

# BALANCED BUDGET 2007

*Ministry of  
Aboriginal Relations  
and Reconciliation*

## **2007/08 – 2009/10 SERVICE PLAN**

February 2007



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## Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to deliver the Service Plan for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. This plan gives me the opportunity to describe the practical and measurable actions the Ministry will undertake over the next three fiscal years to further the New Relationship with First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations. This New Relationship will continue as it began — based on principles of mutual trust, respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights and title.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will continue its advisory role in support of ministries across government on Aboriginal-related initiatives. These range from lands and resource matters for First Nations to programs for Aboriginal and Métis people in urban centres. Our goal is to bridge the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians by the year 2015.

We remain committed to treaty negotiations as a full and formal expression of reconciliation. Treaties and other agreements stimulate investment, create jobs and expand economies in communities throughout British Columbia. In conjunction with other ministries across government, the Ministry will support the negotiation of agreements to materially improve the lives of First Nations and to achieve greater clarity over Crown lands and resources.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation 2007/08 – 2009/10 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of February 15, 2007 have been considered in preparing this plan, and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael de Jong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honourable Michael de Jong  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

February 15, 2007



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# Ministry Overview

## Building a New Relationship with Aboriginal People in British Columbia

The Government of British Columbia is leading the nation in developing a new relationship with First Nations and Aboriginal people.<sup>1</sup> Guided by principles of trust, and by recognition and respect of First Nations rights and title, we are building a stronger and healthier relationship between government and Aboriginal people that will benefit all British Columbians.

*British Columbia is home to the most linguistically diverse group of indigenous people in all of Canada. There are 197 First Nation Bands. Aboriginal people — Métis, Inuit and First Nations — make up approximately 4.5 per cent of our provincial population.*

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will work with ministries and agencies across government and with our Aboriginal partners to coordinate efforts in three key areas: practical steps to narrow social and economic gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal British Columbians, building strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations, and long-term reconciliation through treaties and other lasting agreements.

## History

British Columbia's history has been marked by confrontation, litigation and failure to reconcile differences with Aboriginal people. For over 100 years, our relationships have been more often characterized by denial than by recognition: denial of rights, denial of culture and denial of services.

Basic human rights did not come easily nor automatically to Aboriginal people. First Nations did not have the right to hire lawyers to pursue land claims until the law was changed in 1951 and did not have the right to vote in federal elections until 1960.

Cultural ceremonies critical to the social structures of Aboriginal people, such as potlatches, were outlawed. Children were forced into residential schools, resulting in the loss of traditional language and oral history and the breakdown in family structure. Traditional Aboriginal governing structures were not recognized when the *Indian Act* was created and implemented under the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Aboriginal people have also not had access to services at the same level as non-Aboriginal people. Fundamental services such as basic community infrastructure, including housing

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<sup>1</sup> Aboriginal includes First Nations (status, non-status, on and off reserve), Métis, and Inuit wherever they may reside throughout British Columbia.

and water facilities and appropriate education curriculum including Aboriginal history in the educational system have, until recently, been ignored or inadequate.

This history of denial has had a catastrophic effect on Aboriginal communities. Rampant poverty, prevalence of illness and chronic disease, inadequate housing, long-term unemployment, high levels of family violence and notoriously low high-school completion rates are measures of our collective failure. High suicide rates, lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and intolerably high levels of substance abuse are a reality in communities and cannot be allowed to continue.

Innovative and respectful strategies are required to reverse the trends that have left too many Aboriginal people shut out in areas of education, health and economic opportunity.

### **Critical Events**

A number of critical events have helped put us on the path towards reconciliation that we are on today. The recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights in *Section 35* of the *Constitution Act* of 1982 entrenched Aboriginal rights into the fabric of our country. Over the last dozen years and more, the courts have said very clearly to governments, to the private sector and to First Nations that the recognition and affirmation of Aboriginal rights and title in the constitution is a statement that has direct legal consequences.

The creation of the British Columbia Treaty process in 1992 was the result of recognizing these legal consequences and direction from the courts that negotiation, versus litigation, is the best way to resolve these outstanding issues.

More recently, in March 2005, leadership from First Nations political organizations came together, for the first time since 1969, to work collectively with the Province. The First Nations Leadership Council is represented by the Executive members of the First Nations Summit Task Group, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. Together with the Province, the First Nations Leadership Council drafted a joint vision and principles for a new relationship with Aboriginal people. Founded on principles of mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation of First Nations and Aboriginal rights, the New Relationship vision establishes a framework for a government-to-government relationship and partnership as well as an agreement to engage on legal, economic and social matters.

In November 2005, at the First Ministers meeting on Aboriginal issues, national commitments were made to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal people and other Canadians. A communiqué was endorsed aimed at achieving better education and health outcomes, increased housing and economic opportunities and improved relationships through performance measurement and annual public reporting. In British Columbia, the *Transformative Change Accord* was signed by Canada, the Province and the First Nations Leadership Council to outline specifically how the gap would be closed in this Province.



In May 2006, the Province and the Métis Nation British Columbia signed the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*. The Accord acknowledges the influence of Métis people on history as well as their emergence as a people with their own language, culture, traditions and self-government structures. The Accord commits government and the Métis Nation to strengthen existing agreements and continue efforts to close social and economic gaps between Métis and other British Columbians.

In addition, October and December 2006 saw three treaty tables, Lheidli T'enneh, Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth, conclude their negotiations and embark on the formal ratification process. The final agreements must be ratified and signed before they become treaties.

### **Commitment to Future Direction**

The goal of this government is to eliminate, within 10 years, the inequities that have plagued all Aboriginal people throughout British Columbia's history. Reconciliation is at the heart of this initiative, and it involves building a positive, enduring relationship built on trust, mutual respect and recognition of the constitutional rights of Aboriginal people.

This new relationship must recognize the Crown's legal and moral duty to consult where decisions impact constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights and title. It will require all governments to build capacity that will enable Aboriginal people to participate fully in the multiple bounties of British Columbia.

