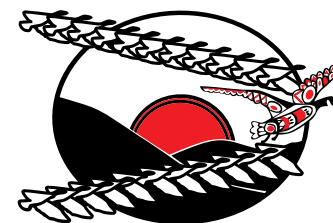


# DEVELOPING AN OFF-RESERVE ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN

## PROTOCOL AGREEMENT



Between the  
B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
("BCAAFC")



And the  
Province of British Columbia  
("The Province")

(collectively Referred to as "the partners")

### INTRODUCTION:

Seventy-four per cent of British Columbia's (B.C.) Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> population live off-reserve, with 60 per cent living in urban areas. The off-reserve/urban Aboriginal population is also fast growing and young (almost 50% are under the age of 25).

In comparison to the non-Aboriginal population, off-reserve Aboriginal people face disproportionate barriers to living long and healthy lives, including the lowest life expectancy and graduation rates, some of the highest rates of suicide, addictions, unemployment, poverty, victimization, incarceration and a disproportionate number of children within the child welfare system.

Laying a solid foundation together through innovative, community-driven, local off-reserve action plans will ultimately increase positive outcomes for the off-reserve Aboriginal population (e.g. increased employment rates, better education and job training, healthier family life).

The October 3, 2011 Speech from the Throne included a commitment that: *"The government will work with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an off-reserve Aboriginal action plan to achieve better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultures and traditions."*

Also, in a November 25, 2011 speech to the "Non-Profit Partnerships Summit: Collective Impact through Social Innovation", Premier Clark stated that *"The province is a participant and supporter of social innovation and entrepreneurship in B.C. We need to find new ways of doing business—one that involves working with the private, volunteer and non-profit sectors to create solutions that make a real difference in people's lives. Working together, we make real change."*

These two commitments set the stage for the Province of B.C. and the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) to creatively work together to develop and implement an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP) in B.C.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the key principles that will guide the relationship between the Partners as they move forward together to develop and implement an ORAAP.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### BCAAFC

The BCAAFC is an umbrella organization representing 25 Aboriginal Friendship Centres in B.C. More specifically, Friendship Centres in B.C. represent the largest service delivery infrastructure serving more than 140,000 Aboriginal people living off-reserve and offering a variety of wrap-around services including cultural resources, employment resources, health promotion and prevention services, counselling supports, and early childhood education and development services.

The BCAAFC's vision is to have a future where Aboriginal people have a quality of life that enables them to be strong, proud, and healthy individuals, and where this leads to economic self-sufficiency and sustainability for Aboriginal families and communities.

The BCAAFC's role in ORAAP is to lead and play a key coordination role in the development and implementation of a Provincial Strategy that improves the quality of life for Aboriginal Peoples in B.C. A key component in this strategy is the development of off-reserve Aboriginal action plans at the community level which are coordinated through local Friendship Centres. This will also involve working with other key local Aboriginal groups/service providers and partners (e.g. local businesses, not-for-profits, etc.) to ensure their interests and priorities are reflected.

#### The Province

The Government of British Columbia's vision includes a future where the Province has forged positive and enduring relationships with Aboriginal Peoples whose communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining. The Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord are two government commitments that support this vision.

The Province will work with the Federal Government and local governments to support coordination and collaboration in the areas of programs, services, and community engagement which help advance local priorities through off-reserve Aboriginal action plans. Coordination and research to support this agreement will be undertaken by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) on behalf of the Province.

## PRINCIPLES/APPROACH FOR WORKING TOGETHER:

In working together to develop an ORAAP, the BCAAFC and the Province will:

- » Respect the mandates, scope of responsibilities, unique role and contribution of each Party;
  - » Seek to align activities, resources and efforts to achieve the best possible outcomes;
  - » Agree on an overarching common purpose and approach;
  - » Build on approaches that have been successful to date;
  - » As required, undertake joint research to better understand key socio-economic issues and solutions to address community needs;
  - » In a phased approach and based on agreed-to criteria, work in collaboration with other partners to jointly identify initial communities to pilot the development and implementation of local off-reserve Aboriginal actions plans with the goal of expanding this process to other communities;
  - » Involve key Aboriginal organizations/ service providers, Aboriginal clients receiving services and other representatives of the Aboriginal community in the development, implementation and monitoring of activities supported by local action plans;
  - » Involve representatives from all levels of government, the private sector (e.g. financial institutions), not-for-profit organizations in the development, implementation and monitoring of activities supported by local action plans;
- » Support off-reserve programming and services that are culturally appropriate and reflect the unique interests, priorities and needs of the Aboriginal community;
  - » Agree on an approach that reflects measureable outcomes through the comprehensive evaluation and monitoring of community initiatives; and,
  - » Create a space at the community level to model social innovation and entrepreneurship in a way that enables Aboriginal communities to build their own sustainable creative solutions and measureable outcomes. Key elements may include:
    1. Supporting an innovative community development process rooted in local Change Labs, or other community development models which are multi-stakeholder efforts to address a particular complex challenge in a given social system;
    2. Developing flexible social programming and/or creative funding and financial investment solutions (e.g. Social Impact Bonds) that support and respond to community priorities and needs;
    3. Leveraging the good work of the Social Innovation Council, Government Non-Profit Initiative and others; and,
    4. Seeking innovative solutions through integrated, cross-governmental collaboration that supports community interests and priorities.

The BCAAFC and the Province agree to adhere to these principles and will work together to find new ways of doing business through a model that supports social innovation and entrepreneurship in B.C. Ultimately, it is the intention of the partners to work together in a meaningful and measurable way to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal People in B.C.

SIGNED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR 2012

ON BEHALF OF THE:  
BC ASSOCIATION OF ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRES:

ANNETTE MORGAN  
PRESIDENT

WITNESS

ON BEHALF OF THE:  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:

THE HON. IDA CHONG, FCGA  
MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

WITNESS