

**Good Neighbours:  
An Inventory of Interprovincial Cooperation  
in Western Canada, 1990-2002**

***A Building the New West Project Report***

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# BUILDING THE NEW WEST

This report is part of the Canada West Foundation's **Building the New West Project**, a multi-year research and public consultation initiative focused on the strategic positioning of western Canada within the global economy.

Five key priorities emerged from an extensive research and consultation process and provide a framework for the Building the New West Project:

- the West must create the tools to attract, retain and build **HUMAN CAPITAL**;
- the West must continue **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**;
- the West must strengthen its **TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**;
- the West must promote the global competitiveness of its **MAJOR CITIES**; and
- the West must develop new ways of facilitating **REGIONAL COORDINATION**.

To learn more about the BNW Project, please visit the Canada West Foundation website ([www.cwf.ca](http://www.cwf.ca)).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

“By working together even more closely, governments will be better able to streamline operations, reduce costs and encourage economic development.”

– *Working Together: An Inventory of Intergovernmental Cooperation in Western Canada, 1980-1993*

As part of its *Building the New West Project*, the Canada West Foundation held a series of consultations in 2001 with western Canadians about how to ensure the long-term prosperity of the western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba).<sup>1</sup> Participants stressed that a greater degree of cooperation among the four western provincial governments is a prerequisite for long-term economic success both within Canada and on an international level. This highlights the need for more information and debate about interprovincial cooperation in western Canada.

To fill this need, the Canada West Foundation began conducting research on two related fronts: 1) the theoretical benefits of interprovincial cooperation in the West (i.e., an examination of why it makes sense for the western provinces to work together); and 2) existing examples of interprovincial cooperation in the West. The theoretical case is outlined in a companion report entitled *Common Ground: The Case for Interprovincial Cooperation in Western Canada* (Roach 2003) and an account of interprovincial cooperation initiatives in the West since 1990 is presented in this report.

*Good Neighbours: An Inventory of Interprovincial Cooperation in Western Canada, 1990-2002* is a valuable resource for government staff, politicians, analysts, and citizens interested in the current intergovernmental environment and the quest for greater interprovincial cooperation and the benefits it promises. *Good Neighbours* presents readers with a wealth of examples of interprovincial cooperation and points to the significant degree of policy cooperation that takes place among the western provinces.

Additional research is needed to better understand why the initiatives outlined in *Good Neighbours* came to be, what they have achieved, and what they tell us about both the barriers to successful interprovincial cooperation, and what works in this important area of public policy. As such, this list of initiatives forms the foundation for both further research and more interprovincial cooperation.

### Methodology

*Good Neighbours* presents a list of cooperative public policy initiatives involving two or more western Canadian provincial governments from 1990 to 2002 (initiatives in place before 1990 but ongoing at some point between 1990 and 2002 are included).

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1. The Canada West Foundation hosted five consultative events in April and May 2001. The Western Builders Roundtable brought together over 60 community leaders to discuss regional aspirations and policy goals. The event, held in Calgary and chaired by Peter Lougheed (former Premier of Alberta), featured Allan Blakeney (former Premier of Saskatchewan), Gary Filmon (former Premier of Manitoba), Michael Harcourt (former Premier of BC) and Preston Manning (former Leader of the Official Opposition). Four provincial consultations were subsequently held in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Winnipeg. The provincial consultations brought together over 250 community leaders from across the four western provinces. Participants were asked to look ahead to 2020 and think through the requirements for regional prosperity in a turbulent global environment.

Pan-Canadian initiatives are *not* included unless they began as a western initiative, replace pre-existing western initiatives, or have a clear regional cooperation component. For example, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada is *not* included because it is a national rather than western initiative. The inventory includes agreements involving provinces from other parts of Canada or American states as long as two or more western Canadian provinces are also involved; bi-lateral agreements between a western province and a non-western province, the federal government, or a foreign government are *not* included.

