

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

ISSUE: Year in review and deliverables

- **The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat has advanced British Columbia's priorities by building effective partnerships with the federal government, other provinces and territories, major markets in the United States and with other international partners, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.**
  - ***Building on the opportunities generated by the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games*** – The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat built on the opportunities generated by the 2010 Winter Games by facilitating over 50 meetings with senior foreign officials, diplomats and the Consular Corps. This contributed to strengthening existing relationships or initiating strategic new ties between BC and other jurisdictions such as the UK and Russia, both of which will be hosting Olympic games in the coming years.
  - ***Work with other Ministers to engage the federal government on policy outcomes and the equitable distribution of federal spending for the benefit of British Columbians*** – The Secretariat was particularly involved in discussions with the federal government regarding the federal Economic Action resulting in infrastructure projects in the Province.
  - ***Pursue opportunities for improving British Columbia's bilateral and multilateral relations in Canada*** – The Secretariat was involved in interministry/ interprovincial discussion and coordination of the New West Partnership which created Canada's largest interprovincial barrier-free trade and investment market. The Secretariat was closely involved in the preparation of the June 2010 Western Premiers' Conference held in BC and in the Council of the Federation initiatives. BC advocated and obtained support for priorities such as Asia Pacific trade; one project/one environmental assessment; international education and water stewardship.
  - ***Promote British Columbia's international priorities*** – The Secretariat has actively promoted British Columbia's international priorities including an open and efficient BC-US border which was critical to the success of the 2010 Olympics. Other international priorities focused on relations with the Asia-Pacific region which resulted in a trade mission to China, participation in a BC-Japan program, signing of a cooperation agreement with Queensland (Australia), and a visit by the Governor of Gyeonggi (Korea), the most populous province of South Korea.
  - ***Pursue opportunities for improving British Columbia's bilateral and multilateral relations within the Pacific region of North America*** – The Province is actively engaged with neighbouring US states through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, which held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Leaders Forum in 2010, as well as through the Pacific North West Economic Region. The Secretariat has coordinated the annual BC-Washington Joint Cabinet meeting, the Province's government-to-government engagements to promote clean energy partnerships with California, and the successful implementation of the BC-Montana MOU.
  - ***Promote national unity by facilitating the participation of the two official language communities in British Columbia's society and in Canada*** – The Secretariat successfully implemented the 2009-2011 Canada-British Columbia Co-operation Agreement on Official Languages and has led consultation on community priorities to prepare for the next cooperation agreement.

DATE: May 11, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

**ISSUE: IGRS Service Plan**

- IGRS has successfully advanced British Columbia's intergovernmental priorities outlined in the Office of the Premier's Service Plan.
- Goal 4 of the Service Plan for the Office of the Premier states that the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS) is responsible for helping the Government achieve its intergovernmental relations objectives. These priorities are advanced through leadership in intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral partnerships and international relations.
- The strategies for achieving this objective are:
  - Engage the federal government in achieving BC priorities
  - Build partnerships with other provinces through bilateral cooperation such as joint Cabinet meetings with Alberta and Saskatchewan, and multilateral cooperation on shared priorities discussed at the Council of the Federation (to be hosted in British Columbia in 2011), the Western Premiers Conference and other fora
  - Strengthen domestic and international intergovernmental relations through BC's economic, cultural and diplomatic ties and programs
  - Establish regional leadership, shared economic and environmental priorities, such as action on climate change and better border management, through joint Cabinet meetings, with the State of Washington, the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and British Columbia's participation in the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER).
- The performance measure on key issues in this plan is progress on key issues. IGRS has successfully met this performance measure through:
  - Support for regular engagement by the Premier, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials with counterparts in the federal government
  - Joint Cabinet meetings with Alberta and Saskatchewan that have led to the formation of the New West Partnership, as well as coordinating British Columbia's participation in the Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers Conference
  - Active engagement with the Consular Corps and diplomatic community, including arranging strategic linkage with priority countries and international partners
  - Ongoing cooperation with Washington through support for Joint Cabinet meetings, as well as engagement with other US neighbours on a bilateral basis (e.g. Montana) and through the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER)'s annual summits and visits to Washington DC and Ottawa.

