

Resolution 32-2

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

WHEREAS the Demographics Commission was established at the 31st Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, in keeping with Resolution 31-4, for the purpose of analyzing the trends related to the economic and social impacts of demographic challenges; and

WHEREAS the New England states and the Eastern Canadian provinces share certain concerns with regard to the economic and social consequences of demographic challenges; however, certain differences also exist in terms of each of the parties' application of measures and policies; and

WHEREAS the NEG/ECP have agreed on five main themes related to demographic challenges following discussions that were begun by the commission on demographic challenges, namely population challenges, workforce participation, out-migration, immigration as well as awareness and education; and

WHEREAS population challenges have a significant impact on the economy in the region and it is important to make a joint effort, at the level of regional competitiveness, population growth and an aging population; and

WHEREAS the workforce is an essential element in the region's economic development and the different measures to be taken must be seriously investigated in order to ensure better participation in the economy on the part of the overall population; and

WHEREAS the out-migration has an impact on the productivity of the overall region and it is imperative that incentives be adopted by each of the parties to encourage qualified workers and, in particular, the younger ones, to remain in the region; and

WHEREAS immigration is a solution that would make it possible to meet the challenge of a shrinking and aging population; and

WHEREAS public awareness and education with regard to demographic challenges are essential elements in the actions taken by government officials.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP authorize the Demographics Commission to continue its work until the 33rd Conference of the NEG/ECP to be held in New Brunswick in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP, with support from the Conference secretariats, continue to share and analyze solutions that are recognized as best practices in relation to the main economic and social challenges related to demographics; and

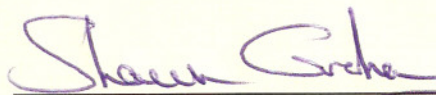
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP support and participate in a seminar organized by the Boston Federal Reserve that will focus on an economically active population and its role in society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NEG/ECP will increase their knowledge in the area of qualified worker retention by studying the subject with the cooperation from experts in that field and by making the required resources available in order to carry out the tasks.

*Adopted at the 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Governors
and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Bar Harbor, Maine, on September 16, 2008*



John E. Baldacci
Governor of Maine
Co-chair



Shawn Graham
Premier of New Brunswick
Co-chair