The inventory is based on an investigation of intergovernmental cooperation in 13 broad areas of public policy activity:

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Agriculture
- Culture and Tourism
- Education (K-12)
- Education (Post-Secondary)
- Energy
- Environment
- Finance
- Health and Social Services
- Justice
- Science and Technology
- Trade (Interprovincial and International)
- Transportation

The inventory is meant to be comprehensive, but the challenges of examining complex and constantly evolving policy environments mean that there may be initiatives in place that do not appear on the list. Effort has also been taken to include only concrete initiatives involving a significant degree of direct intergovernmental cooperation rather than attempt to compile a complete list of intergovernmental discussions, funding arrangements, meetings, and partnerships. However, in policy areas where there is a lack of formal agreements, cooperation in the form of regular meetings is included to provide a sense of the extent of interprovincial cooperation in these areas.

The inventory was created in three stages. First, using a previous inventory of western Canadian interprovincial cooperation published in 1993 as a starting point (Government of Alberta *et al.* 1993), a preliminary list of agreements was developed using secondary sources such as provincial websites and reports and information obtained from provincial government departments. Second, relevant portions of the preliminary list were then submitted to applicable provincial government departments for their review. The final stage involved updating the inventory to reflect additions and changes received from the provincial government departments that responded.

## 2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF INTERPROVINCIAL COOPERATION IN THE WEST

“In the evolution of Canadian intergovernmental relations, interprovincial relations have remained relatively undeveloped, evolving more as an adjunct to federal-provincial bargaining than as a dimension of Canadian intergovernmental relations in their own right.”

– Roger Gibbins, *Regionalism: Territorial Politics in Canada and the United States*

Although there has probably been some form of interprovincial cooperation among the four western provinces since the entry of Alberta and Saskatchewan into Confederation in 1905, “inter-provincial interaction [prior to 1960] on a non-technical level was rare” (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 340). Where it did occur, it was initiated to coordinate “provincial attacks on the federal government rather than to pursue interprovincial cooperation in fields of provincial jurisdiction” (Gibbins 1982, 93).

As the federal and provincial orders of government expanded their economic and social roles in the 1960s and 1970s, the demand on the part of the provinces “for consultation prior to the enactment of federal legislation in areas of provincial jurisdiction and in areas of federal jurisdiction that have a direct impact on the provinces” (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 341) stimulated greater interprovincial interaction and cooperation.

During this period, two distinct strains of western Canadian interprovincial cooperation emerged: 1) the development of common policy positions on federal-provincial issues to improve the region’s bargaining position vis-à-vis the federal government and better communicate regional concerns (particularly in regard to regional economic development); and 2) the fostering of cooperation among the western provinces in areas of *provincial* jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup> The former emerged as the dominant strain and the main focus of academic analysis on intergovernmentalism. Disputes with the federal government are a political rallying cry for western premiers and generate significant media coverage. Intra-regional cooperation, on the other hand, does not enjoy the same level of political interest or media attention. As a result, the second strain has yielded a long list of cooperative initiatives among the western provinces but has, for the most part, remained in the shadows of the give and take of federal-provincial relations, the quest for a better deal for the West within the federation, and the creation and administration of national programs and standards. A relative lack of formal institutions through which to develop and administer interprovincial cooperation *within the West* rather than in the federal-provincial arena remains a major barrier to solidifying efforts in this area.

The creation of the Prairie Economic Council in 1965 provided a high-level forum for the discussion of interprovincial cooperation:

Initially the Council met on a yearly basis to facilitate the exchange of information among the three Prairie Provinces.

Among the topics for discussion were the abolition of provincial preferences on public purchases and contracts, the

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2. It is important to note that interprovincial cooperation was conceived of in terms of cooperation among four provinces rather than the erosion of provincial power or unification. Working together as provinces rather than seeking to create a single prairie or western province remains the basic principle of interprovincial cooperation in the region and shows no signs of being replaced by a new vision.

utilization of the Port of Churchill and the elimination of discriminatory practices affecting interprovincial trucking. No attempt was made to develop common policy positions nor to convey a “Western Canadian” viewpoint to the federal government. (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 343)

