



BRITISH COLUMBIA – WASHINGTON  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
*on*  
ADVANCING THE INNOVATION ECONOMY



**PREAMBLE**

In recognition of the long-standing special relationship between the Province of British Columbia, and the State of Washington, we jointly advance this Memorandum of Understanding to identify and define areas of future cooperation that will further innovation, enhance our partnership and support our mutual prosperity.

**Guiding Principles**

- We share unique geographic, social and economic bonds that have deep historical roots.
- We enjoy a long-standing, positive relationship and a history of productive and effective collaboration between the two jurisdictions.
- We share in a desire to foster and further strengthen cooperation to promote our prosperity, innovation and global economic competitiveness.
- We recognize that innovation is a driving force behind our future economic prosperity.
- We share a commitment to realizing the economic benefits associated with advancing clean technology.
- We understand that the efficient flow of people and goods across our shared border is critical for economic growth.
- We value joint action and collaboration in research, education, workforce development, transportation and investment.
- We see the potential to develop a 21st Century economic corridor, Cascadia Innovation Corridor, that would connect and enhance both regions and create exciting new opportunities for young people and underserved populations.
- We believe public and private sector leaders in both countries are committed to working closely to strengthen connections across this region, share best practices and create opportunity throughout the Cascadia Innovation Corridor.
- We believe both regions boast proud histories and a spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- We believe the Cascadia Innovation Corridor boasts world-renowned research organizations and global corporate leaders in a diverse array of existing and emerging technology disciplines, including, but not limited to, aviation and aeronautics, biotechnology, clean energy, life sciences and global health, software development, cloud computing, the internet of things, mobile communications, on-line retailing, and the transmission, storage and analysis of big data.
- We believe the region shares a commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, celebrating cultural diversity and inclusion, and building collaborative working relationships.

**WE HEREBY AGREE**

To enhance meaningful and results-driven innovation and collaboration in the following areas:

- Facilitate trade, access to capital and foster stronger ties across the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, including by co-hosting a future Tech and Innovation Summit.
- Encourage partnerships that focus on life sciences, clean technology, data analytics and high tech that span both jurisdictions.
- Explore opportunities to advance research programs in key areas of innovation and future technologies among the region's major universities and institutes.
- Endorse training and education programs that seek to increase access to innovation jobs, particularly for at-risk communities.
- Continue and further strengthen joint transportation planning efforts, focused on improved connectivity and ease of travel and movement.
- Reconvene within two years to evaluate progress on the above areas and identify additional areas for enhanced collaboration.

**Terms and Effect**

This MOU shall come into effect upon signature by the two parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years and can be renewed or amended with the consent of the signatories.

Either party may decide to terminate the agreement by notifying the other party with six months' written notice.

**Limitations**

The undersigned signatories agree that this MOU shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on either the Province of British Columbia or the State of Washington. Neither party shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this MOU.

**AGREED AND SIGNED AND DATED IN TWO ORIGINALS AT VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2016.**

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CHRISTY CLARK  
Premier of British Columbia

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JAY INSLEE  
Governor of Washington