



BRITISH COLUMBIA – WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



on

ADVANCING THE INNOVATION ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIVITY

PREAMBLE:

In recognition of the long-standing special relationship between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington, we jointly advance this Memorandum of Understanding to identify and define areas of future cooperation that will further the innovation economy, environmental protection and transportation connectivity.

Guiding Principles:

- We share unique geographic, social and economic bonds that have deep historical roots.
- We recognize the prior existence, ongoing presence and inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and respect their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories, laws and philosophies.
- We also recognize that both the governments of Canada and the United States of America have endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and that we share an interest in exploring opportunities to advance its implementation through cooperation between our two jurisdictions.
- We will explore the role and involvement of Indigenous partners in our collaboration areas to ensure our collaboration is inclusive of Indigenous perspectives.
- We enjoy a long-standing, positive relationship and a history of productive and effective collaboration between the two jurisdictions.
- We share a desire to foster and further strengthen cooperation to promote innovation, protect our environment and improve connectivity between our jurisdictions.
- We recognize that climate change is one of the greatest existential threats to British Columbia and the State of Washington, and reaffirm our commitment to meaningful action.
- We understand that improved connectivity, trade and the efficient flow of people and goods across our shared border is critical for economic growth and affordability.
- We value joint action and collaboration in research, education, workforce development, environmental protection, climate change, transportation, trade and investment.
- We recognize real progress that has been made to further strengthen the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, including improved transportation linkages, research and academic partnerships and cross-border trade and investment, and are excited about potential for the future.
- We believe public and private sector leaders in both countries are committed to working closely to strengthen connections across this region, share best practices and create opportunity throughout the region.

- We believe both jurisdictions boast proud histories and a spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- We believe the region shares a commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, celebrating cultural diversity and inclusion, and building collaborative working relationships.

WE HEREBY AGREE

To enhance meaningful and results-driven collaboration in the following areas:

Innovation Economy

- Facilitate trade and access to capital and foster stronger ties across the region.
- Encourage partnerships that focus on life sciences, financial and retail innovation, clean technology and transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, blockchain and virtual/mixed reality.
- Explore opportunities to advance joint research programs in key areas of innovation and future technologies among the region's major universities and institutes.
- Endorse training and education programs that seek to increase access to innovation jobs across B.C. and Washington State, particularly for at-risk communities.
- Meet with the Cascadia Innovation Corridor steering committee or their leadership on an annual basis, and appoint a liaison from each jurisdiction to engage with the committee on an ongoing basis.

Environmental Protection

- Reaffirm our commitment to meaningful action on climate change and advance policies that support low-income and vulnerable populations that are disproportionately impacted.
- Protect our coastal communities and shared marine ecosystem.
- Work together, with Indigenous peoples, and with the Canadian and U.S. federal governments, to protect our iconic and endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- Work with partners to restore and sustain the salmon population.

Transportation Connectivity

- Continue, and further strengthen joint transportation planning efforts, focused on improved connectivity and ease of travel and movement, including at the border.
- Encourage continued seaplane service between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C.
- Continue support for the business case analysis of a new ultra high speed corridor between Portland, Seattle and Vancouver B.C., with speeds as high as 250 mph (400 km/h), and begin exploring the possibility of a new multi-jurisdictional Ultra High Speed Corridor authority that could lead the project in any agreed-upon subsequent phase(s).

Regular Coordination

- The parties agree to convene a leadership meeting within one year, to evaluate progress on the above areas and identify additional areas for enhanced collaboration.
- The parties agree to appoint a representative from each office to coordinate and oversee implementation of this agreement.

Term and Effect

This MOU shall come into effect upon signature by the two parties and shall remain in effect for a period of five years and can be renewed or amended with the consent of the parties.

Either party may decide to terminate the agreement by notifying the other party with three months' written notice.

Limitations

The undersigned signatories agree that this MOU shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on either the Province of British Columbia or the State of Washington. Neither party shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this MOU.

AGREED AND SIGNED AND DATED IN TWO ORIGINALS IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, THIS 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.

For the Province of British Columbia

For the State of Washington

John Horgan, Premier

Jay Inslee, Governor