

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 PRESENTED 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 1st day of October, 2008