



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CONSULTATION  
IN RESPECT OF  
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT**

**Between the**

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES  
(represented by the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Branch)**

**and the**

**UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)**

**WHEREAS:**

The Province of British Columbia has indicated that exploration and development of offshore oil and gas must be done in an environmentally responsible and scientifically sound manner, and has committed to promote prosperity and economic opportunities for First Nations and coastal communities;

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is the minister responsible for matters related to the development of offshore oil and gas, and the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Branch has been established to enable offshore oil and gas development to occur;

The UBCM is the representative voice of local governments in British Columbia and has an interest in the social, economic and environmental well-being of the province and its communities; and

Section 277 of the *Community Charter* allows the minister responsible and the UBCM to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or other arrangement respecting consultation on any matter that affects local government or the Province.

The parties previously entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on Consultation in respect of Offshore Oil and Gas Development dated March 2005, and wish to renew it as set out below:

**THEREFORE THE PARTIES HAVE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate the process by which the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Branch will consult with the UBCM.

The focus of this process will be to:

- identify the interests of local government in relation to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas; and
- explore how the interests of local government could be addressed through the fiscal, regulatory, and environmental assessment regimes for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

## **LINKAGES TO OTHER PROCESSES**

The BC Offshore Oil and Gas Branch will have consultations with individual local governments and other local government associations, but recognizes that UBCM is the organization that represents all local governments in the province.

The B.C. Offshore Oil and Gas Branch is involved in processes of consultation with First Nations with respect to matters related to the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

The B.C. Offshore Oil and Gas Branch expects to enter into negotiations with the Government of Canada with respect to matters related to the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The B.C. Offshore Oil and Gas Branch and the UBCM agree to maintain the Offshore Oil and Gas Working Group to further the purpose stated in this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Working Group is comprised of a member of the UBCM's Community Economic Development Committee and local elected officials representing areas that could potentially be affected by the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

## **TERM/AMENDMENT**

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding will be two years from the date of signing unless otherwise amended.

The Parties may agree, in writing, to renew this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Parties may agree, in writing, to amend or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at any time.

## **SIGNED on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable Richard Neufeld**  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **SIGNED on behalf of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director Susan Gimse**  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**Mayor Sharon Hartwell**  
Chair, Community Economic Development Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date