



For Immediate Release
2003OTP0046-000570
June 11, 2003

**B.C., ALBERTA LAUNCH GROUND-BREAKING AGREEMENT
TO PURSUE COMMON INTERESTS**

VANCOUVER – The provinces of British Columbia and Alberta and have joined forces to improve the two governments’ purchasing power, expertise, service delivery, and international marketing opportunities.

Under the Alberta/British Columbia Protocol, the two provincial governments have agreed to cooperate and work together on a variety of joint initiatives to improve the delivery of public services in both provinces, and to promote their provinces internationally. Premiers Gordon Campbell and Ralph Klein signed off on the agreement at the recent Western Premiers Conference in Kelowna, B.C.

“British Columbia and Alberta are both leading recognized initiatives to improve public service and value-for-money through public-private partnerships and other innovative approaches to service delivery and government procurement,” Campbell said. “Premier Klein and I have agreed that we can be even more effective for the people of our provinces by working together in new ways that will put the best of Alberta and B.C. under one roof.”

“There is such a wide range of endeavors where British Columbia and Alberta can work more closely together in pursuit of mutual interests,” Klein said. “We see tremendous promise in learning from one another, building upon best practices, and capitalizing on substantial opportunities for savings, private sector investment, improved services, and home-grown expertise that can be marketed around the world.”

Campbell and Klein noted that the protocol is one way their governments are working to further mutual interests. The two premiers are also planning a joint marketing tour this fall across the United States to boost investment in tourism, technology, and energy, and to build closer trade relationships with the most important customer for both of their provinces.

“We need to work more closely with our American neighbours to open up our borders and expedite the free flow of goods and services, and to pursue genuine free trade in forestry, agriculture and energy,” Campbell said.

“We believe it is an important time for innovation and cooperation in Canada. We are ready to start leading the way in Alberta and British Columbia,” said Klein.

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