This inward orientation changed after 1968 and was replaced with a preoccupation with federal-provincial relations. This preoccupation continued after the inclusion of British Columbia within the framework of the Western Premiers’ Conference that replaced the Prairie Economic Council in 1973. As “the federal-provincial conference came to be viewed as the most effective mode of articulating Western Canadian grievances to the federal government” (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 344), the meetings of the western premiers were largely used as planning sessions to prepare for the federal-provincial meetings.<sup>3</sup> As Elton argues, “the most important function performed by the Western Premiers’ Conferences has been that of providing a mechanism and forum for coordinating the western provinces’ interactions with the federal government” (Elton 1988, 352; see also Tomblin 1995, 133 and Gibbins 1982, 93-94). The early promise of greater interprovincial cooperation within the West was waylaid by the need to address longstanding grievances with the federal system and federal government. Cooperation in areas of provincial jurisdiction did not disappear from the agenda, but they did fade into the background as federal-provincial issues stepped into the policy spotlight.

The focus on federal-provincial relations was given a significant boost by the Trudeau government’s decision to hold a Western Economic Opportunities Conference (WEOC) in Calgary in 1973. The western premiers saw the conference as opportunity to “gang up” on Ottawa by producing regional policy positions endorsed by all four provinces. This “marked the first occasion on which the federal government entered into discussions with a regional grouping of provinces that were united behind a common position on a broad range of issues” (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 347). Disappointment on the part of the western leaders with the federal government’s response to their concerns at the conference, combined with increasing federal involvement in areas of provincial jurisdiction, ushered in a long period of federal-provincial wrangling that dominated the intergovernmental cooperation agenda in western Canada. “Trudeau’s attempt to develop a more integrated approach to regional concerns ultimately provided the provincial governments with a vehicle for taking on the federal government” (Tomblin 1995, 132).

The dominance of federal-provincial relations on the intergovernmental agenda has meant that interprovincial cooperation in areas of provincial jurisdiction in the West – despite the existence of numerous initiatives and agreements – has not received the attention it deserves among politicians, analysts, or the public. As a result, opportunities for additional cooperation have not been pursued with the same aggressiveness as have relations with the federal order of government. There is, therefore, a need for more cooperation, bolder initiatives, and new mechanisms through which to institutionalize cooperation within the region.

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3. The development of western Canadian positions on federal-provincial issues was facilitated by the election of four new governments in the West between 1969 and 1972. The new premiers (Barrett, Lougheed, Blakeney and Schreyer) “indicated a greater willingness than [their] predecessor[s] to set aside partisan and personality differences in the hope that a regional policy [on federal-provincial issues] could be developed” (Westmacott and Dore 1977, 345-6).

### 3. INVENTORY OF INTERPROVINCIAL COOPERATION IN WESTERN CANADA, 1990-2002

<b>Policy Area: ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Provincial/Territorial Western and Northern Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements (AHRDA) Information and Coordination Task Group	At a December 2000 federal/provincial/territorial deputy ministers' policy forum, the issue of coordination around Aboriginal human resource development agreements and labour market development agreements was raised. Provincial/territorial deputy ministers agreed to focus future discussions on western and northern jurisdictions. HRDC agreed to assist with the provincial/territorial coordination efforts.	2001-Ongoing	Western provinces, the territories, New Brunswick, and the federal government (HRDC)
Western Provincial and Territorial Meeting of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs	Western provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs met for the first time in May 2002 and again at the end of July 2002.	2002-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
Western/Territorial Aboriginal Business Summit	Business summit to be hosted by the western provinces and northern territories to promote greater Aboriginal involvement in the economy.	2003	Western provinces and the territories
<b>Policy Area: AGRICULTURE</b>			
Alberta-Saskatchewan Livestock Inspection Agreement	Provides for harmonized livestock inspection services.	1982-Ongoing (a new agreement was put in place in 1999 that expires in August 2003)	Alberta (Livestock Identification Services) and Saskatchewan
Annual Meeting of the BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba Surface Rights Boards	Informal process to review problems and solutions in each jurisdiction with reference to the surface rights acts in each province.	Ongoing	Western provinces
The Association of Western Applied Research Institutions (AWARI)	AWARI is involved in the acquisition, development, and transfer of technologies and information to increase product potential, quality, diversity, and marketability. It includes the BC Food Technology Centre; the Alberta Food Processing Development Centre; the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre Inc.; the Saskatchewan's Protein, Oil and Starch Plant Corporation; and the Food Development Centre located in Manitoba.	Ongoing	Western provinces (Manitoba's involvement is through informal regular contact with the other western provinces)
The Farm Family Expenditure Project (FAMEX)	Cooperative research project involving Alberta Agriculture, Manitoba Agriculture, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Alberta.	Ongoing	Alberta and Manitoba
Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Program	Cooperation between the Alberta and BC governments facilitates the delivery of the Alberta Feeders' Association livestock life insurance and bonding insurance programs to members of feeder associations in BC.	Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Interprovincial Dairy Control	A negotiated arrangement allows fresh packaged milk and raw milk to move freely across provincial borders.	Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan

