
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Government of Yukon

B.C.-YUKON PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE SERVICES AND JOBS

VANCOUVER – The Premiers of British Columbia and Yukon have signed an agreement to work together on natural resources, environmental protection and health care, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said today.

“B.C. and Yukon share a common border, common interests and shared priorities for creating new jobs and economic opportunities,” Campbell said. “Our government has worked to build partnerships with other provinces and jurisdictions in the past three years, including Alberta, Montana, Quebec and the federal government. We hope our agreement with Yukon will build on that spirit of cooperation.

“The partnership between B.C. and Yukon will help us work together to fight forest fires, improve resource management and develop our offshore oil and gas resources, for the benefit of all our citizens,” Campbell added.

“The Yukon government has made it a priority to strengthen government-to-government partnerships with neighbouring provinces and territories, the State of Alaska, and First Nations governments,” Fentie said. “Yukon and British Columbia will co-operate on the Alaska Highway pipeline project and explore other projects that could bring significant economic benefits on both sides of the border.”

The intent of the British Columbia - Yukon Accord is to promote cooperation on matters of joint concern and mutual interest to the benefit of citizens of both Yukon and British Columbia and to promote sharing of information between the two governments so as to enhance their relationship and to identify areas where there can be enhanced formal and informal cooperation between them. The term of the accord is three years.

The Cross Border Wildland Fire Agreement establishes a cooperation zone along the border where crews from B.C. or Yukon can fight forest fires and share the cost. The agreement for dangerous spills on three B.C. highways near the border administered by Yukon is being improved.

Development of offshore oil and gas resources is being pursued in Yukon and in British Columbia. The two jurisdictions are also considering shared geological research to promote development of the Liard Plateau and the Whitehorse Trough / Bowser Basin. The planned route of an Alaska Highway Pipeline passes through B.C. and Yukon on its way to major American cities.

Other areas where Yukon and British Columbia will be cooperating include long term care, mental health services, air ambulance, fuel and tobacco tax investigations, tire recycling, river management, fish and wildlife, forestry management, trade missions and tourism.

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