

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER
BETWEEN
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (THE PROVINCE)
AND
THE SIGNATORY BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOARD)
(THE PARTIES)

(1) The Parties share the common understanding that:

- (a) Scientific consensus has developed that increasing emissions of human caused greenhouse gases (GHG), including carbon dioxide, methane and other GHG emissions, that are released into the atmosphere are affecting the Earth's climate;
- (b) the evidence of global warming is unequivocal and the effects of climate change are evident across British Columbia;
- (c) reducing GHG emissions will generate environmental and health benefits for individuals, families, and communities;
- (d) climate change and reducing GHG emissions are issues of importance to British Columbians;
- (e) government and public sector organizations urgently need to implement effective measures to reduce GHG emissions and anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts;
- (f) protecting the environment can be done in ways that promote economic prosperity;
- (g) the carbon tax reflects that there is an environmental and economic cost to continued use of fossil fuels;
- (h) it is important to take action and to work together to share best and next practices, to reduce GHG emissions and address the impacts of climate change; and
- (i) climate change is a long-term problem that will be solved over multiple generations, so it is key to involve youth in the solutions.

(2) The Parties acknowledge that each has an important role in addressing climate change and that:

(a) The Province has taken action on climate change with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (GGRTA), The Carbon Tax Act and other related legislation and regulations, as well as participation in a number of international partnerships including the Western Climate Initiative;

(b) Boards have taken action on climate change by encouraging educational programming on climate change and by implementing innovative infrastructure technologies;

(c) The Province and Boards are subject to the requirements of the GGRTA and applicable legislation and policy, including:

- (i) measuring and reporting on their GHG emissions;
- (ii) making plans and taking actions to reduce GHG emissions;
- (iii) developing Carbon Neutral Action Reports; and
- (iv) being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2010.

(d) These actions create the foundation for the Parties to be leaders in addressing climate change.

(3) This Charter acknowledges that:

(a) Buildings are a large portion of a Board's emissions and that funding for retrofits has been made available to assist schools in reducing their energy consumption; and

(b) Grants from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive program provide an opportunity for Boards to accelerate actions to reduce GHG emissions, for which they will be responsible to pay for offsets beginning in 2010, as well as to make decisions with regard to transportation and buildings that will also lower operating costs.

(c) The Province will reimburse the Board based on the actual costs of the carbon tax, derived from the Board's fuel purchases as measured and reported by the Board.

(4) The Parties share the common goals of:

- (a) fostering cooperative relations;
- (b) aiming to reduce GHG emissions, including both their own and those created by others;
- (c) removing barriers to taking action on climate change;
- (d) implementing programs and policies that facilitate reduced GHG emissions, where appropriate;
- (e) encouraging students and their families to be environmentally responsive through engagement and education; and
- (f) encouraging sustainable building, transportation and procurement practices that support the educational needs of the community while minimizing the environmental impact.

(5) In order to contribute to reducing GHG emissions:

- (a) Boards agree to develop strategies and take actions to reduce GHG emissions, such as:
 - (i) supporting anti-idling and other initiatives that reduce transportation emissions both within Board operations and in the broader school community;
 - (ii) pursuing opportunities to reduce emissions from operations; and
 - (iii) offering educational opportunities for students, in partnership with their parents, that promote sustainability and climate action both at school and at home.
- (b) The Parties will work together towards reducing GHG emissions by sharing information, and exploring additional opportunities to support climate change activities.
- (c) Boards agree to include in reports required under the GGRTA any additional actions or plans to reduce GHG emissions resulting from this Charter.

SIGNED on behalf of the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by:

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

Date: _____

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for
Early Learning and Literacy and Deputy Premier

Date: _____

SIGNED on behalf of the SIGNATORY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

(NAME OF BOARD OF EDUCATION)

by:

Chair

Date _____