

May 15, 2006

## **MOU signed by Chair, SSAB and Minister of Forests and Range**

The Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range and Minister Responsible for Housing (MFR), and Keith Saddlemyer, Chair of the Safety Standards Appeal Board (SSAB), recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide greater guidance to the relationship between the parties. The MOU clarifies the Chair's role in ensuring effective management and operation of the SSAB and the Board's accountability for the use of public funds, while recognizing the decision-making independence of the SSAB and acknowledging the need for the Minister to provide appropriate supports and resources to the SSAB.

The MOU is based on the Administrative Justice Office's [model MOU document](#), which the parties adapted to meet their particular needs. In particular, the parties chose to use the simplified format provided for Part 4 of the model MOU (Board Finance and Administration), indicating an intent to negotiate a detailed service level agreement in the future.

Use of a MOU is recommended as a best practice for defining the respective roles and accountabilities of a tribunal chair and responsible minister. For further information on the model MOU, please contact Richard Rogers at the AJO ([richard.rogers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:richard.rogers@gov.bc.ca); 250/387-1712).