<b>Policy Area: AGRICULTURE continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Interprovincial Movement of Bees Policy	Outlines the conditions of movement for pest control purposes among the western provinces.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Joint Development of Self-Assessment Model for Farm Managers	An informal farm managers review group consisting of representatives from government, post-secondary institutions and the private sector meets to exchange information.	Ongoing	Western provinces, post-secondary institutions, and the private sector
Joint Studies on Crop Production Economics	Western agricultural officials work together on analyzing/reporting programs for different province-based agriculture studies.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Joint Western Promotions	Cooperative arrangements have been established to jointly promote local community agricultural events.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Manitoba-Saskatchewan Livestock Inspection Agreement	Provides livestock inspection services to Saskatchewan producers who take their livestock to Manitoba auction markets.	1996-Ongoing	Manitoba and Saskatchewan
Memorandum of Understanding with the Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute (PAMI)	PAMI operates stations for machinery tests. Established in 1974 by the three prairie provinces to avoid duplication of support for research, development, and testing of farm equipment. Alberta withdrew in 1988, but maintains ongoing coordination through an MOU.	1974-Ongoing (latest MOU signed in 2000)	Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Alberta until 1988)
Northern Plains Producer Conference	A government/producer conference to discuss policy, solutions, awareness of cross-border trade, and other issues.	Ongoing	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
Periodic Workshop on Aspen/Brush Encroachment	Joint initiative to address aspen and brush encroachment of pasture and hay lands.	2001-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Prairie Provinces Letters of Understanding – Livestock Development and Manure Management	Provides for cooperation and sharing of information on livestock development and manure management.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Sharing of Market Analysis	Market analysts from each province speak at meetings and conferences in other provinces. Publications are also shared.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Sharing of Soil Conservation Extension Material	MOU among Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the federal government to share soil conservation information.	Effective until March 31, 2003 with Manitoba expressing an interest in renewal	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the federal government
Western Agricultural Safety Nets Initiative	At the 1993 Annual Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the ministers from the western provinces agreed to explore a common western approach to agriculture safety nets.	1993	Western provinces



<b>Policy Area: AGRICULTURE continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)	WASDA is comprised of 12 western US state agriculture departments and includes Alberta and BC as Canadian affiliates.	Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and western US states
The Western Canada Research Group for Extended Storage of Meat and Meat Products	Designed to develop and evaluate methods of extending the storage life of fresh meat. Includes: Agriculture Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Food Processing Centre.	Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Western Farm Management Extension Committee	Informal group of officials. Provides a forum for the exchange of farm management extension information.	Ongoing (met once in each of the last three years after a period of dormancy)	Western provinces and Ontario
Western Milk Pool	Allows processors to rationalize plants without affecting producer income in other provinces. (Whole farm transfers are possible between all western provinces except Manitoba.)	1997-Ongoing	Western provinces
Western Provinces Memorandum of Understanding on Rural Development	Provides for the sharing of information, establishment of electronic links for information sharing, cooperation on staff development, sharing of staff, facilitation of interaction among community leaders, and development of an educational program for community development.	1991-Ongoing	Western provinces
<b>Policy Area: CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>			
Agreement on Prairie Music Awards	Provides funding for the Prairie Music Alliance.	2001-2004	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Alberta-British Columbia Agreement Concerning Ownership and Disposition of Molds and Specimens of Dinosaur Tracks Collected in the Peace River Canyon Area	Covers the ownership and allocation of dinosaur track molds and specimens between Alberta and BC provincial museums.	1978-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Arctic Winter Games	Multi-sport event involving northern Alberta, the NWT, the Yukon, Alaska, Greenland, and Russia.	Ongoing (event is held every two years)	Alberta, the NWT, the Yukon, Alaska, Greenland, Russia
Cooperative Tourism Marketing Efforts	Tourism ministers signed a MOU on cooperative tourism marketing. Objectives were to identify matches between the different western markets and to develop joint marketing activities. Joint marketing programs ceased in the mid-1990s due to the restructuring of provincial tourism agencies. Provinces and territories continue to pursue joint initiatives on a project-by-project basis in areas of common interest.	1990-mid-1990s (territories signed on in 1991)	Western provinces and the territories
Inter-Library Loan Agreements	Alberta has inter-library loan agreements with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the NWT, and the Yukon regarding the acquisition and maintenance of seldom-used library materials for joint use.	1982-Ongoing (NWT - 1982; Saskatchewan - 1983; Manitoba - 1984; Yukon - 1990)	Alberta and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the NWT, and the Yukon

