



Canada's
Pacific Gateway

Alberta

COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP

Between the

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

and the

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Whereas the people of Alberta and British Columbia share a common border, common concerns and many areas of mutual interest;

Whereas on October 8, 2003, Alberta and British Columbia entered into an inaugural Protocol of Cooperation resulting in significant and lasting benefits for residents in both provinces;

Whereas the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia can build on these achievements and continue to benefit from a coordinated approach in overcoming common challenges and pursuing future opportunities;

ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA THEREFORE AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 This agreement renews the commitments between the jurisdictions to develop cooperative measures and agreements and to demonstrate leadership in Canada through:
- Working to enhance services and opportunities for residents of Alberta and British Columbia;
 - Exploring further joint initiatives that can expand provincial trade and investment opportunities;
 - Pursuing joint initiatives to promote greater government efficiencies and reduce the cost of public services;
 - Identifying best practices and innovations, as well as sharing expertise, in program development and service delivery; and
 - Engaging to cooperatively advance issues of mutual interest within the federation.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION:

- Alberta and British Columbia will work cooperatively in a number of areas including, but not limited to, the following:
- 2.1 Improving services to citizens, including services in the areas of education, post-secondary education, health care, justice and social and children's services;
 - 2.2 Exploring opportunities to support economic development in the areas of transportation, energy, agriculture, tourism and other industries;
 - 2.3 Promoting sustainable economic development for citizens and communities;
 - 2.4 Enhancing the effectiveness of public-private partnerships to improve service, support infrastructure development, and reduce costs;
 - 2.5 Joint international marketing of Alberta and British Columbia;
 - 2.6 Collaborating in innovation, research, and the development of new technologies in the fields of biotechnology, energy, the environment and aerospace;
 - 2.7 Fully implementing the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement and exploring means to create further opportunity by harmonizing regulatory frameworks, reducing trade barriers, and promoting economic development.

3. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:

- 3.1 An Alberta/British Columbia Steering Committee, chaired by the provinces' Cabinet Secretaries, will be responsible for ensuring the intent of the Agreement is fulfilled, and for recommending any subsequent agreements to the Premiers;
- 3.2 The Steering Committee will recommend management procedures for the implementation of the agreement. The Steering Committee may establish working groups for mutually agreed upon priority issues. A work plan, including objectives, timelines, and reporting and review mechanisms, will be developed by each working group.

4. DURATION:


- 4.1 This agreement comes into effect upon signing by both parties and will be reviewed annually;
- 4.2 This agreement will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years or until terminated by either party with six (6) months written notice.

5. AMENDMENTS:

- 5.1 Any provision set out in this agreement may be amended or waived by way of the written, mutual agreement of both parties.

Signed in Prince George, B.C., this 1st day of October, 2008


THE HONOURABLE GORDON CAMPBELL
Premier
Government of British Columbia


THE HONOURABLE ED STELMACH
Premier
Government of Alberta