



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING & SPORT (MHL)
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (MCD)**

("the Parties")



REGARDING

SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS:

1. All Parties recognize the importance of protecting public health as it pertains to the management of onsite wastewater;
2. The Sewerage System Regulation (SSR) was intended to improve waste water management practices and environmental health standards for effluent in BC by allowing for technical flexibility while providing for
 - clear and specific system performance and industry standards for site evaluation, design, installation and maintenance
 - a formal structure for education, training and certification of service providers; and
 - greater industry accountability
3. The parties understand that the implementation of the SSR has caused challenges for local governments including concerns with respect to:
 - increased costs to homeowners;
 - an inadequate number of practitioners and professionals;
 - indeterminate accountability, liability; and
 - a lack of effective communication
4. All Parties recognize the need to foster a cooperative inter-governmental approach to resolving the issues;
5. The Parties had established the UBCM SSR Working Group in Spring 2007 to address the implementation challenges for local governments;
6. The UBCM SSR Working Group developed a 17 point action plan which identified a series of policy and regulatory actions that would address local government concerns with the SSR;
7. The parties recognize that further work is required and will continue on some key policy and regulatory deliverables contained in the action plan adopted by UBCM membership;
8. All parties acknowledge that additional measures beyond the UBCM action plan may have to be taken to fully address concerns with on-site sewerage.

THEREFORE:

This MOU represents a commitment by the Parties to work in partnership to address local government implementation concerns, including issues on the UBCM action plan. This partnership is taken in the interests of improving the management of onsite wastewater in British Columbia.

PRINCIPLES:

In fulfilling the terms of this MOU the parties will be governed by the following guiding principles:

1. *Mutual respect for the parties* – the Parties recognize and respect each others mandates, policies and areas of jurisdiction and that nothing in this MOU should be construed as hindering the individual mandates of the parties;
2. *Mutual respect for consultation processes*- the Parties recognize and respect each others requirements to consult broadly with other interested stakeholders to address concerns that are common to all parties;
3. *Partnership* – the Parties recognize each others' strengths and capabilities. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, the parties are committed to cooperate in the spirit of partnership, with the acknowledgement that no single agency or organization can effectively accomplish change without engaging with its partners;
4. *Coordinated information* – the Parties recognize the value of a coordinated approach to the development, exchange and distribution of information between the Province, the UBCM and Local Governments;

COMMITMENTS:

The parties have the following commitments;

1. The parties agree to ensure dedicated resources and staff to carry out the work under this MOU;
2. Update the UBCM action plan;
3. Develop a work plan for the updated action plan including clear timelines and commitment to deliver on the action plan at UBCM Convention in September 2009;
4. Identify and provide relevant and practical solutions for on-site wastewater administration and guideline, policy, and legislation development;
5. Ensure effective and efficient joint communication on progress and deliverables; and
6. Establish an Executive Oversight which will be at the Deputy Ministers (provincial) and Executive Director (UBCM) level.

In Witness of this Agreement the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on Sewerage System Regulation Implementation Challenges For Local Governments at Penticton on September 24, 2008.

Signed on behalf of the **UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES**

Susan Gimse
President

Signed on behalf of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT**

Honourable Mary Polak
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Signed on behalf of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Ministry of Community Development