**DATE:** May 17, 2011

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**ISSUE:** Council of the Federation & Western Premiers' Conference

- Both the Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers' Conference allow Premiers and governments to work collaboratively to strengthen the Canadian federation by fostering a constructive relationship among the provinces and territories and with the federal government.
- Key priorities for BC include working with provinces and territories on the economy, clean energy and the environment. Planning for the 2011 Western Premiers' Conference and the Council of the Federation meetings is currently underway.
- British Columbia will be promoting families and other key priorities at this year's meetings.
- British Columbia hosts the annual meeting of the Council of the Federation this July 21-22 in Vancouver. The Council of the Federation was founded in December 2003. Its membership includes the Premiers from all the provinces and territories.
- Cost for hosting the Council of the Federation meeting are usually borne by the host jurisdiction, a contribution from the Council of the Federation Secretariat and various sponsorships.
- Member fees for the Council of the Federation have been set for 2011-12 and 2012-13 (in total over the two year period) at eight cents (\$0.08) per Canadian based on the population census, with fees to be paid in fiscal year 2011-12 or 2012-13. BC's contribution is less than \$370,000 and has been paid up to 2012-2013.
- NWT will host the next Western Premiers' Conference on June 20-21 in Yellowknife. Western Premiers' conference includes the Premiers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. British Columbia hosted the Western Premiers' Conference in 2010.
- Western Premiers' Conference is a key stepping stone to influencing and setting the agenda at the Council of the Federation. Many of the accomplishments above began with initiatives taken by the Western Premiers and often led by British Columbia.

**DATE:** May 17, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**ISSUE:     The New West Partnership**

- British Columbia supports open trade throughout Canada and has taken a leadership role to create jobs and strengthen the Canadian economy.
- In April 2010, BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan created the New West Partnership. The Partnership establishes a strong economic alliance in Western Canada that will build stronger connections between our provinces, improve our competitiveness and allow the West to market itself as one region to bolster export development and attract investment.
- The governments are currently busy implementing the Partnership's four main components: trade, international cooperation, innovation and joint purchasing.
- The Partnership builds on the pioneering BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement which is widely acknowledged as the most comprehensive model for improving internal trade in Canada.
- The New West Partnership creates the largest barrier-free region in Canada, with a Gross Domestic Product (of \$0.5 trillion) that surpasses that of all but about 20 countries in the world.
- New West Partnership Trade Agreement Implementation Act was introduced on April 28, 2011 to ensure BC has the statutory authority to meet its obligations and exercise its rights under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.
- BC hosted the most recent meeting in Vancouver during April 2011.

Background and news releases attached



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**BACKGROUND/STATUS:**

- The New West Partnership was signed in April 2010 and came into effect in July 2010. The Partnership is managed in BC by the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, and consists of:
  - A comprehensive economic agreement that extends to Saskatchewan the commitments made under the BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement and will further reduce barriers to trade. (Managed in BC by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation.)
  - An international cooperation agreement that encourages the three provinces to co-operate on trade and investment missions to international markets, and share foreign market intelligence to advance joint interests and increase business competitiveness. The agreement provided the basis for a joint Premiers' mission to China and Japan in May 2010 and the opening of a joint trade and investment office in Shanghai, China. (Managed in BC by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation.)
  - An innovation agreement, which encourages coordination of provincial innovation efforts to better attract investment and talent, helping build critical mass of innovation activities in the West. (Managed in BC by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation.)
  - A procurement agreement to enable the provinces to capitalize on their combined buying power through the joint procurement of goods and services. (Managed in BC by the Ministry of Finance.)
- In addition, energy ministers from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan signed a New West Partnership cooperation agreement on energy on December 16, 2010 that will help expand and strengthen the region's position as Canada's energy powerhouse. (Managed in BC by the Ministry of Energy and Mines.)
- Government is working to fully implement the New West Partnership, including the Trade Agreement, by July 2012.

**DATE:** May 11, 2011

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

2011JT10061-000455  
April 28, 2011

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

### **New West Partnership legislation introduced**

VICTORIA – Legislation required to implement the New West Partnership Trade Agreement was introduced today in the Legislative Assembly by Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation.

The trade agreement between B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan will strengthen the economy of the three provinces and create jobs by making markets attractive to investors, all of which benefit families.

