

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Sept 03, 2013
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PREPARED FOR: Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Determining an approach for mandate letter commitment to encourage other jurisdictions to follow BC's carbon initiatives

BACKGROUND:

The mandate letter to the Minister of Environment identifies the following priorities:

- Continue BC's international leadership in the fight against climate change and global warming.
- Encourage other jurisdictions to follow our carbon initiatives in order to ensure our industries are not placed at a competitive disadvantage for playing their part in addressing climate change.

By working with other jurisdictions, BC can make a larger contribution to global greenhouse gas reductions, reduce economic competitiveness concerns related to climate policies, and strengthen export markets for BC's clean energy and technologies. The release of the International Panel on Climate Change's report in late September is expected to raise attention internationally on the need to take action on climate change. BC's success to date in lowering emissions while increasing GDP and population is attracting international interest.

DISCUSSION:

81's

NEXT STEPS:

Based on feedback from the Minister, CAS will provide a set of proposed actions to meet the mandate letter commitment. In particular, any travel to other jurisdictions would require advance notice and planning to ensure that strategic goals are met.

CAS continues to support the Minister in her mandate commitment, including:

- supporting Washington and Oregon in their carbon policy development;
- providing information to Canadian and US institutions on BC's experience;
- providing support to the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat on activities by the Premier and other Ministers that can leverage BC's climate leadership; and,
- maintaining relationships with key regional and international climate organizations.

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