<b>Policy Area: CULTURE AND TOURISM continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Manitoba and Saskatchewan Tourism Cooperation	Manitoba and Saskatchewan cooperate with respect to offshore marketing of tourism and sharing of tourism research information.	Ongoing	Manitoba and Saskatchewan
Reverse Market Place Trade Show	Joint marketing effort that targets overseas tour operators and wholesalers who are interested in developing programs for western Canada.	Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Travel Trade Manual	Alberta and BC tourism departments jointly published an information manual on the tourism industry in the two provinces.	1993	Alberta and BC
Western Canada Games	No formal agreement. The Games were created to provide western provinces and territories a higher level of sport competition, improve sport facilities and foster volunteerism.	1975-Ongoing (held every four years)	Western provinces and the territories
Western Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Research	Designed to coordinate research activities. A committee, comprised of senior research staff of western provinces/territories, makes recommendations on research projects to be undertaken and exchanges research information of common interest.	Ended in the late 1990s (replaced by a national initiative)	Western provinces (now occurs nation-wide)
Western Provinces/Territories Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Industry Standards and Certification	Facilitated the identification and development of competency-based standards for tourism occupations, interprovincial validation and endorsement of each province's work in career awareness for the tourism industry. A working group was formed to coordinate a three-year cooperative standards and certification project. (Alberta transferred this responsibility to the Alberta Tourism Education Council [ATEC] in 1994.)	1990-1994	Western provinces and the territories
<b>Policy Area: EDUCATION (K-12)</b>			
Alberta-Saskatchewan-Northwest Territories Agreement for Education of Saskatchewan and NWT Students at the Alberta School for the Deaf	Partnerships between Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories with Alberta to allow up to 11 Saskatchewan students and one NWT student into the program. Saskatchewan and the NWT reimburse Alberta.	Signed 1991 (now expired)	Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the NWT
Western Canadian Protocol (WCP) for Collaboration in Basic Education (specific agreements listed below)	A forum for education ministers from the western provinces and northern territories to collaborate on education policy for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The Protocol outlines the eight areas in which the ministers agreed to work together (curriculum in English; curriculum in French; curriculum in languages other than English and French; distance learning and technology; special education; student assessment and standards of student performance; Aboriginal education; and teacher education and certification. Working groups, led by one province or territory, address curriculum areas and other shared interests/issues in basic (K-12) education for possible collaboration.	1993-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories

