

Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between The Government of the State of Alaska, and The Government of the Province of Alberta

In a spirit of promoting closer relations between the State of Alaska and the Province of Alberta (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

In full recognition of:

- a) the importance of the relationship between Canada and the United States, and the many mutual interests of the State of Alaska and the Province of Alberta;
- b) the prominent role of both jurisdictions in the North American energy market and the potential for mutual benefits to be derived from cooperation in this sector;
- c) the importance of close consultations and cooperation on bilateral issues and the need to ensure open lines of communications between neighbours, to prevent transborder misunderstandings;
- d) the benefits to be derived from the strengthening and broadening of friendly and mutually beneficial bilateral relations;

The Parties agree to pursue the following objectives:

- a) to promote common goals by encouraging cooperation and understanding between governments, business, legislators and citizens of Alaska and Alberta;
- b) to develop informal dispute avoidance and resolution processes to address potential cross border concerns;
- c) to work cooperatively to influence our respective federal governments' policies and decisions in areas of interest to both regions, in recognition of the fact that certain issues are beyond the jurisdiction of Alaska and Alberta;
- d) to learn from each others' best practices and the world-class expertise in specific sectors that are found in both jurisdictions;

The Parties agree as follows:

Bilateral Council

An Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council will provide direction on bilateral issues, review achievements, and explore new areas for cooperation.

Appropriate bodies for each of the Parties will appoint Council delegates who will include legislators, government officials and representatives of private industry.

Meetings of the Council will be held annually, alternating between Alaska and Alberta.

All matters under this Memorandum of Understanding will be decided by agreement between the Parties.

Areas of Cooperation

The Council will facilitate cooperation in a number of areas:

- Energy, including continental energy market issues; development, production, transportation and commercial access to Arctic natural gas, natural gas liquids and oil; pipelines, and technology;

- Aboriginal issues, including resource development, tourism, education, health and wellness; culture
- Trade and Investment, including business information exchanges and joint business partnership opportunities;
- Northern sustainable development issues, including cold weather technology, environment; and telecommunications;
- Northern health issues, including rural sanitation, air quality, wild and traditional food safety;
- Tourism, including marketing;
- Other cooperative efforts, including staff exchanges.

Informal Dispute Avoidance and Resolution

In the event of disputes between the Parties, both sides will promote, as a first step, informal consultations for the purpose of seeking resolutions. The Council will provide the forum for such consultations.

For issues that cannot be resolved at the annual meeting or interim discussions by delegates, the Council may consider appointing an informal dispute advisory committee composed of individuals such as officials, industry representatives and experts. The Council, in consultation with the Parties, will determine the membership, structure, mandate, and procedures that shall govern informal dispute advisory committees.

Nothing in the above would preclude either Party from seeking action through other dispute resolution mechanisms (under multilateral or bilateral trade agreements such as the World Trade Organization, North American Free Trade Agreement, international or domestic courts or tribunals, etc.).

Financial Responsibilities

Matters concerning exchanges of delegations and information will be negotiated as part of each exchange on a project-by-project basis. As a general rule, each Party will bear their own transportation and accommodation costs and the host jurisdiction will endeavor to assist and support the incoming Party in making logistical arrangements and appropriate contacts.

Coordinating Bodies

For the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding, the coordinating bodies are for the Province of Alberta, the International Relations Section, Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations and for the State of Alaska, the Office of the Governor, assisted by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development.

Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect upon signing and will be reviewed annually by the parties. This Agreement will remain in effect until one of the Parties notifies the other, in written form, of its intention to terminate.

in recognition of the fact that certain issues are beyond the jurisdiction of Alaska and Alberta;

- d) to learn from each others' best practices and the world-class expertise in specific sectors that are found in both jurisdictions;

The Parties agree as follows:

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Areas of Cooperation

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- Energy, including continental energy market issues; development, production, transportation and commercial access to Arctic natural gas, natural gas liquids and oil; pipelines, and technology;
- Transportation, including highway (e.g. Al-Can) and transportation corridor (e.g. CANAMEX) issues, and exploring the viability of establishing direct commercial air service between Alaska and Alberta;

Signed in the City of Anchorage, Alaska. This 4th day of June, 2002.

The Honourable Ralph Klein, Premier
Province of Alberta

Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the Parties from pursuing through other dispute resolution mechanisms (under multilateral or bilateral trade agreements such as the World Trade Organization, North American Free Trade Agreement, international or domestic courts or tribunals, etc.).

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Amendment

Any provisions set out in this Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or waived by mutual agreement of the Parties in writing.

The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor
State of Alaska