



Protocol of Cooperation

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 there is a wide range of endeavours where Alberta and British Columbia can work more closely together in pursuit of mutual interests.

Whereas the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia can benefit from a more coordinated approach in overcoming common challenges and exploring future opportunities.

Alberta and British Columbia therefore agree as follows:


1. Purpose:

1.1 *The purpose of this Protocol is to confirm the commitments between the jurisdictions to develop cooperative measures and agreements and to demonstrate leadership in Canada through:*

- Exploring opportunities for 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*
- Working cooperatively to influence the federal government's policies and decisions in areas of mutual interest.*

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** *The provinces will work together to improve services to citizens, including services in the areas of education, post-secondary education, health care, and children's services.*
 - 2.2** *The provinces will work together to enhance the effectiveness of public-private partnerships to improve service, support infrastructure development, and reduce costs.*
 - 2.3** *The provinces will explore opportunities to support economic development in the areas of transportation, energy, agriculture, tourism, and other industries.*
- 

2.4 *The parties will work together in international marketing of Alberta and British Columbia through vehicles such as joint international missions.*

2.5 *The provinces will collaborate in innovation, research, and the development of new technologies in the fields of biotechnology and aerospace.*

2.6 *The parties will explore opportunities to harmonize regulatory frameworks, reduce trade barriers, and promote 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 Protocol comes into effect upon signing by both parties and will be reviewed annually.*

4.2 *This Protocol 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 Protocol may be amended or waived by way of the written, mutual agreement of both parties.*

Signed:

*The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier
Government of British Columbia*

*The Honourable Ralph Klein
Premier
Government of Alberta*

Dated:
