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# LOCAL/PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS,  
THE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION,  
AND THE  
UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

## THE NEED

WHEREAS Local governments and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs are experiencing increased demands at the same time resources are being reduced;

There are governments throughout the Province that are constantly developing new approaches and innovations to providing services to their citizens;

There are governments in the Province who experience needs and require expertise that is not locally available to them;

The Municipal Officers' Association, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities believe that by sharing our expertise, knowledge and best practices we can better serve all citizens across British Columbia.

THEREFORE This Memorandum of Understanding represents a commitment by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Municipal Officers' Association of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to work together to promote the exchange of knowledge between local government staff and provincial staff throughout British Columbia in a formal exchange program

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Discussions have occurred over the course of the last six months between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Municipal Officers' Association of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to pursue methods of exchanging information and expertise from those local governments and agencies that have it to those that need it. What is being proposed is a program that will formalize the opportunities for employees of local governments or Provincial government departments to be exchanged into host governments or agencies, so that for a limited period of time they can provide expertise in the area that the host agency has a need. The opportunity also exists to establish a formal process whereby local governments would develop best practices for the local government field and have an opportunity to formally present and explain their practices to interested governments. A formalized exchange program also presents the opportunity for employees to broaden their experience and expertise, at the same time taking away new skills that they can pick up from the host.

## THE SHARED VALUES

To establish a framework which allows and encourages one government to help another by expediting problem solving, helping program startup or implementing new initiatives such as best practices, by using the expertise of one governments experience and skills.

To provide benefits to governments through its staff providing their assistance, and in turn, benefits through personal development and learning from the host agency.

To provide a network whereby the best practices of leading edge governments can be exchanged with governments seeking this information.

To provide a pool of expertise to governments seeking advice or resources to meet problems or issues.

To improve the development and implementation of new legislation by developing a common understanding of the purpose and intent of the legislation.

To promote an environment conducive to developing knowledgeable, skilled and motivated staff.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Municipal Officers' Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities have the following mutual objectives:

- To provide the exchange of information and resources through the exchange of officers' from their organization to others seeking their aid;
- To promote the creation of a pool of knowledge which governments can access to deal with issues and problems they face;
- To put in place a framework which allows governments with "Best Practices" to present these practices to other governments so that they may be applied across the Province;

THE BENEFITS

The benefits of establishing a Local/Provincial Government Officer Exchange Program are threefold. The host government benefits by receiving expertise in an area where they have requested help, the government that provides the employee benefits by being able to exchange its best practices and ideas to other governments in the Province and the employee himself benefits by gaining stronger expertise and experience in a different locale and organization.

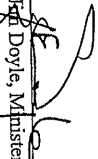
IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Municipal Officers' Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities agree to establish a joint working group who will develop a framework for the Local/Provincial Government Officers' Exchange Program including how local government can connect to exchange information, the necessary agreements to facilitate the exchange and to promote examples of successful exchange. Implementation will include the development of pilot projects and a program to promote the exchange program at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Municipal Officers' Association Conferences.

COMMITMENT

IN WITNESS OF THIS AGREEMENT the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding at Vancouver, British Columbia this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1999.

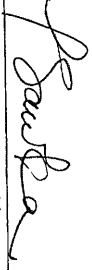
Signed on behalf of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by:

  
Honourable Janet Doyle, Minister

Signed on behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities by:

  
Mayor, John Rantzi, President

Signed on behalf of the Municipal Officers' Association by:

  
Patti Sawka, First Vice-President