The path to prosperity does not lie in the denial of Aboriginal rights or in the discredited approaches of the past. Confrontation or endless litigation that has held us back as a people and a province is not the way forward. The future we all seek for our families and communities will not be won through the uncertain path of denial, resistance, and short-sightedness. It is ours to claim together through a new relationship that is honourable, constructive, and grounded in immediate and practical progress for all British Columbians.

This government has set high goals to achieve: to become the most educated; the healthiest; provide the best systems of support for the most vulnerable; have the best environmental stewardship; and create the most jobs and employment opportunities. None of these goals for the Province is achievable unless we bridge the gap that for too long has separated Aboriginal people from other British Columbians.

At a time when virtually every community is grappling and dealing with labour shortages, the fastest growing segment of our population has been historically shut out. Never before

*"We agree to work together in this new relationship to achieve strong governments, social justice and economic self-sufficiency for First Nations which will be of benefit to all British Columbians and will lead to long-term economic viability..."*

*New Relationship  
Vision Document, 2005*

in the history of British Columbia have we been confronted by a situation like we face today, where we need one another to succeed. The challenge is for the collective will that exists across government to show tangible benefit for the people themselves.

None of the initial steps that the Province has taken over the last two years in and of themselves can resolve these destructive problems that have taken decades, if not centuries to develop. But these steps are a start towards building a strong foundation from which we can move forward.

As Chief Justice Lamer stated in his judgement in the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Delgamuukw*: “Let’s face it. We’re all here to stay”.

## Purpose of Ministry

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is tasked to be the centre of excellence on innovative approaches on Aboriginal policy across government. The Ministry leads government’s efforts to build the social and economic capacity within First Nations communities and with Aboriginal people and to reconcile First Nations and provincial interests. These results bring tangible social and economic benefits to Aboriginal people and advance government’s Five Great Goals for all British Columbians.

The goals of the Ministry will be met by focusing the majority of its efforts in three areas:

- Closing the socio-economic gaps between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians through the *Transformative Change Accord* and the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord*;
- Building strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations through the development of a consultation framework; and
- Continuing efforts to conclude treaties and other lasting agreements.

## Transformative Change Accord

The *Transformative Change Accord*, signed by the Government of British Columbia, the First Nations Leadership Council and the Government of Canada, signals a tripartite commitment to work together to close the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians.

The Accord sets out priorities and outlines some key actions to work aggressively to meet this important goal. It also commits us to monitor and report out to First Nations people and to the public on our progress.

*“The goal is to close the gaps.... We will pursue that goal relentlessly, guided by First Nations leadership, guided by First Nations people.”*

*Premier Gordon Campbell*

*Assembly of First Nations 27th  
Annual General Assembly keynote  
address,  
July 11, 2006.*

The Accord recognizes that a holistic approach is needed to improve outcomes for First Nations people. For example, children without adequate housing are unlikely to be as successful at school and health outcomes can only improve if education and income levels increase. This approach will build on some of the early successes the Ministry has achieved, such as: working with the Ministry of Health on the development of the First Nations Health Action Plan released in November 2006; working with the Ministry of Education on the Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement signed in July 2006; and, the 296 new or sustained full and part-time employment positions created through the First Citizens Fund in fiscal 2005/2006.

The following five priority areas must move forward together to achieve the transformative change we are all envisioning:

- Improved Crown – First Nations relationships;
- Education and Life Long Learning;
- Housing and Infrastructure;
- Health; and
- Economic Opportunities.

The First Nations Health Plan, released on November 27, 2006, outlines government's and First Nations' planned actions to improve health outcomes for First Nations people in British Columbia. Other priority areas of the *Transformative Change Accord* are also being developed for implementation and will reflect the need for improved relationships among the three signatories to the Accord. The implementation plans will incorporate academic research demonstrating that outcomes improve when First Nations have jurisdiction over their own services, when First Nations cultures are honoured, and when attention is paid to supporting First Nations in building their own capacity to achieve success. These themes will be reflected in each plan's tangible actions and strategies.

Each area will focus on how to measure progress, establishing milestones and reporting mechanisms so that the partners, the public and First Nations can assess progress.

The following examples of actions planned for the next 18 months will produce positive change in First Nations communities:

- Ensure all First Nations have access to high speed broadband;
- Devolve social housing units to the Aboriginal Housing Management Authority;
- Enact legislation for the First Nations Education Jurisdiction Agreements;
- Review barriers and recommend solutions to improving First Nations access to financing for economic development;
- Establish a Provincial First Nations Health Advisory Committee;
- Implement a Maternity Access Project to improve maternal health services for Aboriginal women; and
- Launch an Aboriginal youth internship program within the provincial public service.

## Consultation Framework

Several factors have created pressure for change in the way that the Province works with First Nations to address constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights and title. These include:

- The legal uncertainty over Crown land can negatively affect the investment climate and represents an obstacle to economic development. If left unaddressed, this could adversely impact provincial revenues and economic growth in British Columbia.
- Recent court rulings, such as *Haida*, *Taku River Tlingit*, and *Mikisew Cree* have created increased legal obligations for British Columbia to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate asserted Aboriginal rights and title. Previous policy frameworks are increasingly unable to address these legal obligations. British Columbia's ability to administer the estimated 100,000 statutory decisions required of it every year to manage Crown lands and resources is increasingly difficult.
- There is a need to address the Aboriginal rights and title of First Nations who have not yet concluded a treaty or have not engaged in the treaty process.

Through the New Relationship and the establishment of the First Nations Leadership Council, government seeks to develop mutually beneficial government-to-government relations with First Nations based on respect, recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal title and rights.

One of the activities undertaken jointly between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province was the passing of the *New Relationship Trust Act* and the transfer of \$100 million to the New Relationship Trust. The Trust is intended to assist First Nations communities to enhance their capacity to participate in the processes and activities that arise from the New Relationship with British Columbia through effective partnerships in land and resource consultation, advanced training and skill development, and improved social and economic well-being.

In addition, the Province worked jointly with the First Nations Leadership Council to make changes to the Forest and Range Agreements, which provide revenue-sharing and access to timber volume to First Nations.