<b>Policy Area: EDUCATION (K-12) continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> Charter for e-Learning Working Group	The e-Learning charter encourages inter-jurisdictional collaboration in the development, delivery and exchange of distance learning resources and related technology products. Focus is on shared digital resources and online courses, standards for interoperability of web-based materials and building repositories of learning resources. Replaces the original MOU for Distance Learning and Technology.	2002-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs, K-12	The framework is intended to be a support document for schools or regions within the western provinces and the territories wishing to develop curricula, learning resources or strategies dealing with Aboriginal languages. Work on the framework began in 1996 and was completed in 2000.	2000-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for Bilingual Programming in International Languages, K-12	Bilingual programming in international languages refers to partial immersion programs where the language of instruction is English and/or a second "international" language (i.e., a language other than French or the languages of Canada's Aboriginal peoples).	1999-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts (ELA), K-12	Developed by the ministries of education in cooperation with teachers and other educators. Jurisdictions agreed that a common curriculum would increase consistency and ease student mobility.	1998-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for International Languages, K-12	The framework covers the development of curricula for international language courses (i.e., languages other than English, French or the languages of Canada's Aboriginal peoples). These courses are distinct from bilingual or immersion programming in which the language of instruction is not only the subject but is also used as the medium of instruction for other subjects.	2000-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for Mathematics, K-12	The math framework was the first in a series of joint development projects under the auspices of the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education. The framework was developed by the western and territorial ministries of education in collaboration with teachers and other stakeholders and identifies beliefs about mathematics, general and specific student outcomes and illustrative examples. Each jurisdiction will determine when and how the framework is to be implemented.	1995-Ongoing (grades K-9); 1996-Ongoing (grades 10-12)	Western provinces and the territories
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> The Common Curriculum Framework for Social Studies K-12	Francophone and Aboriginal representatives were partners in the development of a common curriculum framework for social studies. By 2000 grades K-9 were completed. BC and Alberta did not accept the framework.	1999-Ongoing (grades K-9); 2002-Ongoing (grades 10-12)	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the territories
<i>Western Canadian Protocol:</i> Special Education Working Group Agreement	The WCP directors of special education agreed to maintain a current catalogue of existing resources produced by the western jurisdictions (on the Saskatchewan Education website) and to develop teacher resource materials in special education that aid the inclusion of all students across grade levels and curricula.	1997-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories

<b>Policy Area: EDUCATION (Post-Secondary)</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Alberta-BC Orthotics and Prosthetics Cost-Sharing Agreement; BC-Saskatchewan Orthotics and Prosthetics Cost-Sharing Agreement	BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan jointly fund the Prosthetics and Orthotics Diploma Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).	1986-Ongoing (current agreement in effect until June 2004)	Individual agreements are negotiated between BC, BCIT and Alberta, and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Manitoba-Saskatchewan Interprovincial Agreement - Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at SAIT in Calgary	Allows a specific number of students from Manitoba and Saskatchewan into the program. Saskatchewan and Manitoba reimburse Alberta.	Ongoing (AB-MB since 1993; AB-SK since 2001)	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Lakeland College Memorandum of Agreement	Lakeland College (Alberta) serves the residents of the Lakeland Region of Northwestern Saskatchewan as well as Northeastern Alberta in exchange for financial contributions by Saskatchewan. Agreement continues until terminated by either party.	Ongoing (signed 1982 and again in 1999)	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Occupational Therapy Cost-Sharing Agreement at the University of Alberta in Edmonton	Alberta, through the University of Alberta, admits up to 15 full-time first year students annually. Saskatchewan pays costs incurred in expanding the program to accommodate their students. Saskatchewan students are admitted over and above the Alberta quotas.	1978-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan-Manitoba Training in Denturist Technology Cost-Sharing Agreement (Dental Mechanics at NAIT in Edmonton)	Allows a specific number of students from Manitoba and Saskatchewan into the program. Saskatchewan and Manitoba reimburse Alberta.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Apprenticeship Arrangements (Informal)	Provinces provide technical training to participants from other provinces or territories where such training is not available. An example is the industrial instrument mechanic program offered in Alberta and Saskatchewan.	Ongoing	Western provinces
International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) Agreement	Provides Saskatchewan residents with access to international credential assessment services provided by IQAS in Alberta. Under the terms of this contract, Saskatchewan funds the base costs for the delivery of this service and individuals pay assessment costs directly to IQAS.	1995-Ongoing (renewed every three-year period)	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Occupational Therapy at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg	Partnership between Manitoba and Saskatchewan to allow a specific number of Saskatchewan students into the program. Saskatchewan reimburses Manitoba.	Ongoing (latest three-year agreement signed 1999)	Manitoba and Saskatchewan
Respiratory Therapy at SAIT in Calgary	Partnership between Alberta and Saskatchewan to allow a specific number of Saskatchewan students into the program. Saskatchewan reimburses Alberta.	2000/2001 (five-year agreement)	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon	Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the federal government agreed that the College would be the only one in western Canada. Spaces in the undergraduate program are allocated on a quota system.	1964-Ongoing (current agreement in effect from 2002 to 2007)	Western provinces, U of Sask., and the federal government

