



# Protocol of Recognition



## AMONGST:

Government of British Columbia; and  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
("the parties").

### WHEREAS:

The well being of British Columbia's economy and society is of mutual concern to the parties;

All British Columbians, individually and collectively through their governments, share responsibility for building and sustaining the province on behalf of present and future generations;

There is a need to clarify and define the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Province and local governments when addressing certain issues, and a need to increase the level of trust and commitment to cooperation;

The provincial and local governments, having distinct legislative authority in their respective fields, are committed to ensuring logically organized and cost-effective performance by both levels of government;

Effective cooperation between the provincial and local governments will lead to certainty and predictability of governmental performance, and promote public confidence and sound planning;

Public policy issues are complex, often transcending political boundaries, and thus require coordinated responses from the parties.

### THEREFORE:

The Province recognizes local government as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government;

The principles established in this Protocol shall form the basis for the relationship between the provincial and local orders of government, to be further expressed through the formulation of individual sub-agreements affecting the responsibilities of the parties.

### PRINCIPLES:

#### 1. Commitment to Action

In the interests of all British Columbia the parties are committed to discharge their responsibilities within their respective areas of jurisdiction, while respecting the jurisdictions of others.

#### 2. Partnership

The parties recognize each other's strengths and capabilities. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, the parties are committed to cooperate in the spirit of partnership particularly in the harmonization of legislation, regulations, policies, programs and projects.

The objective of both parties is to ensure a clear division of responsibilities which leaves the Province and local governments accountable for specific policies and gives them the authority and financial capacity to effectively perform their roles.

#### 3. Responsibilities and Resources

Any party proposing a significant change in legislation, regulations, policies or programs that affects another party will ensure that a full evaluation is done of the costs and revenues associated with the proposed change.

New responsibilities will not be assigned to another party until issues of funding, liability and resources have been discussed among the parties.

With respect to matters where local governments are responsible, they should have adequate authority and independence to fulfil their responsibilities.

#### 4. Flexibility

Legislation, regulations, policies or programs should respect the varying needs and circumstances of local governments in different parts of the province.

#### 5. Notification and Consultation

In the spirit of fairness, openness and good faith any proposed significant change in legislation, regulations, standards, policies or programs will be preceded by appropriate consultation among the affected parties, including timely notification of the proposed change.

#### 6. Information Sharing

The Province and local governments will cooperate in the development and distribution of information required for effective discharge of this agreement.

#### 7. Dispute Resolution

In the spirit of partnership and efficient use of public resources, the parties agree to pursue alternate methods of dispute resolution wherever necessary and practical, ensuring the rapid resolution of disagreements.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

The parties will cooperate in implementing this agreement through sub-agreements consistent with the above principles.

#### Provincial Local Governments Joint Council

The parties agree to establish a Joint Council composed of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, three other Ministers and the Officers of the UBCM.

The purpose of the Joint Council are to promote the review of existing legislation, regulations, policies or programs relating to local government, and to discuss the implementation of this agreement or sub-agreements.

#### Review of the Protocol:

The parties shall review this protocol within three years of its adoption.

#### Administration of the Protocol:

The lead contacts for administering this protocol are the:

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

## Commitment:

IN WITNESS OF AN AGREEMENT to adhere to the terms established in this Protocol, the parties have executed this Protocol at Penticton, British Columbia, this 18 day of September, 1996.

SIGNED on behalf of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by:

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

PREMIER, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

PRESIDENT, UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES