

# Alberta & British Columbia

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### "Rural Development"

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) EXECUTED THIS 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2008,

**BETWEEN:**

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (hereinafter  
called "British Columbia")

**AND**

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA

AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER  
OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT (hereinafter called  
"Alberta")

(Collectively hereinafter referred to as "the  
Parties")

**WHEREAS:**

*Strong rural community and regional  
economies are key to the future development of  
British Columbia and Alberta, and*

**WHEREAS:**

*British Columbia and Alberta are committed  
to rural communities achieving economic,  
social and environmental sustainability  
within healthy, diverse and regional  
economies,*

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereto  
agree to establish a co-operative framework  
to facilitate the pursuit of sustainable  
development initiatives and interests of rural  
communities as follows:

**Overview:**

The Parties enter into this Memorandum of  
Understanding ("MoU") with the intent to  
achieve the following goals:

- To explore opportunities for working together toward mutual objectives in a manner consistent with each province's own strategic direction and legislative mandate,
- To enhance the co-operation between the Parties in order to share information and ideas regarding the diversification of rural and regional economies, and,
- To identify best practices for improving the overall socio-economic health and sustainability of rural communities in both provinces.

**Shared Objectives:**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish collaborative approaches between the Parties to facilitate the pursuit of rural development initiatives of mutual interest and benefit, addressing the following objectives:

- To improve the quality and accessibility of provincial programs designed to be responsive to the needs of rural communities,
- To review opportunities for new policies and programming that meet the unique needs of rural communities and regions in each province,
- To engage communities and local governments, directly or through respective local government organizations, regarding challenges, opportunities and needs,
- To work together to engage the federal government where appropriate,
- To identify best practices on engaging the participation of First Nations in rural community sustainability.

**Areas of Collaboration:**

Examples of joint initiatives that may be pursued in an effort to achieve the objectives of this MoU include, but are not limited to, initiatives related to research and discussion of the following:

- Rural policy development models,
- Mechanisms and models for inter-ministry cooperation,
- Community capacity building and sustainability,
- Research and data initiatives and best practices,
- Rural connectivity,
- Outcomes of programs and regional approaches,
- Importance of agriculture to rural communities,
- Strategies for community adjustment, adaptation and transition to address challenges affecting rural communities, including those impacted by Mountain Pine Beetle.

**Implementation:**

Implementation of the MoU and means of engagement will be developed by the Parties.

**Other Provisions:**

Any provision of this MoU may be amended or waived by mutual written consent of the Parties, except where contrary to law. This MoU will be effective upon signature by the Parties and will remain in effect for five (5) years from the date of signing.

This MoU represents a statement of general intention on the part of the Parties and does not represent any manner of binding contractual or other legal agreement on the part of either of the Parties.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF this MOU  
has been executed by British Columbia  
and Alberta.

Signed in Prince George, B.C., this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2008



THE HONOURABLE BLAIR LEKSTROM  
Minister of Community Development

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



THE HONOURABLE GEORGE GROENEVELD  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA