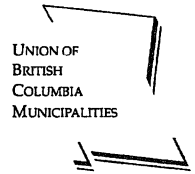


MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING



Between the
UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)
and the

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT (DIAND)
BRITISH COLUMBIA (B.C.) REGION

BACKGROUND:

1. DIAND (B.C. Region) has primary responsibility for meeting the Government of Canada's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations in British Columbia.
2. DIAND (B.C. Region) is concerned with sustaining and enhancing the negotiation of treaties in B.C. with First Nations, strengthening First Nations governance and encouraging economic development opportunities.
3. UBCM represents local governments in British Columbia.
4. UBCM represents local government interests in treaty negotiations as a member of the Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committee (TNAC), the formal consultation mechanism on province-wide treaty-related issues that may affect third parties. Local government interests regarding specific local and regional treaty negotiations are also represented by local government representatives on Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs).
5. The parties share an interest in strengthening effective communication and information sharing between the Government of Canada and local governments.

PURPOSE:

This Memorandum of Understanding represents a commitment of DIAND (B.C. Region) and UBCM to improve communication and strengthen our working relationships, building on issues of common interest.

PRINCIPLES:

DIAND (B.C. Region) and UBCM will recognize the following principles in their dealings with one another:

- mutual respect for the respective areas of responsibility of DIAND (B.C. Region) and UBCM;
- the value of timely communication and information sharing on issues of common interest.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

DIAND (B.C. Region) and UBCM share the following objectives:

- to promote the successful and timely conclusion of treaty negotiations in B.C.;
- to support relationship building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
- to promote and facilitate partnership opportunities and capacity building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
- to promote effective dispute resolution mechanisms between First Nations and local government; and,
- to support good governance, efficient service delivery, prosperous economies and healthy communities.

TERM OF THE MOU:

This MOU is a statement of political intent by the Parties and is not legally binding. For greater certainty, nothing in this MOU obliges DIAND (B.C. Region) to act in a manner inconsistent with federal legislation, policies or authorities.

The Parties may agree to amend or terminate this MOU at any time. The term of this MOU shall be two years from the date of signing unless otherwise amended.

IMPLEMENTATION:

DIAND (B.C. Region) and UBCM will identify opportunities, through pursuit of the objectives stated within the agreement, to improve communication and strengthen working relationships, building on issues of common interest.

SIGNED on behalf of the DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, B.C. Region by:

John Watson

Regional Director General, B.C. Region

SIGNED on behalf of the UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES by:

Jim Abram

President

Aaron Dinwoodie

Chair, Aboriginal Affairs Committee

27.9.2001
Date