

The BC Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau, and the University of Victoria Pilot Program Partnership Agreement

Background

The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) is responsible for creating an integrated provincial transportation plan, maintaining and improving the highway system, ensuring BC's ports and airports are gateways for economic development, building highway infrastructure, undertaking vehicle safety inspections and setting commercial vehicle operating standards, working with partners and other levels of government to provide cost-effective public transit, coastal ferry services and cycling networks, managing contracts for inland ferry operations, and licensing and regulating commercial passenger transportation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) supports the agriculture, food and bioproduct sectors through a wide-range of activities, including assisting farmers and producers throughout the province to maintain safe agricultural and food systems, develop sound environmental practices and manage business and operational risks. The Ministry is also responsible for administration of Crown land, which comprises 94 per cent of the provincial land base. Its primary activities in this area are to develop policy to guide the allocation of Crown land and to support the implementation of this policy, including policy and guidance to promote effective involvement of First Nations.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau, a provincial agency within the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands ("ILMB"), is responsible for creating natural resource opportunities for British Columbians through the integrated delivery of natural resource authorizations, Crown land administration, planning and natural resource information services. The data, products and services available from the Bureau make a vital contribution to land use and resource planning, species-at-risk initiatives and economic activities in BC.

Future labour market shortages and competition for talent are predicted to create future challenges for the public sector to recruit and retain employees. The ILMB, MAL and MoT would like to address these proactively in areas that are critical to the organizations' business which include:

- Middle to senior management
- Land data experts
- Planning officers
- Project directors and managers (e.g., land sales, partnerships, IT)
- Scientific professionals: subject matter experts (e.g., GIS, geography, geoscience, food science, agriculture, etc.)
- Technical support positions
- Engineers

Partnership Agreement

As part of the government of British Columbia's broader objective to partner with educational institutions around the province, MoT, MAL and ILMB are proposing a Partnership Agreement with the University of Victoria. This agreement will be launched as a pilot program with the Faculty of Business, and the scope may expand or contract in the future, based on all parties' discussions and agreement. The MoT, MAL, ILMB and the University of Victoria Faculty of Business wish to further the goals of their corporate mandates by working together within the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

The project is being initiated to achieve the following mutual objectives:

- Recruit candidates who have the academic background supportive of the organization's business areas;
- Develop candidates through co-op term positions to enable them to bid competitively on future career opportunities with the public service;
- Support learning for students interested in MoT's, MAL's or ILMB's business areas by providing them with hands-on experience in their field of study through applied consulting projects;
- Provide opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in work fields that will provide career growth and opportunities consistent with the students' academic training and interests, in co-op positions as well as auxiliary positions or development programs
- Support student learning by providing mentors.

Career and Educational Backgrounds

The scope of the pilot program portion of this Agreement applies to students who are enrolled in,

- Undergraduate Business Administration (BCom)
- Graduate Business Administration (MBA)

The MoT, MAL and ILMB will be able to provide students and graduates work experience in the following multi-disciplinary areas of the public service (list may be expanded):

- Entry level and middle management
- Land use planning
- Project management
- Performance management
- Policy development
- Communication
- IT Management
- Land administration
- Land information management
- Research and analysis
- Client service
- Stakeholder relations

The MoT, MAL and ILMB have benefited from effective working relationships with UVic in the past. This Agreement will provide more structure around the relationships, as well as provide all parties with a strong level of commitment and support from each other.

The commitment between all parties will officially begin on the date of signing, and will end on March 31, 2011, unless terminated earlier upon agreement. This Agreement can also be extended past the end date, if agreed upon by all parties.

Partnership Arrangements

The MoT, MAL and ILMB will:

- provide technical, administrative and scientific resources which will help ensure the successful completion of all approved Agreement activities;
- provide access to the organization's computer equipment, library materials, sample collections, expertise, databases, information and research assets, as may be required within the limitations of government's confidentiality responsibilities;
- provide six-ten (6–10) opportunities per year as defined below, subject to operational requirements.

1. Co-Ops

Employment opportunities to students in a variety of career fields relating to commerce, business administration, and related fields on 4-8 month work terms.

2. Applied Consulting Projects

Engage MBA students in long term and short term projects that will allow them to demonstrate consulting skills.

UVic will contribute to the pilot program portion of this Agreement the following:

- provide highly qualified undergraduate and graduate business students who can help meet shortages of skilled professionals within the MoT, MAL and ILMB ;
- advanced knowledge, skills, information resources and expertise needed to successfully fulfill the objectives of the Agreement;
- relevant administrative and academic resources within the Faculty of Business.

Partnership Review Committee

A "Partnership Review Committee", will be created and will consist of the:

- Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Business and the MBA Career and Co-op Coordinator, or their designates from UVic;
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Highway Operations and Director of Human Resources, or their designates from MoT;
- Director of Workforce Planning and the Director of Trade and Intergovernmental Relations, or their designates from MAL and;
- Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Client Services and Director of Regional Client Services, or their designates from ILMB.

This Committee will meet to carry out management, direction and program approvals necessary to accomplishing the objectives of the Agreement. At a minimum, an annual review by all members will be conducted to allow for changes, goal setting and agreement review.

Access to and Use of Data

The MoT, MAL, ILMB and UVic may disclose confidential information one to the other to facilitate work under this Agreement. This information should be kept confidential within the organizations, unless the information was already known, part of public information or was obtained by a third party which is not part of this Agreement. Access to data owned by each party shall be governed by the access policies and procedures of each party, and by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia.

Amendment

Any alteration or amendment to the terms and conditions of this Agreement must be in writing and duly executed by both parties.

Successors and Assigns

This Agreement will endure to the benefit of and be binding upon UVic and its successors and permitted assigns and the Province and its assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the day and year first above written.

SIGNED on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of British Columbia by a duly authorized representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Ministry of Transportation in the presence of:

_____) (Witness))	_____) Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands
_____) (Witness))	_____) Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation

SIGNED by a duly authorized representative of the University of Victoria in the presence of:

_____) (Witness))	_____) Dr. Dr. David H. Turpin, President and Vice Chancellor
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