If passed, the New West Partnership Trade Agreement Implementation Act will ensure the Province of British Columbia has the statutory authority to meet its obligations and exercise its rights under the British Columbia-Alberta-Saskatchewan New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

The act will also provide statutory certainty regarding dispute resolution provisions and ensure awards and costs are enforced. In addition, the act amends provisions in the College of Applied Biology Act to ensure the Council of the College of Applied Biology complies with the labour mobility provisions of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Both Alberta and Saskatchewan have already fulfilled their respective requirements to implement the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Signed in April 2010, the New West Partnership is an economic partnership with a combined annual GDP of nearly half-a-trillion dollars and commits the three provinces to ongoing collaboration on innovative ways to strengthen the economy of the West. The New West Partnership focuses on four areas key to economic growth – trade, international co-operation, innovation, and procurement.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011PREM0036-000429  
April 20, 2011

Office of the Premier  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Government of Alberta

### **New West Partnership success spurs further co-operation**

VANCOUVER – The premiers of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan are working to create new opportunities through the year-old New West Partnership agreement between the three western provinces, including collaborative health care purchasing that could save the provinces millions of taxpayer dollars.

Premier Christy Clark today hosted Premier Brad Wall of Saskatchewan and Premier Ed Stelmach of Alberta for a meeting in Vancouver to continue building on the partnership, which represents a combined annual GDP of nearly half-a-trillion dollars. The New West Partnership is the only association of Canadian provinces to have a binding trade agreement and an effective economic and policy advocacy approach.

“The three-province New West Partnership is strong and our work making this a successful agreement continues,” said Premier Clark. “Together, B.C., Saskatchewan and Alberta are strengthening the economy, creating a market attractive to investors and improving value for families and businesses.”

“The New West Partnership is important to all of us,” said Premier Stelmach. “Collectively we are working together to improve access to emerging markets in India, Asia and the Middle East that will contribute to our economic growth and help pay for Canada’s health care and other social programs.”

“Through the partnership, the new joint purchasing arrangement is changing the way the three governments purchase goods and services,” said Premier Wall. “Working smarter and with more efficiency lowers costs to taxpayers while delivering important public services needed by families and their communities.”

The premiers pointed to three specific sectors that are already experiencing tangible benefits from the New West Partnership:

#### **Health Care**

- The provinces are working to expand B.C.’s model of unified health care purchasing across the New West Partnership. Centralized purchasing has saved British Columbia about \$150 million in health care since 2009 and could be implemented across the three provinces to create greater combined savings with an even larger unified purchasing group.

- The three provinces are working on an RFP for combined purchasing of products used to close wounds, such as sutures and staples, which is expected to bring savings for the provinces.
- The partnership is also aligning provincial drug plans, which will lead to lower generic drug costs.

#### **Innovation**

- Researchers in the areas of medical sciences, physics and astronomy, and ocean sciences are taking advantage of world-class facilities in the three provinces, making more efficient use of existing centres.
- The provinces are sharing information, best practices and comparing regulatory approaches, including monitoring major carbon capture and storage projects. Future joint projects include forestry technology.

#### **Energy and Trade**

- A unique collaboration saw for the first time Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia participate in a joint consultation with the petroleum and natural gas industry to identify barriers and opportunities. Ten major industry associations participated.
- In addition, a joint strategy to promote energy trade and improved access to Asian markets is being developed. Expansion of the capacity at the Port Metro Vancouver could improve the flow of goods from all three provinces to growing Asian markets – products such as wood, coal, grain and potash.
- The three provinces make up about 90 per cent of Canada's total oil production, and together are a world leader in natural gas production.

Signed by the three provinces in April 2010, the New West Partnership Agreement is an economic partnership and commits the provincial governments to ongoing collaboration on innovative ways to strengthen the economy of the West. The New West Partnership focuses on four areas key to economic growth: trade; international co-operation; innovation; and procurement.

For more information, visit the New West Partnership online at:  
<http://www.newwestpartnership.ca/>

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Canada's  
Pacific Gateway



Government of  
Saskatchewan

**Government  
of Alberta**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2010PREM0093-000508  
April 30, 2010

Office of the Premier  
Government of Saskatchewan  
Government of Alberta

### **B.C., SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA LAUNCH NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP**

VICTORIA - British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta launched the New West Partnership today, creating an economic powerhouse of nine million people with a combined GDP of more than \$550 billion.

The New West Partnership is an ambitious agreement that will create Canada's largest interprovincial barrier-free trade and investment market and see the three westernmost provinces work together in unprecedented ways to the benefit of workers, businesses and investors in all three provinces.