Finally, government worked with First Nations to ensure involvement in the response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic through the development of the British Columbia First Nations Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan and the creation of the British Columbia First Nations Interim Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group. These activities, along with the provision of resources, helped First Nations communities identify and plan for any long-term impact of the mountain pine beetle infestation.

Through the next year, the Province will continue working with the First Nations Leadership Council and ministries to finalize and implement a consultation framework that is consistent with recent court decisions and is reflective of the New Relationship principles. This framework will guide the direction of all ministries that have statutory responsibility for land and resource decisions and ensure that First Nations interests continue to be appropriately incorporated into the decision-making process.

## Treaty and Other Lasting Agreements

The provincial government is committed to treaty negotiations as a full and formal expression of reconciliation. Treaties are a means of achieving greater certainty over the land and resources, through clarifying who has what rights, what those rights mean, who has what obligations and what processes will be followed in decision-making. Treaties are also a means to advance First Nations interests in developing their economies and governing their communities.

With greater certainty created by negotiated treaties, the Province can better attract and retain investment and create jobs, which will result in stronger First Nations communities and benefit all British Columbians.

In 2001, the government set about to break through the log jam that was preventing the British Columbia treaty process from achieving success. The first step was to carry out a province-wide referendum to gain support for the treaty process and to establish a set of principles to guide provincial negotiators at treaty tables. Secondly, the government re-examined its existing mandates on issues to ensure that the approaches being taken would demonstrate to First Nations that the Province was serious about concluding treaties.

In 2003, the reinvigorated approach resulted in initialled agreements-in-principle with the Lheidli T'enneh, Tsawwassen, Maa-nulth and Sliammon First Nations. For the first time the treaty process showed real promise for success.

Four First Nations moved into Final Agreement negotiations and the parties have collectively and collaboratively dealt with the tough issues facing those tables. This has resulted in the first initialled Final Agreements in the treaty process. Now, after initialling Final Agreements in the Fall of 2006, the Lheidli T'enneh, Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth are moving through their ratification processes with the goal of signing treaties and enacting provincial legislation in the Spring of 2007.

The challenge facing the treaty process in 2007 is to share the success achieved in 2006 with other First Nations in other regions of the province. The future looks bright. Further agreements-in-principle have been achieved with the Yekooche, Yale, and In-SHUCK-ch First Nations and these three, along with the Sliammon First Nation, are working hard to conclude Final Agreement negotiations later in 2007. There is also pressure on the Province and Canada at a number of other tables to advance negotiations and finish the job of getting to treaty.

With this renewed approach and a real sense that success is possible, actual treaties are within grasp and reconciliation with First Nations is finally becoming a reality.

*“This process began long before we spoke of a new relationship with B.C.’s Aboriginal people. But this agreement holds within all of the spirit, potential and hope of that new relationship. Let us not underestimate what it took to achieve this historic agreement today...”*

*Remarks by  
Premier Gordon Campbell  
Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement  
initialling ceremony  
Prince George, October 29, 2006*

## Vision, Mission and Values

### Vision

Guided by principles of trust, recognition, respect and reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title, we will build a healthy and prosperous future for the benefit of Aboriginal people and all British Columbians.

### Mission

The Ministry provides leadership across the provincial government that will, over the next decade, bridge the social and economic gaps (see table)<sup>2</sup> that many Aboriginal people face in British Columbia. While working collaboratively with Aboriginal organizations, the federal government and other partners to support the goals of the New Relationship, the Ministry will continue to negotiate and implement treaties and other lasting agreements with First Nations.

Socio-economic Indicators Aboriginal Population vs. General Population		
	Aboriginal Population	General Population
*Life Expectancy (2002)	73.9 years	82.2 years
*Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births) (2005)	6.02%	4.12%
*Suicide Rate (2005)	1.9/10,000	.9/10,000
**High School Completion (2005/06)	47%	82%
**Avg. Employment Income (2000)	\$33,567	\$43,310
*Alcohol-related Deaths (2005)	19.6/10,000	3.4/10,000
*Drug-induced Deaths (2005)	2.5/10,000	.8/10,000
**University Degree/Certificate (2001)	7.7%	24.6%
**Family Violence (1999–2004)	21% are victims of spousal violence	7% are victims of spousal violence

\* Status Indian \*\* Aboriginal

Data refer to both an Aboriginal population and a Status Indian population. The specific population to which the data refer are indicated by asterisks.

### Values

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation values are based on recognition, respect and reconciliation of the important historical, cultural and political contributions of Aboriginal people in our province. While balancing the interests of all British Columbians with those of Aboriginal people, the Ministry seeks to reflect:

**Accountability** — We are committed to being accessible and responsive to our partners and stakeholders; measuring and reporting on our performance at all levels.

**Innovation** — We seek bold and innovative solutions to the unprecedented challenges of reconciliation.

**Respect and Integrity** — We embrace integrity and respect as a pivotal part of our day-to-day business and conduct ourselves in an open and ethical manner.

**Trust and Honesty** — We believe in maintaining open and transparent activities and actively responding to public, partner and stakeholder feedback.

<sup>2</sup> Complete list of sources for statistics cited is attached to this document as Appendix 3.

## **Strategic Context**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is a key champion to lead the provincial effort of reconciliation with Aboriginal people of British Columbia. Reconciliation is at the core of cross government efforts both to eliminate the gaps in social and economic outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens and to achieve treaties.

The Ministry is well-positioned to stimulate change within government through strengthening the active partnerships between Aboriginal leaders and the Government of British Columbia, negotiating lasting agreements with First Nations and providing strategic advice to other Ministries. The Ministry will also lead stakeholder consultations and engage other partners in advancing reconciliation within the Province.

## Core Business Areas

### Negotiations

This core business area leads the provincial government in bringing about long-term reconciliation of Crown and Aboriginal interests through its participation in tripartite negotiation of treaties, interim and other workable arrangements with First Nations and the federal government. This includes consulting and engaging with third parties who may be affected by these negotiations. This core business area also supports the joint work with First Nations organizations such as the First Nations Leadership Council and other provincial agencies on developing policy, frameworks and protocols with respect to consultation, accommodation and Aboriginal rights and title.

