



NO 6

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The Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact - Adherence by the
Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, today announced that a formal exchange of notes took place in Washington today between the Governments of Canada and of the United States of America authorizing the adherence of the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick to the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. The notes were signed by Mr. A. Edgar Ritchie, Canadian Ambassador to the United States for Canada, and by Mr. Martin J. Hillenbrand, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs for the United States.

The Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact is an organization of seven American states established by an act of the United States Congress on June 25, 1949. Its purpose is "to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the northeastern region of the U.S.A. and adjacent areas in Canada by the development of integrated forest fire plans... by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the states of the region... and by the establishment of a central agency to co-ordinate the services of member states and to perform such common services as member states may deem desirable".

In 1952, by a separate public law, Congress authorized participation in the Compact of any Canadian province contiguous to any state which was a party to it. The Compact (Art.II) provides in turn that "any province of the Dominion of Canada which is contiguous with any member state may become a party to this Compact by taking such action as its laws and the laws of the Dominion of Canada may prescribe for ratification. In this event, the term "state" in this Compact shall include within its meaning the term