"In today's global economy we need to break down barriers and open trade within our borders to build a stronger Canada," British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell said. "The New West Partnership creates a strong economic alliance in Western Canada that will build stronger connections between our provinces and improve our competitiveness."

"This represents an historic step forward for western provinces, as they work together to provide economic leadership," Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said. "We are combining the strength of our three vibrant economies and working together to create lasting prosperity. Our three provinces have created a model that cements the West as the economic powerhouse of Canada."

"To compete in the 21st century global economy, governments must work together to break down barriers and create opportunity," Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach said. "The New West Partnership creates more choice for businesses, workers and consumers. It allows the West to market itself as one region to bolster export development and attract investment."

The three provinces signed the New West Partnership at the third joint British Columbia-Alberta-Saskatchewan Cabinet meeting in Regina. Building on shared strengths, the New West Partnership contains four components:

- A comprehensive economic agreement, which will remove remaining barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility, further enhancing the competitiveness of Canada's Western Provinces.

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- An international co-operation agreement, that will see the three provinces co-operate on trade and investment missions to international markets, and share foreign market intelligence to advance joint interests and increase business competitiveness.
- An innovation agreement, which will enable provincial innovation efforts to be co-ordinated to better attract investment and talent, helping build critical mass of innovation activities in the West.
- A procurement agreement that will enable the provinces to capitalize on their combined buying power through the joint procurement of goods and services.

The first major undertaking of the New West Partnership will be a joint mission to China and Japan in May. Together, the three provinces will promote trade and commerce opportunities with Canada's newest free-trade region and draw attention to the New West's global leadership in clean technology, natural resources, and agri-food and agriculture.

The Premiers will also highlight Western Canada's many geographic and infrastructure advantages, including the region's multi-modal Pacific Gateway and Corridor transportation system, and their unwavering support for open skies and open trade with the Asia Pacific region.

The New West Partnership Agreement can be viewed at  
<http://www.mediaroom.gov.bc.ca/DisplayEventDetails.aspx?eventId=492>.

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## BACKGROUND

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### NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP

- The New West Partnership is a new and far-reaching economic partnership between the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The three provinces commit to ongoing collaboration on innovative ways to strengthen the economy of the West.
- Through the New West Partnership, the three provinces will foster strong, vibrant and lasting prosperity for the region and our people. Innovative and competitive businesses will be even more attracted to the region.
- The New West Partnership focuses on four areas key to economic growth in the West:
  - Trade
  - International co-operation
  - Innovation
  - Procurement.

### TRADE

- The New West Partnership Trade Agreement is a comprehensive agreement to remove barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility between British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.
- The agreement covers all public sector entities, including government ministries and their agencies, boards and commissions, Crown corporations, municipalities, school boards and publicly-funded academic, health and social service organizations.
- The New West Partnership Trade Agreement comes into effect on July 1, 2010. Saskatchewan will fully implement the agreement by July 1, 2013. An implementation schedule is attached as Appendix A.
- The New West Partnership Trade Agreement satisfies Saskatchewan's concerns regarding public ownership of Crown corporations and the ability of municipalities to support economic development.
- The key elements of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement are:
  - Non-discrimination: workers and businesses from the three provinces will be treated equally.
  - Transparency: provinces will notify each other to ensure that new measures, including standards and regulations, are not unnecessarily different or result in new impediments to trade, investment or labour mobility.

- Legitimate objectives: provinces continue to have the flexibility to protect important public interests, such as public security and safety, human, animal or plant life or health, the environment, the health and safety of workers and the provision of social services and health services.
- Streamlined regulations: unnecessary differences in provinces' business and occupation-related regulations and standards will be eliminated.
- Procurement: public procurements will be conducted openly and transparently, ensuring equal opportunity for suppliers in all three provinces. Information on the procurements covered by the agreement is attached as Appendix B.
- Dispute resolution: the three governments demonstrate their serious commitment to the New West Partnership Trade Agreement by including the possibility of financial penalties up to \$5 million if a government is found to be non-compliant with its obligations, and that government subsequently fails to bring itself into compliance.

### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

- Under the New West Partnership International Cooperation Agreement, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia will collaborate on high-quality, cost-effective joint international initiatives, including:
  - Undertaking joint missions or marketing visits.
  - Sharing resources in international markets, such as co-locating marketing offices or personnel.
  - Sharing market intelligence in areas of common interest.
- The first major outcome of the New West Partnership will be a joint mission led by the three Premiers to China and Japan from May 14-22, 2010.