Implementation of treaties and other agreements with First Nations are also coordinated to ensure provincial ministries and other agencies are aware of their associated responsibilities and government is able to meet its legal obligations. As with the Nisga'a Final Agreement, there is an ongoing requirement for cooperative implementation and relationship-building between the First Nations, Canada and British Columbia after negotiations have been concluded.

### Aboriginal Relations

This core business area is accountable for facilitating cross government initiatives to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians. It is also accountable for the negotiation of socio-economic initiatives and interim and other similar arrangements with Aboriginal people. The area works in partnership with provincial ministries/agencies, Crown corporations, Aboriginal organizations and leaders, the private sector and the federal government to identify opportunities, remove barriers and support improved socio-economic capacity within Aboriginal communities.

This area supports engagement with the First Nations Leadership Council, as represented by the First Nations Summit Task Group, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, in our continued efforts to foster a new relationship with First Nations and to implement the *Transformative Change Accord*. It is responsible for leading government's approach to establishing a reconciliation framework with Aboriginal people which is guided by principles of trust, recognition and respect of Aboriginal rights and title. This engagement includes working collaboratively with First Nations and agencies to develop policies and approaches on socio-economic issues. This area engages with third party stakeholders, fostering partnerships and ensuring industry plays a key role in this process.

Aboriginal Relations supports the Native Economic Development Advisory Board and the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. It also administers the



First Citizens Fund, a perpetual fund established by the provincial government to enhance cultural, educational and economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

In addition, this area coordinates the Ministry's strategic and business planning and reporting responsibilities as well as federal, provincial and territorial relations.

**Executive and Support Services**

This core business area is responsible for providing leadership and executive direction to the Ministry. This area also provides corporate administrative services to operating programs of the Ministry which include: financial administration and budget coordination, information privacy and records management, human resource management, accommodation and office management as well as information systems support.

The Ministry's Information Resource Management Plan may be accessed from the Ministry website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/reports/irmp/default.html>.

# Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

## Overview

This section identifies the Ministry's goals and outlines how specific objectives and strategies will contribute to the achievement of these goals. Brief descriptions are provided on some of the initiatives and activities the Ministry will undertake to achieve its goals and objectives. Performance measures and targets have been established that link to the Ministry's goals and objectives, and prior year results are provided for comparison. Progress in achieving the targets identified is monitored and reported out in the Ministry's Annual Service Plan Report.

## Ministry Goals

To realize the mission of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, resources will be focused to work collaboratively with Aboriginal organizations, communities and other government agencies. This will allow the Ministry to meet its three goals:

1. Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations.
2. Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.
3. Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations.

## Linkage to the Five Great Goals

Goals and practical outcomes specific to Aboriginal people are identified in other ministries' and agencies' service plans. The Ministry is committed to closing the socio-economic gap and works collaboratively with these ministries to ensure tangible outcomes for Aboriginal people. The following indicators of success in each of the Great Goal areas include, but are not limited to:

### **Goal 1: Make British Columbia the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.**

- Improved K-12 completion rates for Aboriginal people.
- Increased Aboriginal post-secondary participation.
- Preservation, revitalization, retention and teaching of Aboriginal languages.

### **Goal 2: Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.**

- Reduced incidence of preventable diseases, substance abuse, family violence and youth suicide among Aboriginal people.
- Increased number of trained Aboriginal health professionals.

**Goal 3: Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors.**

- Improved access to satisfactory housing for Aboriginal people.
- Reduced number of Aboriginal children in care.

**Goal 4: Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.**

- Negotiated agreements and treaties that provide opportunities for First Nations to engage in both economic and environmental benefits.
- First Nations engaged in land use planning.

**Goal 5: Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.**

- Coordinated and partnered socio-economic initiatives for Aboriginal people living in urban areas such as Greater Vancouver and Prince George.
- Reduced barriers to recruitment and retention of Aboriginal people.
- Negotiated agreements that incorporate First Nations into regional and provincial economies.
- Improved Aboriginal cultural and tourism opportunities.

**Cross Ministry Initiatives**

As a centre of excellence on Aboriginal policy, the Ministry provides strategic advice, identifies opportunities and facilitates the removal of barriers to stimulate positive change for First Nations and Aboriginal people. A solid history of relationship-building allows the Ministry to influence other ministries in order to implement a unified and integrated cross government approach to decision-making and new initiatives, from concept to operation. This reflects the active partnership being built between Aboriginal leaders and the Province.

The Ministry works collaboratively to support cross ministry initiatives and to ensure these initiatives reflect the interests and needs of Aboriginal people and contribute to the essence of the New Relationship:

**Literacy**

The Ministry works with the Ministry of Education on increasing Aboriginal graduation rates and literacy programs (including Aboriginal languages), through coordination of the First Citizens Fund which supports the preservation and teaching of Aboriginal languages.

**StrongStart BC**

The Ministry works with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on developing a strategy to better coordinate funding and support to strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal families and communities to care for their children.

**Mountain Pine Beetle**

The Ministry works with the Ministry of Forests and Range to increase First Nations' participation in forestry and planning to mitigate the mountain pine beetle's impact and diversify regional economies.

**The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**

The Ministry works with the Ministry of Economic Development to support the implementation of legacy agreements with the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations.

**Regulatory Reform**

New legislation is also anticipated in 2007 to ratify final agreements with First Nations. This legislation has been granted an exemption and will not increase the regulatory burden as, similar to the *Nisga'a Final Agreement Act*, it is required to bring into force the tripartite intergovernmental agreement between the First Nation, British Columbia and Canada.

