



JOINT STATEMENT

September 6, 1994

VICTORIA, B.C. – Premier Mike Harcourt and Governor Mike Lowry have held their annual meeting to review the full range of relations between the Governments of British Columbia and Washington.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Governor and the Premier signed a new cooperation agreement covering the technology and knowledge-based industries. This enabling agreement fosters joint follow-up activities in several areas of mutual economic interest. It is the natural successor to the previous successful agreement in the areas of software, biotechnology and environmental industries.

Among the working groups struck under this new agreement is one related to business opportunities at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation site and covered by a separate agreement signed on March 21, 1994, by the B.C. Trade Development Corporation, the Washington Department of Trade and Economic Development, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory.

Responsibility for implementing the new cooperation agreement rests with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development on the Washington side and the Ministry of Employment and Investment on the British Columbia side.

The Premier and the Governor discussed the possibilities for cooperation in the trade promotion and tourism fields. Officials were directed to report back to the heads of government within six months with specific proposals for cooperation in these areas.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Governor and the Premier discussed the challenges which both jurisdictions faced with respect to rapid urban growth and its impact on environmental, economic and social sustainability. The Premier described the current status of the Georgia Basin Initiative and related growth management initiatives. The Governor reported on Washington's experience with its Growth Management Act.

The Governor and the Premier signed a new agreement calling for B.C. and Washington officials to meet regularly to review growth management issues of mutual interest. The responsible agencies are the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

On a related subject, the Premier and the Governor also signed a new agreement calling for regular consultation on transportation issues between officials of the two jurisdictions. The responsible agencies are the Washington Department of Transportation and the B.C. Ministry of Employment and Investment.

This new transportation agreement will also provide a framework for the successful efforts of the joint working group of officials established by the Premier and the Governor in April, 1993, to facilitate the re-introduction of Amtrak passenger rail service between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. The Governor and the Premier expressed satisfaction that the service is expected to resume by April 1995. In this regard, they paid special tribute to the commitment to this project of Congressman Al Swift.

ENERGY COOPERATION

The Premier and the Governor accepted the report of the most recent meeting between officials of the Washington Energy Office and the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. They agreed that these regular meetings mandated under the B.C./Washington Energy Cooperation Agreement were a useful planning tool for the two jurisdictions and ensured that any bilateral concerns were dealt with before they became problems. Officials of the two agencies were directed to continue these consultative meetings and to provide regular reports to the Governor and the Premier. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16.

ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

The Premier and the Governor reviewed the second Annual Report of the British Columbia/Washington Environmental Cooperation Council and commended its members for the substantial progress made on important issues in the past year by this body. Among the highlights of the Report are:

- submission of the report and recommendations of the Marine Science Panel on the status and trends of the shared marine waters in Puget Sound and Georgia Basin;
- establishment of an agreement among the province, state and local air pollution control authorities to consult one another prior to issuing permits for large air pollution sources within 100 kilometres of the border;
- transmittal of recommendations to improve protection of the Abbotsford/Sumas Aquifer that provides drinking water to more than 100,000 people on both sides of the border;
- initiation of a unique severe weather warning system for residents in southern B.C. and northwest Washington, as an outgrowth of the work of the Nooksack River International Task Force;
- effective cooperation on a number of specific transborder environmental issues, including the proposed Crown Jewel gold mine in Chesaw, Washington, and the designation of the Northwest Straits Marine Sanctuary.

The Governor and the Premier received the report of the Marine Science Panel, which they commissioned at their April 1993 meeting. They expressed appreciation to the Canadian and U.S. scientists who served on the Panel, and reaffirmed their interest in maintaining the biological health and water quality of Puget Sound and the Georgia Basin. The British Columbia/Washington Environmental Cooperation Council has been directed to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Panel.

The Premier and the Governor discussed the work of the States/B.C. Oil Spill Task Force, noting in particular the progress made by U.S. environmental state agencies and federal Coast Guard towards shared decision-making in response to an oil spill.

They are encouraged by the development of the Marine Spill Cooperation Agreement negotiated between the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and the Washington Office of Marine Safety, and look forward to its early signing. The Governor and the Premier urged their respective federal governments to accelerate the implementation of new policies and regulations to prevent oil spills along the Pacific coast and within the shared inland waters of the state and province.

TRADE POLICY ISSUES

The Governor and the Premier discussed a number of pressing trade issues affecting products important to the economies of the two jurisdictions, including softwood lumber and apples.

The Premier and the Governor discussed the recent softwood lumber dispute. They recognized that the countervailing duty action was disruptive and that it diverted attention from important forest policy issues on both sides of the border. The Premier and the Governor agreed that a mechanism to avoid a recurrence of this decade-long dispute is needed.

The Governor and the Premier also discussed the need to enhance the sustainability of resource communities through advanced forest practices, further secondary processing and value added manufacturing of timber resources, and investments in the forest land base. They agreed to encourage their respective national governments to continue their efforts to develop internationally accepted and endorsed sustainable forest practices criteria and standards.

PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

The Premier and the Governor discussed the current state of negotiations on the Pacific Salmon Treaty between their respective federal governments. The Premier took the opportunity to reiterate B.C.'s concern that conservation requirements for salmon stocks in both countries can only be met through international cooperation within the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Both the Premier and the Governor agreed that cooperative conservation measures are essential for salmon that migrate through the waters of both countries.