### **INNOVATION**

- Under the New West Partnership Innovation Agreement, the provinces will work together to co-ordinate provincial activities in research and development (R&D), including:
  - Maintaining and sharing information on R&D activities in each of the provinces.
  - Undertaking joint innovation projects or activities.
- Initial joint activities the provinces will undertake include:
  - Advancing carbon capture and storage technology.
  - Exploring opportunities in value-added forestry to support diversification of this sector.
  - Sharing information on R&D activities for the purpose of identifying further opportunities for collaboration.

### **PROCUREMENT**

- Under the New West Partnership Procurement Agreement, the provinces will work together to jointly purchase goods and services in order to achieve efficiencies and cost-savings.
- This could include joint purchasing of health supplies or common government supplies (e.g., paper or office supplies) and the standardization of procurement templates and contracts.

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## APPENDIX A

### NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| New West Partnership Trade Agreement comes into effect  | July 1, 2010                           |
| British Columbia and Alberta fully comply with the agreement  |  |
| Saskatchewan fully complies, subject to the transition measures listed below, which will come into effect by the date specified                                   |  |
| <b>Saskatchewan-Specific Transition Measures</b>  |  |
| Ministries to post all tendering on a common electronic tendering system  | One Year Later<br>(by July 1, 2011)    |
| Reconcile differences in commercial vehicle registration rules  |  |
| Mutually recognize or otherwise reconcile differences in regulations and standards that restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility                   | Two Years Later<br>(by July 1, 2012)   |
| Mutually recognize or otherwise reconcile differences in business registration and reporting requirements   |  |
| Non-discriminatory procurement rules to apply to Crown corporations, municipalities, health regions, school boards, and publicly-funded universities and colleges |  |
| All tenders to be posted on a common electronic tendering system  |  |
| Mutually recognize or otherwise reconcile differences in measures related to financial services that restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility      | Three Years Later<br>(by July 1, 2013) |

**APPENDIX B**  
**NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP TRADE AGREEMENT**  
**PROCUREMENT**

| <b>Procurements at or above these thresholds must be conducted openly and transparently and ensure equal opportunity for suppliers in all three provinces.</b> |              |                 |                     |
|--|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>Goods</b> | <b>Services</b> | <b>Construction</b> |
| <b>Ministries and Departments<br/>Government Agencies, Boards and Commissions</b>  | \$10,000     | \$75,000        | \$100,000           |
| <b>Crown corporations<sup>1</sup></b>  | \$25,000     | \$100,000       | \$100,000           |
| <b>Municipalities<br/>Health Regions<br/>School Boards<br/>Publicly-Funded Universities and Colleges</b>   | \$75,000     | \$75,000        | \$200,000           |

NOTE: These thresholds are not automatic triggers for joint purchasing agreements under the New West Partnership Procurement Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Applies to Saskatchewan after July 1, 2012.



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**ISSUE: Federal Funding for Mountain Pine Beetle**

- We'll continue to work with our federal partners to ensure supports continue for communities in the mountain pine beetle zone.
- The battle against the MPB is long term and much of the epidemic related industry transition is yet to come.
- Investments by both the federal government and the Province go much further than dealing with pine beetle affected trees -- although that remains an important activity.
  - Investments such as economic development projects at the airports in Prince George, Kamloops and Kelowna, are about economic diversification in Mountain Pine Beetle affected regions.
- Most recently, the BC government has reinforced this approach to economic diversification by providing \$3 million/year for 3 years to each of the community Beetle Action Coalitions in 2011
- \$30 million out of the \$185 million Northern Development Trust is committed to a special pine beetle recovery account.
  - As of January 20, 2011, 64 Pine Beetle Recovery Account projects totalling \$19.3 million have attracted a total project investment of \$166.8 million throughout central and northern BC
  - This includes supporting training through the Northwest Community College School of Mining, promoting tourism in the Upper Nechako and heavy equipment operator training through College of New Caledonia.
  - Although the remaining \$155-million in the Trust is not solely dedicated to pine beetle, it provides support and is driven by the goals of communities that are in an area of the province strongly impacted by the mountain pine beetle. The same can be said of the \$50 million Southern Interior Trust