## Performance Plan Summary Table

Five Great Goals	<b>Ministry Mission</b> The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation provides leadership across government that will, over the next decade, bridge the social and economic gaps that many Aboriginal people face in British Columbia. While working collaboratively with Aboriginal organizations, the federal government and other partners to support the goals of the New Relationship, the Ministry will continue to negotiate and implement treaties and other lasting agreements with First Nations.			
	Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures	
<p>Make British Columbia the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.</p> <p>Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.</p> <p>Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors.</p> <p>Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.</p> <p>Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.</p>	<p>Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations.</p>	<p>Conclude agreements that define rights and responsibilities and facilitate economic development.</p>	<p>Percentage of British Columbia Crown land covered by agreements with First Nations.</p> <p>Number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector.</p> <p>Number of new significant agreements or business arrangements between First Nations and government.</p> <p>Number of treaty agreements or initiatives that build incremental progress toward treaties or other lasting agreements.</p>	
	<p>Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>Cross government implementation of programs and services to address socio-economic disparities.</p>	<p>Number of initiatives/actions undertaken through cross government plans to assist in closing the socio-economic gap.</p> <p>Increased partnerships with federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services.</p>	
	<p>Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations.</p>	<p>Build trust with Aboriginal people through a reconciliation and recognition framework.</p>	<p>Number of engagements with Aboriginal organizations and communities on provincial policy development.</p> <p>Number of agreements reached with Aboriginal organizations that foster recognition and reconciliation.</p> <p>Number of sessions/events undertaken to increase awareness of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia.</p>	
	<p>Foster engagement with Aboriginal people in government decisions that impact Aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>First Nations Consultation Framework.</p>		

# Performance Plan

## Goal 1: *Concluded treaties and other lasting agreements on Crown lands and natural resources with First Nations.*

Treaties and other negotiated agreements establish greater certainty over British Columbia's land and natural resources. These agreements increase economic capacity within First Nations communities and their ability to participate in resource development sectors. The clarity achieved through negotiating these agreements improves the economic climate and facilitates closing the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.

Traditional agreements, such as agreements-in-principle or treaties are included in this goal, as well as more discrete agreements (e.g., Treaty Related Measures or other agreements). These discrete agreements build upon each other and incrementally lead to other long-term lasting agreements. By entering into these interim arrangements, we make positive inroads toward the ultimate goal of reconciliation while the complex treaty negotiations proceed. As capacity within First Nations communities increases, the Ministry anticipates that this climate will foster continued momentum for more treaties and lasting agreements with other First Nations.

Our relationships with First Nations and Canada are key to accomplishing this broad goal; however, economic and political change can influence these relationships. To mitigate this, the Ministry continues to strengthen its internal negotiating capacity to be able to respond effectively to changes in direction.

### Core Business Areas: *Aboriginal Relations, Negotiations*

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Annual Target	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Percentage of British Columbia Crown land covered by agreements with First Nations. <sup>1</sup>	37% <sup>2</sup>	67% <sup>3</sup>	+3%	+4%	+4%	+4%

<sup>1</sup> Calculated as of March 31, 2006, the amount of Crown land covered by agreements is 58,807,568 ha and includes all agreements across government.

<sup>2</sup> Previously estimated in February 2005/06 Service Plan as 33 per cent, the increase was achieved primarily through the contribution of ongoing negotiations by the Ministry of Forests and Range with the achievement of 33 Forest and Range Agreements in 2004/05. Different types of agreements may provide differing levels of certainty, for example Forest and Range Agreements vs. treaty agreements.

<sup>3</sup> Increase primarily related to 21 Forest and Range Agreements and Agreements-in-Principle completed in 2005/06.

**Objective 1:** *Conclude agreements that define rights and responsibilities and facilitate economic development.*

The conclusion of agreements facilitates economic investment on the provincial land base and allows for mutually beneficial governance arrangements, business relationships and land management processes.

**Strategies**

- Provide leadership to agencies to support consultation and accommodation activities.
- Strengthen relationships between First Nations, local governments and business.
- Focus on key opportunities to conclude agreements with First Nations.
- Introduce improved practices related to the timely transfer of Crown land, resources and program responsibility to First Nations following treaties or other agreements.

These strategies shape the achievement of the objective by increasing economic opportunities for First Nations groups; providing greater stability for British Columbia businesses; and reducing the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal British Columbians.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Annual Target	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Number of new initiatives that partner First Nations or Aboriginal organizations with local governments and the private sector.	6	8	5-7	6-8	7-10	8-11
Number of new significant agreements or business arrangements between First Nations and government. <sup>1</sup>	3	4	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7
Number of treaty agreements or initiatives that build incremental progress towards treaties or other lasting agreements. <sup>2</sup>	1	2	6-9	8-11	10-13	12-15

<sup>1</sup> Refers to significant agreements with cross ministry impacts.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to the number of initialed final agreements and agreements-in-principle.

## **Goal 2: *Improved social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people.***

This goal speaks to the fact that British Columbia aims to position itself as the national leader in reconciliation with Aboriginal people. As outlined in the *Transformative Change Accord*, British Columbia has committed to establishing a ten-year plan, together with Aboriginal leaders, to eliminate the social and economic disparities between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians.

As a centre of excellence on Aboriginal issues, the Ministry provides leadership across government to develop and implement policies that will promote culturally responsive, coordinated and effective programs and services designed to reduce these gaps for Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

As other ministries have primary responsibility for implementing programs to close the socio-economic gaps, success will depend critically on their capacity. The Ministry undertakes measures to increase this capacity through relationship building. By encouraging ministries to work collaboratively together and with First Nations, we are able to realize creative and tangible solutions to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

### **Core Business Area: *Aboriginal Relations.***

#### **Objective 1: *Cross government implementation of programs and services to address socio-economic disparities.***

This objective supports our goal of improving Aboriginal social and economic outcomes as it materially improves the quality of life of Aboriginal people and fosters healthier community relationships across the province.

#### **Strategies**

- Develop and implement a cross government measurement framework for closing the socio-economic gap.
- Promote cross ministry coordination of initiatives directed toward serving Aboriginal people and closing the gap on key socio-economic indicators.
- Build partnerships with the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services.

These strategies influence achievement of the objective by improving program efficiencies and making the best use of provincial resources; leveraging increased federal resources to benefit Aboriginal people and communities in the province; reducing cross jurisdiction duplication of efforts; and, achieving improved outcomes.



Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Annual Target	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Number of initiatives/actions undertaken through cross government plans to assist in closing the socio-economic gap.	N/A	N/A <sup>1</sup>	3-5	4-6	5-7	6-8
Increased partnerships with federal government and Aboriginal organizations to improve social and economic programs and services.	N/A	N/A	2-3	4-6	5-10	6-14

<sup>1</sup> The signing of the *Transformative Change Accord* predates this performance measure; however, the initiatives outlined in this Accord are included in future targets.

### **Goal 3: *Build strong and respectful relationships between government and Aboriginal organizations.***

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation is committed to fulfilling its leadership responsibilities in achieving a new relationship and transforming the way in which ministries interact with Aboriginal people.

Key to the success of achieving this goal is the development of formal mechanisms for meaningful dialogue between government, Aboriginal leaders and communities. Initiatives and action items identified in the New Relationship document and the *Transformative Change Accord* will form the basis of this dialogue. Examples of these initiatives include: education, housing infrastructure, health, consultation and accommodation processes, First Nations capacity building, and institution development.

Key to the achievement of this goal is implementing a consistent whole-of-government approach to collaborating with Aboriginal people on these issues.

#### **Core Business Areas: *Aboriginal Relations, Negotiations.***

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Annual Target	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Number of engagements with Aboriginal organizations and communities on provincial policy development. <sup>1</sup>	2	3	3-5	3-5	3-5	3-5

<sup>1</sup> Refers to the number of provincial policies that have been processed through First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, which may include discussion and engagement with community representatives.

**Objective 1:** *Build trust with Aboriginal people through a reconciliation and recognition framework.*

This objective supports our goal of building strong and respectful relationships between parties by collaborating on key policy issues.

**Strategies**

- Engage with Aboriginal organizations and communities on a range of provincial policy topics including amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, consultation regarding the British Columbia Training Tax Credit Program and the Oil and Gas Consultation Process Agreements with Treaty 8 First Nations.
- Engage with Aboriginal organizations and communities to develop protocols and agreements that foster recognition and reconciliation.
- Provide leadership and support to ministries and provincial agencies involved in reconciliation activities.
- Undertake initiatives to increase public awareness and understanding to promote reconciliation.

These strategies influence achievement of the objective by establishing respectful engagement with Aboriginal people, organizations and leadership. It is important to increase the level of Aboriginal participation in advisory committees, steering committees and cross government processes.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Annual Target	2007/08 Annual Target	2008/09 Annual Target	2009/10 Annual Target
Number of agreements reached with Aboriginal organizations that foster recognition and reconciliation. <sup>1</sup>	N/A	1	10	15	20	25
Number of sessions/events undertaken to increase awareness of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia. <sup>2</sup>	115	115-120	115-120	115-120	115-120	115-120

<sup>1</sup> Including agreements regarding Aboriginal place naming and language preservation.

<sup>2</sup> Sessions/events undertaken include public meetings, public events, open houses and signing ceremonies.

**Objective 2:** *Foster engagement with Aboriginal people in government decisions that impact Aboriginal communities.*

This objective supports our goal of building strong and respectful relationships between parties by actively promoting meaningful opportunities to reconcile past history with the future of the New Relationship.

## **Strategy**

- Implementation of a new effective consultative and accommodation framework for government ministries.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2004/05 Actual</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>2006/07 Annual Target</b>	<b>2007/08 Annual Target</b>	<b>2008/09 Annual Target</b>	<b>2009/10 Annual Target</b>
First Nations Consultation Framework. <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	Framework complete	In Implementation	In Implementation	In Implementation

<sup>1</sup> Once the framework is complete, this ceases to be a Ministry performance measure as the framework will be implemented by agencies and ministries throughout government. The Ministry's role changes to one of providing ongoing advice and coordination for government on the implementation of the framework.

# Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2006/07 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2007/08 Estimates	2008/09 Plan	2009/10 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
<b>Negotiations</b> .....	22,888	35,955	41,196	29,196
<b>Aboriginal Relations</b> .....	7,734	11,893	12,435	12,628
<b>Executive and Support Services</b> .....	5,481	7,312	7,752	7,749
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>36,103</b>	<b>55,160</b>	<b>61,383</b>	<b>49,573</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)</b>				
<b>Direct FTE's</b> .....	132	179	174	167
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>132</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
<b>Executive and Support Services</b> .....	276	32	32	32
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>276</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Negotiations</b> — Nisga'a Treaty Payments .....	1,229	1,089	1,761	1,761
<b>Negotiations</b> — Land Acquisition .....	4,000	5,300	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements) .....	(5,229)	(6,389)	(1,761)	(1,761)
<b>Total Disbursements</b> .....	<b>5,229</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,761</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)</b> .....	<b>(5,229)</b>	<b>(6,389)</b>	<b>(1,761)</b>	<b>(1,761)</b>

<sup>1</sup> These amounts have been restated for comparative purposes only, in order to be consistent with the presentation of the 2007/08 *Estimates*.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Transformative Change Accord

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Transformative Change Accord  
-between-

**Government of British Columbia**

-and-

**Government of Canada**

-and-

**The Leadership Council**

**Representing the First Nations of British Columbia**

The Government of British Columbia, First Nations and the Government of Canada agree that new approaches for addressing the rights and title interests of First Nations are required if First Nations are to be full partners in the success and opportunity of the province.

At the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues on November 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2005, First Ministers and Aboriginal Leaders committed to strengthening relationships on a government-to-government basis, and on focussing efforts to close the gap in the areas of education, health, housing and economic opportunities.

This accord respects the agreement reached on November 25<sup>th</sup> and sets out how the parties intend to implement it in British Columbia.

Two important documents preceded the First Ministers' Meeting:

- *First Nations - Federal Crown Political Accord* – on the Recognition and Implementation of First Nations Governments signed in May 2005
- *The New Relationship* – A vision document setting out an initial work plan to move toward reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown Titles and Jurisdictions within British Columbia

The goals in each document continue to be pursued and the understandings reached in both serve as the foundation for this tripartite accord.

The purpose of this Accord is to bring together the Government of British Columbia, First Nations and the Government of Canada to achieve the goals of closing the social and economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians over the next 10 years, of reconciling aboriginal rights and title with those of the Crown, and of establishing a new relationship based upon mutual respect and recognition.