Both the Governor and the Premier have made representations to their federal governments to encourage changes in the structure of the Salmon Commission process. Provisions are needed to allow for negotiated agreements for sustainability of salmon stocks on both sides of the border.

The Premier referred to the major economic development opportunities that B.C. has foregone on rivers such as the Fraser and the Skeena, and reiterated his view that the Treaty is designed to be fair to both countries by enabling them each to harvest a share of salmon equal to the value produced from their respective rivers.

OLYMPIC GAMES

The Governor and the Premier took note of the proposals for a joint bid for cities in the two jurisdictions to host the Olympic Games (possibly in the year 2008). They agreed that this was potentially an exciting challenge for the people of the region but that careful, objective analysis of the costs and benefits associated with bidding for and hosting an Olympic Games will have to be undertaken so that Governments can make informed decisions on such a large scale project. They undertook to designate officials in the two Governments as the contact points for the proponents of this proposal. Those officials will maintain liaison as and when this project moves forward.

Contact:
Andy Orr
Office of the Premier
387-6633

Jordan Day
Office of the Governor
(206) 753-6780



GROWTH MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington

WHEREAS the people of the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington face similar challenges related to rapid urban growth and its impact on economic, social and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS the Government of Washington has developed considerable experience in this field through implementation of its Growth Management Act, 1990; and

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia is considering growth management legislation and is continuing to develop its Georgia Basin Initiative;

THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED, between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington, that senior officials shall meet


- to review the current status of urban growth in the two jurisdictions;
- to identify and assess the most important concerns arising from this rapid urban growth;
- to compare the experience of governments in the two jurisdictions in dealing with urban growth; and
- to explore ways in which officials in the two jurisdictions might work together on common problems associated with urban growth.

The Governments agree that in the course of these discussions, they will consult municipal governments, aboriginal governments and representatives of regional bodies such as the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Greater Vancouver Regional District. They may also consult such non-governmental organizations as they believe would advance the discussion of growth management.

The responsible agencies in the two jurisdictions will be the British Columbia Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. Starting in 1995, these agencies will provide a joint annual update to the Premier and the Governor on their activities under this agreement.

DATED at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada,
this 6th day of September, AD 1994.


Mike Harcourt, Premier
Province of British Columbia


Mike Lowry, Governor
State of Washington



TRANSPORTATION COOPERATION AGREEMENT
Between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington have a mutual interest in coordinating transportation services between their jurisdictions and other international locations; and

WHEREAS the Province and the State have already recognized the benefits of reinstating passenger rail service between their jurisdictions and are interested in accelerating the development of the corridor; and

WHEREAS the State of Washington and the State of Oregon have agreed in principle to establish a shared corridor manager position to enhance coordination in the planning and implementation of passenger rail service;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington agree to establish a British Columbia/Washington Transportation Initiative to promote and coordinate the provision of transportation services with particular emphasis on establishing modern passenger rail service.

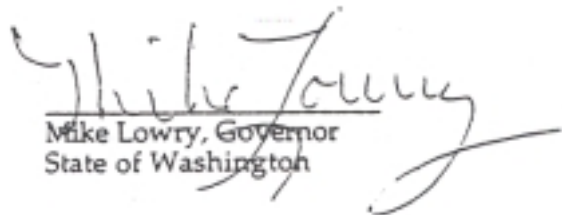
The Province and the State agree to explore possible approaches to strengthen on-going coordination in the planning and implementation of passenger rail service within the Pacific Northwest Rail Passenger Corridor.

The Province and the State agree to develop an action plan, which may include the participation of other governmental organizations, to address other transportation issues of mutual interest.

This agreement shall be reviewed for revision or extension within three years.

DATED at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada,
this 6th day of September, AD 1994.


Mike Harcourt, Premier
Province of British Columbia


Mike Lowry, Governor
State of Washington



COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED INDUSTRIES

Between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to share information and to work cooperatively on areas of mutual interest within the technology and knowledge-based industry sectors; and

WHEREAS there has previously been a general cooperation agreement between Provincial and State interests; and

WHEREAS the emphasis of the previous agreement evolved to be in the areas of software, biotechnology and environmental industries;

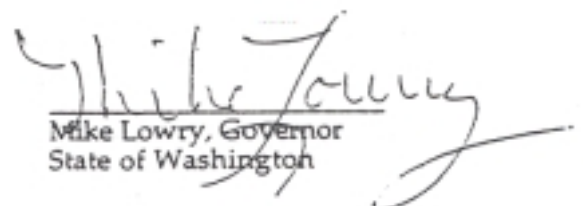
THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington that, with a focus on the technology and knowledge-based industry sectors, each will:

- take the necessary steps to exchange information on technology and knowledge-based industries, partnerships, associations and research groups;
- disseminate appropriate information on goods and services to business interests, research groups and associations in the Province and the State;
- promote and encourage regional and international investment, and trade and investment opportunities in the Province and the State;
- encourage partnership arrangements between businesses, associations and research groups in the Province and the State;
- facilitate joint trade and investment activities in other markets;
- encourage and promote the exchange of visits by delegations and business persons to each other, and extend cooperation and assistance to the visitors sponsored by the other parties.

The parties also agree to establish joint working groups, which shall form part of these efforts, and that these working groups will report on progress in an Annual Report to the undersigned.

DATED AT Victoria, British Columbia, Canada,
this 6th day of September, AD 1994.


Mike Harcourt, Premier
Province of British Columbia


Mike Lowry, Governor
State of Washington