Background attached

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**BACKGROUND/STATUS:**

- The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Investment has lead responsibility for this item.
- The federal government and its agencies have finished rolling out their beetle programs announced in 2006 and have now invested \$200 million of the \$1 billion Conservative Party of Canada commitment in its 2006 BC election platform for mountain pine beetle mitigation in British Columbia.
- The \$200 million from the federal government was not a direct contribution to the Province of B.C. -- with the exception of a few agreements to control the spread of the epidemic eastward, all of the funding was delivered by federal agencies.
  - For example, \$100 million went to a variety of Natural Resources Canada projects: one program was used to limit the eastern spread of the epidemic, and BC received in excess of \$40 million from that program alone.
  - Another series of investments through Western Diversification (WD) Canada went toward economic development projects at airports in Prince George, Kamloops and Kelowna, on the scale of approximately \$20 million.
  - WD Canada has finished project approvals under the MPB Community Economic Diversification Initiative, with a budget in excess of \$30 million.
  - Approximately \$44 million was allocated to Transport Canada to upgrade important infrastructure upgrades of importance in the mountain pine beetle zone, such as the Simon Fraser Bridge project in Prince George.

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**DATE:** May 11, 2011



INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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ISSUE: Environmental Assessment

- Increased harmonization of federal and provincial environmental approval processes is a key intergovernmental issue for British Columbia.
- Sixty-five percent of major projects currently undergoing an environmental assessment in British Columbia require a federal assessment. Both levels of government have been discussing ways, and implementing practices, to avoid overlap and duplication for more than a decade.

S13

- Recent changes to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act) have led to increased opportunities to harmonize reviews for projects undergoing federal comprehensive studies. For example, the Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency may combine public comment periods to avoid duplication and, in the early stage of an EA, resulting in more meaningful input from the public.

Background attached

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**BACKGROUND:**

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- In 2004, BC and the federal government signed a 5-year harmonization agreement to guide joint federal-provincial EAs.

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**Joint Reviews**

- Of the active projects currently undergoing a provincial EA and where a federal review has been confirmed, 7 are comprehensive studies and 13 are screening level assessments.
- Two proposed projects that are subject to federal review have been formally delegated to British Columbia to manage the environmental assessment for both jurisdictions: the Northwest Transmission Line and Line Creek Coal Mine Phase II expansion.

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**DATE:** May 17, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**ISSUE:     Fiscal Arrangements**

- Major federal transfers – the Canada Health Transfer, the Canada Social Transfer and the equalization program - are up for renewal in 2014.
- The renewal of these transfers in 2014 is a priority issue for all provinces and territories. Ministers and officials in BC and across the country are working to support the renewal of these major federal transfers.

S13

Background attached

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**BACKGROUND:**

**CANADA HEALTH TRANSFER (CHT)**

- The CHT is a federal block fund for health care, and the BC Government is fully accountable to British Columbians for how it invests in health care.

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- The federal government indicated they will extend the 6% annual growth for the CHT currently in place until 2014.
- The CHT is currently allocated in a way to ensure all provinces receive the same total benefit from tax and cash components of the transfer.

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- The current federal government has committed to going strictly to an equal-per-capita cash allocation

S13

**CANADA SOCIAL TRANSFER (CST)**

- The CST is a federal block fund for social services and post-secondary education, and the BC Government is fully accountable to British Columbians for how it invests in post-secondary education and social services.
- The national value of the CST will grow by 3% each year until 2014; its level and growth rate beyond 2014 are uncertain.

S13

**EQUALIZATION PROGRAM**

- Equalization is paid for from general federal revenue, like the Canada Health Transfer; no province pays into it.
- The Equalization Program is the only federal program to be mandated in the Constitution, which indicates that the program is to ensure that "provincial governments have sufficient revenues to provide reasonably comparable levels of public services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation." [Section 36(2)]

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**DATE:** May 17, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
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**ISSUE: US Relations**