<b>Policy Area: ENERGY</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Bi-Provincial Heavy Oil Upgrader at Lloydminster	Alberta and Saskatchewan entered into an agreement in 1988 with Husky Oil to finance, build, and operate a heavy oil upgrader near Lloydminster. Completed in December 1992.	1988-1992	Alberta and Saskatchewan
The Clean Hydrocarbon Technology Futures Group (CHTF)	Established to generate and champion a transformational technologies action plan that will break hydrocarbon energy's linkage with GHG emissions and change the way we look at sustaining fossil fuel energy in a carbon constrained world.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan and the federal government
Management Protocols for Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide in Canada	Created to develop a generic policy framework for provinces to manage/regulate the storage of carbon dioxide.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, the federal government, private sector, and academic community
Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Regulations and Policies on Seismic Operations and/or Oilwell Perforating Blasters and Explosives	Goal is to establish cooperation on regulations and policies regarding seismic operations and oil-well perforating blasters and explosives.	1997-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) - Energy Working Group	PNWER's mission is to foster sustainable economic development throughout the region. The Energy Working Group was established at a 2001 PNWER meeting to explore a regional energy strategy in the Pacific Northwest that promotes cooperation between interests in Canada and the US. The Energy Working group brings together government officials, legislators, and industry leaders. The other major function of the Energy Working Group is to identify emerging distributive generation technologies which contribute to energy conservation and efficiency.	2001-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, the Yukon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
Regulatory Information Data Exchange	Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, and oil and gas industry members entered into a partnership to streamline, rationalize, standardize, and electronically transfer oil and gas data. (The National Energy Board encouraged the provinces to go with a common data set in electronic format.)	1993-1995 (became a nation-wide initiative after 1995)	Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan
Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC)	Sets reliability standards and provides a forum to settle disputes.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and US states
Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)	WIEB is an organization of 12 western states and three western Canadian provinces (Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan). Its purpose is to provide the instruments and framework for cooperative state efforts to "enhance the economy of the West and contribute to the well-being of the region's people." The Board serves as the energy arm of the Western Governor's Association and most of its work is conducted through committees.	1991-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, and 12 western US states

<b>Policy Area: ENVIRONMENT</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Alberta-British Columbia Agreement Regarding the Bennet Dam and Peace River	A task force was set up to study and recommend measures to prevent ice jam flooding in the Town of Peace River and other reaches along the Peace River.	1974-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Alberta-Canada-Saskatchewan-Manitoba Master Agreement on Apportionment and the Prairie Provinces Water Board	Established the Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) to manage the commitments made in the Agreement surrounding easterly flowing water. The PPWB meets at regular intervals to review matters of interest and to confirm that the quality and quantity requirements are being met. It is also a communications network in case of emergencies or spills and has a number of committees that meet regularly. (A sub-agreement also exists between Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the federal government.)	1969-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the federal government
Alberta-Canada-Saskatchewan-Peace-Athabasca Delta Implementation Agreement	Established the Peace-Athabasca Delta Implementation Committee which was designed to monitor control weirs on the delta.	Ongoing (signed 1974 and 1986)	Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the federal government
Alberta-Saskatchewan Interprovincial Parks Memorandum of Understanding	Designed to increase cooperation in interprovincial parks by declaring neighbouring border line parks as interprovincial. Under an interprovincial park designation the two provinces work jointly in the areas of resource protection and management, marketing and promotion, visitor services-facilities and joint training opportunities. (Only Cypress Hills has been identified as an interprovincial park.)	1992-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding on Acidic Deposition Management	Provides for cooperation in the management of acidic deposition by articulating mutual objectives, delineating areas of collaboration, setting out principles for mutual efforts, and defining a mechanism for working together.	2001-2007	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta Support Plan for a Catastrophic Earthquake in British Columbia	A joint Canada/Alberta plan in the event of a catastrophic earthquake in BC to coordinate lifesaving activity. The plan is coordinated with the National Earthquake Support Plan and BC Earthquake Response Plan.	Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and the federal government
Border Fire Zone Agreements (Alberta-BC; Alberta-Saskatchewan; and Alberta-NWT)	Cooperative agreements to suppress forest fires occurring between a specified zone on either side of agreed borders. There are clauses to share resources and costs of fire suppression. The western provinces are also participants in agreements that provide mutual aid in fighting critical forest fires and for assisting other nations such as the US and Mexico.	1980s-Ongoing	Alberta and BC; Alberta and Saskatchewan; Alberta and the NWT
Canada-Alberta-NWT Northern Agreement Respecting the Peace-Athabasca-Slave River Study Phase 11 Technical Studies	Jointly funded by Canada and Alberta to gather comprehensive information on the effects of development on the Peace, Athabasca, and Slave Rivers.	1991-1995	Alberta and the federal government; the NWT co-signed the agreement while BC and Saskatchewan both have observer status