The Accord acknowledges and respects established and evolving jurisdictional and fiduciary relationships and responsibilities, and will be implemented in a manner that seeks to remove impediments to progress by establishing effective working relationships.

The actions and processes set out herein are guided by the following principles.

- Recognition that aboriginal and treaty rights exist in British Columbia.
- Belief that negotiations are the chosen means for reconciling rights.
- Requirement that consultation and accommodation obligations are met and fulfilled.
- Ensure that First Nations engage in consultation and accommodation, and provide consent when required, freely and with full information.
- Acknowledgement and celebration of the diverse histories and traditions of First Nations.
- Understanding that a new relationship must be based on mutual respect and responsibility.
- Recognition that this agreement is intended to support social and economic well-being of First Nations.
- Recognition that accountability for results is critical.
- Respect for existing bilateral and tripartite agreements.

The parties to this Accord acknowledge the importance of First Nations' governance in supporting healthy communities. Actions set out in this Accord and in subsequent action plans will reflect this reality.

The parties understand that new resources will be required to close the gaps and federal and provincial investments on and off reserve will be made available pursuant to the decisions taken at the November 2005 First Ministers' Meeting. The parties also recognize the need to examine how existing resources are expended with the view that transformative change will require different funding approaches.

The Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada and the First Nations of British Columbia agree to establish a 10 year plan to bridge the differences in socio-economic standards between First Nation citizens and other British Columbians. It is understood that a 10 ten year plan must by necessity evolve over time, and that concrete actions are required at its outset to build the relationships and momentum to achieve the desired outcome.

Accordingly, the parties to this Accord agree to undertake immediate actions in the following areas:

- To improve relationships by:
  - Supporting a tripartite negotiation forum to address issues having to do with the reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title;
  - Engaging in the review and renewal of claims, treaty implementation and self-government policies;
  - Holding an annual meeting of political leaders intended to jointly discuss issues of mutual concern, report on progress and plan ongoing action; and,
  - Developing and implementing a communications plan to increase public awareness of the diversity and value of First Nations cultures, including support for the 2008 North American Indigenous Games

**Possible Indicators include:**

- Concluded Treaties and other agreements
- Increased awareness by the public of diversity and value of First Nation cultures

- To close the gap in education by:
  - Concluding a tripartite agreement on First Nation jurisdiction over K-12 education;
  - Supporting First Nation learners;
  - Focusing resources on early childhood learning and post-secondary training, including skills, training and apprenticeships; and,
  - Creating a high quality learning environment for First Nation students through curriculum development, teacher certification and the early detection of, and response to, learning disabilities.

**Possible Indicators include:**

- First Nations children exhibiting readiness for Kindergarten.
- Aboriginal students meeting expectations in reading, writing and numeracy (Foundation Skills Assessment).
- K-12 (or Dogwood equivalent) completion rates .
- Aboriginal students enrolled in post-secondary education (alternatively "highest level of education attained").
- Number of First Nation teachers.
- K – 12 curriculum modules.



- To close the gap in housing and infrastructure by:
  - Building on-reserve housing units.
  - Developing a partnering agreement to address off-reserve housing.
  - Exploring the devolution and development of Aboriginal off-reserve housing units to an aboriginal housing authority.
  - Supporting capacity development in the area of housing, including building maintenance and standards, and training and employment having to do with housing construction;
  - Undertaking measures to ensure the safety of water supply;
  - Improving other basic infrastructure such as wastewater systems, roads and fire protection;
  - Undertaking comprehensive community planning; and,
  - Providing broadband connectivity to First Nation communities.

**Possible Indicators include:**

- First Nation households in core housing.
- First Nations people trained in construction and maintenance of housing and related infrastructure.
- Number of Aboriginal subsidized housing units .
- Number of on-reserve and off-reserve housing units built.
- On-reserve boil water advisories.
- First Nation communities with broadband access.

- To close the gap in health by<sup>1</sup>:
  - Establishing mental health programs to address substance abuse and youth suicide;
  - Integrating the ActNow strategy with First Nations health programs to reduce incidence of preventable diseases like diabetes;
  - Establishing tripartite pilot programs in the Northern Health Authority and the Lytton Health Centre to improve acute care and community health services utilizing an integrated approach to health and community programs as directed by the needs of First Nations; and,
  - Increasing the number of trained First Nation health care professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> BC First Nations will be supported in the health actions by the direction and contribution from the Assembly of First Nations.



**Possible Indicators include:**

- Increased life expectancy.
- Age standardized mortality rates.
- Youth suicides.
- Infant (up to one year) and neonatal (up to 28 days) mortality rates.
- Level of incidence of diabetes.
- Level of childhood obesity.
- Practising, certified First Nation health care professionals.

- To close the gap in economic opportunities by:
  - Providing increased access to lands and resources through interim measures;
  - Considering the implementation of revenue sharing arrangements;
  - Holding a provincial summit on economic development; and,
  - Supporting First Nations business and entrepreneurial development by increasing access to business training, and skills development and considering ways to facilitate greater access to capital funding sources.

**Possible Indicators include:**

- Employment rates.
- Average weekly and hourly wage levels (LFS data).
- Business start ups.
- Number of entrepreneurs in BC.
- First Nation registered apprentices.

The Parties agree that by December, 2006 a detailed tripartite implementation strategy will be developed laying out specific actions and building upon a shared commitment to undertake as many initiatives as possible in year one of the 10 year plan (2006 – 2016). The Parties understand the collective responsibility for reporting on the progress of closing the socio-economic gaps that exist between First Nations people and other British Columbians. Accordingly, resources will be focussed towards developing the data and information necessary to appropriately monitor and report on agreed upon action plans. Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations of British Columbia agree that regular public reports are necessary. Data collection will respect the privacy of individuals.