- Access of goods, services, investment and people to and from the United States is a pillar of British Columbia's prosperity.
- Policy decisions made in the United States often have important implications for the Province's priorities.
- British Columbia will continue to be the leader in Canada in finding innovative ways to broaden and deepen engagement with the United States and US States.
  - On national relations and issues we work closely with Canada and the Embassy in Washington DC and other Provinces, especially the New West Partnership.
  - At the regional level, British Columbia is the leader in Canada in finding innovative ways to broaden and deepen engagement with the United States and US States. These include joint annual Cabinet meetings with the State of Washington; the Pacific Coast Collaborative and its annual Leaders' Forum with the four Pacific Coast states from California to Alaska; and the Western Climate Initiative (WCI).
  - The Province also takes an active role in the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER), the leading cross-border public-private partnership of its kind in North America. British Columbia is also an Associate Member of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the Council of State Governments West (CSG-W).
- In 2010, the U.S. ranked number one as a destination for B.C.'s goods exports, receiving 51.1 per cent of B.C.'s commodity exports; B.C. origin exports to the U.S. totalled \$13.299 billion. The value of B.C. product exports (2010) to the Pacific states was:

|              |                |           |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| ○ Washington | \$3.71 billion | (rank #1) |
| ○ California | \$1.67 billion | (rank #2) |
| ○ Oregon     | \$625 million  | (rank #4) |

**DATE:** May 11, 2011

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

**ISSUE: Canada-US Border Management**

- British Columbia strongly supports Canadian cooperation with the United States on border management, including policy approaches such as perimeter security, risk management, the expansion of trusted traveller programs and identity document requirements that are convenient and secure for legitimate travellers (such as enhanced drivers' licenses).
- We will continue to work together with the State of Washington, the private sector, and other regional partners to build on the successful approach to border management during the 2010 Winter Games. Improved border services are key to promoting British Columbia as a destination for holiday travellers, convention-goers, and business partners.

**BACKGROUND:**

- In February 2011, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama announced a shared vision for perimeter security and economic competitiveness and established a bilateral Regulatory Cooperation Council to reduce red tape for businesses.
- The Harper-Obama joint declaration on perimeter security and economic competitiveness builds on a series of Canada-US border management agreements including the 1999 Canada-US Partnership; the December 2001 30 point Smart Border Accord; the 2005 Security and Prosperity Partnership; and successive commitments made at North American Leaders' Summits since 2007.
- The joint declaration on perimeter security and economic competitiveness sets up a joint 'Beyond the Border' working group that will develop a joint action plan in four areas of cooperation: addressing security threats before they reach North America; trade facilitation, economic competitiveness and jobs; integrated cross-border law enforcement; and critical infrastructure and cyber-security. The joint Declaration makes a specific commitment to engage with all levels of government, communities and the private sector on innovative ways to enhance security and competitiveness.
- The joint declaration also explicitly endorses the concepts of perimeter security and risk management, which represent a significant advance in border management policy on the part of both countries.
- The objectives outlined in the Harper-Obama joint declaration are consistent with the vision for improved border management that British Columbia has actively promoted, in cooperation with Washington, the Tourism Industry Association of BC, the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER), and the International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC).

**DATE:** May 17, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

**ISSUE: BC-Montana MOU Implementation  
(Flathead MOU and OIC)**

- British Columbia is committed to cross-border cooperation and partnerships to protect conservation values and support sustainable natural resource uses in the province.
- The BC Flathead has been successfully managed for forestry, recreation, guiding and outfitting, and trapping that are important to local families and First Nations.
- We are proud of the healthy and diverse eco-system that is recognized to exist in the BC Flathead today. Expanded park protection is neither necessary nor appropriate to sustain conservation values in the BC Flathead; nor does a park address other needs of local residents in the East Kootenays.
- The Ministry of Energy and Mines is working with coal, mineral and gas tenure holders in the BC Flathead affected by the February 2010 BC-Montana MOU to address compensation in a timely fashion.

Background attached

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER

**BACKGROUND/STATUS:**

- British Columbia and the State of Montana signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Protection, Climate Action and Energy* (MOU) on February 18, 2010. The MOU committed the Province and the State to work together and with other partners to sustain environmental values.
- The MOU included a provision to remove mining, oil, and gas exploration and development as permissible land uses in the BC and Montana Flathead River basin.
- In support of the MOU, on February 9, 2010, Order-in-Council 089/2010 under the *Environment and Land Use Act* was passed to prohibit mining activity or the issuance of land tenure for mining purposes. Parallel action has been taken by the State of Montana and legislation is before the United States Senate.
- On February 14, 2011 the Province signed a further *Agreement on the Protection of the Transboundary Flathead Watershed* with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Nature Conservancy to support implementation of the MOU.
- The *Agreement*, in the form of a contract, provides \$9.4 million to the Province to implement environmental protection provisions of the MOU, including costs of compensating current mineral, coal and gas tenure holders in BC Flathead for their past exploration.

