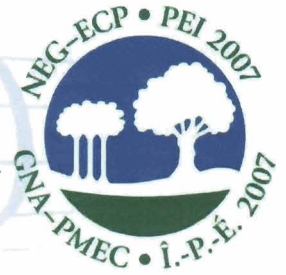




31st Conference
New England Governors and
Eastern Canadian Premiers

31^e Conférence
Gouverneurs de la Nouvelle-Angleterre
et premiers ministres de l'Est du Canada



Resolution 31–4

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES

WHEREAS, the changes to and aging of the population that the Eastern Canadian provinces and New England states are experiencing constitute significant trends that will have far-reaching economic and social implications, particularly with respect to the labour market and domestic demand; and

WHEREAS, while the rest of the United States and Canada will show an increase in working age population over the next decades, in New England and Eastern Canada the working age population is expected to decline, resulting in growing economic, social and public policy challenges as our region confronts a more significant decline than the rest of our two countries in the ratio of working to non-working citizens; and

WHEREAS, New England and Eastern Canada share numerous common bonds of heritage, culture, trade and economics; and studies indicate the entire region could be negatively impacted if young people continue to emigrate and the average age of the population continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the NEG/ECP recognize that the demographic issue is crucial to the ability of New England's and Eastern Canada's economy to compete in the global marketplace and that it is urgent to take action in both the short and long term to address this major challenge; and

WHEREAS, the NEG/ECP wish to initiate joint consideration and discussion in order to identify possible solutions and lay the groundwork for new regional collaboration in this regard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP stress the importance of adapting to the aging of the population by continuing to invest over the short term in health and education, especially by ensuring enhanced training for the new generation and providing for better knowledge transfer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP will seriously consider long-term means to change the course of demographics and thus make way for the future, especially by strengthening support for families and attributing still greater value to the contributions of seniors to development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP will examine means for improving net migration by taking economic development measures that generate jobs and thus make it possible to retain the local population and encourage appropriate immigration; and

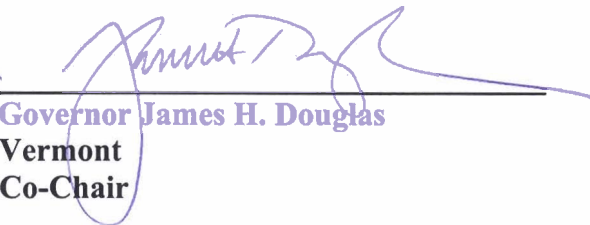
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP shall form a senior-level commission, including one representative appointed by each state and province member and supported by the Conference Secretariats, to study this issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the commission members share their jurisdiction's data on demographic trends and their impacts as well as the solutions identified as best practices, and report these and further recommendations at the next annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

*Adopted at the 31st Conference of New England Governors
and Eastern Canadian Premiers, June 26, 2007.*



Premier Robert Ghiz
Prince Edward Island
Co-Chair



Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont
Co-Chair