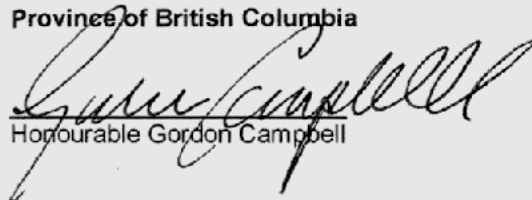
For greater certainty, nothing in this agreement shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection of any existing or future Aboriginal or treaty rights of the First Nations peoples of British Columbia.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005.

**Canada**

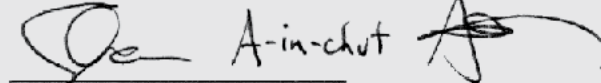
  
Rt. Honourable Paul Martin

**Province of British Columbia**

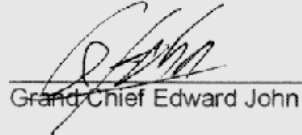
  
Honourable Gordon Campbell

**First Nations Leadership Council**

**Representing the BC Assembly of First Nations:**

  
Regional Chief Shawn Atleo

**Representing the First Nations Summit:**

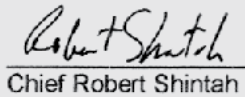
  
Grand Chief Edward John

  
Grand Chief Doug Kelly

  
Dave Porter

**Representing the Union of BC Indian Chiefs:**

  
Chief Stewart Phillip

  
Chief Robert Shintah

  
Chief Mike Retasket

## **Appendix 2: The New Relationship**

### **I. Statement of Vision**

We are all here to stay. We agree to a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights. Our shared vision includes respect for our respective laws and responsibilities. Through this new relationship, we commit to reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions.

We agree to establish processes and institutions for shared decision-making about the land and resources and for revenue and benefit sharing, recognizing, as has been determined in court decisions, that the right to aboriginal title “in its full form”, including the inherent right for the community to make decisions as to the use of the land and therefore the right to have a political structure for making those decisions, is constitutionally guaranteed by Section 35. These inherent rights flow from First Nations’ historical and sacred relationship with their territories.

The historical Aboriginal-Crown relationship in British Columbia has given rise to the present socio-economic disparity between First Nations and other British Columbians. We agree to work together in this new relationship to achieve strong governments, social justice and economic self-sufficiency for First Nations which will be of benefit to all British Columbians and will lead to long-term economic viability.

### **II. Goals**

Our shared vision includes a celebration of our diversity, and an appreciation of what we have in common. We recognize the vision of First Nations to achieve the following goals:

1. To restore, revitalize and strengthen First Nations and their communities and families to eliminate the gap in standards of living with other British Columbians, and substantially improve the circumstances of First Nations people in areas which include: education, children and families, and health, including restoration of habitats to achieve access to traditional foods and medicines;

2. To achieve First Nations self-determination through the exercise of their aboriginal title including realizing the economic component of aboriginal title, and exercising their jurisdiction over the use of the land and resources through their own structures;
3. To ensure that lands and resources are managed in accordance with First Nations laws, knowledge and values and that resource development is carried out in a sustainable manner including the primary responsibility of preserving healthy lands, resources and ecosystems for present and future generations; and
4. To revitalize and preserve First Nations cultures and languages and restore literacy and fluency in First Nation languages to ensure that no First Nation language becomes extinct.

The strategic vision of the Province for British Columbians is:

1. To make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent;
2. To lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness;
3. To build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors;
4. To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none; and
5. To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

This vision can only be achieved if First Nations citizens attain these goals. To achieve these strategic goals, we recognize that we must achieve First Nations economic self-sufficiency and make First Nations a strong economic partner in the province and the country through sustainable land and resource development, through shared decision-making and shared benefits that support First Nations as distinct and healthy communities. All British Columbians will benefit from a richer understanding of First Nations culture and from economic, political and cultural partnerships with First Nations. We therefore agree to the following principles and action plan.

### **III. Principles to Guide the New Relationship**

We will mutually develop processes and implement new institutions and structures to achieve the following:

- integrated intergovernmental structures and policies to promote co-operation, including practical and workable arrangements for land and resource decision-making and sustainable development;
- efficiencies in decision-making and institutional change;
- recognition of the need to preserve each First Nations' decision-making authority;
- financial capacity for First Nations and resourcing for the Province to develop new frameworks for shared land and resource decision-making and to engage in negotiations;
- mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing benefits, including resource revenue sharing; and
- dispute resolution processes which are mutually determined for resolving conflicts rather than adversarial approaches to resolving conflicts.

This vision statement to establish a new relationship has been written as a measure of good faith by the parties to put into words our commitment to work together to explore these concepts and develop their full meaning.

### **IV. Action Plans**

We agree to work together to manage change and take action on the following:

1. Develop new institutions or structures to negotiate Government-to-Government Agreements for shared decision-making regarding land use planning, management, tenuring and resource revenue and benefit sharing;
2. Identify institutional, legislative and policy changes to implement this vision and these action items;

3. Develop additional protocols or accords to further the implementation of the vision, as required from time to time;
4. Identify processes to ratify agreements;
5. Establish funding and distribution structures/institutions to support First Nations' capacity development and effective participation in the processes established through these action items;
6. Establish effective procedures for consultation and accommodation;
7. Appoint a joint working group to review Forest and Range Agreements and make recommendations to the parties on options for amending those agreements, in order to make them consistent with the Vision and Principles above;
8. Identify and develop new mechanisms on a priority basis for land and resource protection, including interim agreements;
9. Develop impartial dispute resolution processes and work towards a decrease in conflicts leading to litigation; and
10. Create an evaluation process for monitoring and measuring the achievement of this vision and these action items.

## **V. Management Committee and Working Groups**

The parties will establish a joint management committee of senior officials to:

- develop terms of reference, priorities, and timelines for the management committee and the working groups by May 31, 2005;
- identify current issues of substantial concern, and consider short and long term steps the parties could take to facilitate their resolution;
- jointly develop policy frameworks;

- establish joint working groups and provide direction, timelines and co-ordination to further the implementation of the action items;
- identify and allocate financial and technical resources for the work of the management committee and the working groups;
- make recommendations to the parties to address problems as they arise in the implementation of the vision; and
- engage the Government of Canada.

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