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- The Province has advised existing tenure holders in the Flathead that they will be compensated for sunk costs (actual expenditures and investments in a property).

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**DATE:** April 27, 2011



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

**ISSUE: Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER)**

- PNWER brings together legislators, private sector leaders, and communities from the Pacific Northwest region to discuss how we can work together on shared priorities, such as open and secure borders, economic development, energy, environment, and trade.
- PNWER is a non-partisan, binational public-private not for profit organization. Both sides of the legislature are represented in PNWER. By working cooperatively with our American neighbours through venues like PNWER, we can more effectively communicate our concerns and build alliances to promote our priorities.
- Through meetings with senior decision makers in Ottawa and Washington DC, PNWER has helped BC and other regional partners increase understanding of the importance of a border that is safe and open for the movement of goods and people between our two countries.
- PNWER's annual summit will be held in Portland, Oregon, from July 19-22, 2010. It will provide an opportunity to discuss key issues such as energy (clean energy, oil and gas, and transmission), environment, climate change, agriculture, and trade. Canada's Ambassador to the United States Gary Doer is expected to be a keynote speaker.

**BACKGROUND:**

- British Columbia and other member jurisdictions pay annual dues of US\$35,000 to PNWER. The organization also receives funding from the US and Canadian federal governments for such projects as critical infrastructure protection, energy planning and workforce mobility. The private sector also contributes to PNWER through sponsorship of annual summits. Approximately 85 per cent of PNWER funding is from the dues paid by member jurisdictions and contributions by the two federal governments, with the rest coming from the private sector.
- The Pacific North West Economic Region is a bipartisan public-private cross-border organization. British Columbia has been a member of PNWER since the organization was founded in 1991. Other member jurisdictions include Alberta, Saskatchewan (which joined at the 2008 Vancouver summit), Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Yukon and the North West Territories.

**DATE:** May 11, 2011

*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

**ISSUE: BC's Commitment to Official Languages**

- Canada and British Columbia have in place a Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages (2009-2011). The goal of this cooperation is to increase British Columbia's capacity to service its French speaking population in priority sectors, such as: Health, Economic Development, Social Services, Justice, Arts and Culture and Communications.
- All provinces and territories have such an agreement in place for services in French, except for Quebec, which has a similar agreement for services in English.
- The Canada-British Columbia Agreement expired at the end of March 2011.
- Negotiations of the new Federal-Provincial Agreement with the federal government were successful and were completed at the Senior Official's level. However, due to the federal election, the Agreement has not yet been signed.
- The federal government confirmed that there will be no increase in funding under the new agreements for any provinces or territories until 2013.

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- For the federal government and BC, the Agreement shows their commitment to national unity.
- As part of the Agreement, British Columbia developed an Action Plan describing specific activities to be undertaken under the priorities sectors (i.e. health, economic development, social services, justice, arts and culture, and communications/translation).

**SAMPLE ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- **Health:** Creation of a provincial coordinator for francophone services with the Provincial Health Services Authority and translation and publication of the BC HealthGuide, HealthLink BC, Healthy eating and physical activity resources, and the BC Seniors' Guide.

Cont'd



*INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT  
ADVICE TO THE PREMIER*

- **Social Services:** Support for two bilingual social workers to serve Vancouver's homeless Francophones and Francophones considered "at risk", and support for province-wide initiatives aimed at preventing violence against women.
- **Economic Development/Tourism:** Creation of a French Official Tourism Site and Tourism Guide for British Columbia.
- **Economic Development / Immigration:** Creation of a French micro-site on the WelcomeBC website and translation into French of the Newcomers' Guide.
- **Arts and Culture:** Since 2002, Francophones in British Columbia are honoured for their contributions to the province at the annual celebration of the BC Francophonie Day hosted by the Provincial Government in Victoria's Legislative Assembly buildings.
- **Justice:** Support for linguistic training courses provided to the Criminal Service Branch employees in the Ministry of Attorney General.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Francophone Affairs Program was created following the signing of the first Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages in 2001.
- The Program is also responsible for implementing the British Columbia-Québec Agreement for Cooperation and Exchange on Francophone Affairs signed in 2005 and initiatives of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.
- Strategic partnerships and alliances between B.C. ministries, the federal government, British Columbia's municipalities and the Francophone community have increased our Province's capacity to service BC's Francophone community in priority sectors.

**DATE:** May 11, 2011