<b>Policy Area: ENVIRONMENT continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Emergency Preparedness Training	Both Alberta and BC have facilities dedicated to emergency preparedness training and offers have been made to neighbouring jurisdictions to share course placements and material. Cross-border exercises have also been conducted.	Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Environmental Cooperation	Manitoba and Saskatchewan entered into a cooperative relationship on environmental protection. Areas of the agreement include environmental quality (biological, chemical, physical characteristics), emissions and waste discharges affecting the other party, information exchange on hazardous waste, environmental accidents and remedial actions.	Concluded in 2002	Manitoba and Saskatchewan
Geosciences Initiatives	The western provinces exchange data for the development of a Geological Atlas of the Western Sedimentary Basin in cooperation with the Canadian Geological Survey. They cooperate on a number of fronts including standardizing map symbols, developing national strategies and participating in a Petroleum Tenure Committee so that all producing provinces can deal with industry on a more consistent basis.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement	Establishes common principles for the cooperative management of the aquatic ecosystem of the Basin; establishes an administrative mechanism to facilitate applications of those principles, and makes provisions for bilateral transboundary water management agreements between neighbouring jurisdictions.	1977-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, and the territories
MOU on Technical Studies Related to the Peace-Athabasca Delta	Alberta, BC, the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, the Fort Chipewyan Metis Association, and the Mikisew Cree First Nation signed the MOU in response to concerns about changes in the magnitude and frequency of water level fluctuations on the Peace River. The parties agreed to undertake a three-year \$1 million program of technical studies with a view to developing a Peace-Athabasca Delta Ecosystem Management Plan.	1993-1995	Alberta, BC, and Aboriginal groups
The Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC)	An interdisciplinary research network established to understand the potential effects of climate change on the prairie provinces.	2000-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the federal government
Western Accord on Environmental Cooperation (WAEC) - sub-agreements are listed below	Provides for a coordinated regional approach on regional environmental matters and facilitates environmental cooperation by promoting bilateral agreements. Includes agreements to adopt cooperative principles for environmental assessment; regional management of issues as needed; information sharing; cooperation on standards and procedures, including environmental monitoring and reporting; and development of standards and guidelines. Sets out list of priority areas for action.	1991-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the NWT, and the Yukon.
<i>Western Accord on Environmental Cooperation: Western Canada Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management</i>	Formed to assist with the management of hazardous waste generation in western Canada.	1993-Ongoing (still exists on paper but has not been active since 1995)	Western provinces



<b>Policy Area: ENVIRONMENT continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<i>Western Accord on Environmental Cooperation:</i> Western Canada Task Force on Underground Storage Tanks	Established to review issues related to the management and operation of underground petroleum storage tanks in western Canada.	1990-1997	Western provinces (now carried out by a national body)
<i>Western Accord on Environmental Cooperation:</i> Western and Northern Canada Task Force on Waste Reduction and Recycling	Exchanges information on provincial management plans with regard to waste reduction and recycling.	1991-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
<i>Western Accord on Environmental Cooperation:</i> Western Provincial-Territorial Air Quality Issues Coordinating Committee (AQUICC)	Focused on identification of common areas of concern; development of regional opportunities for reduction, utilization, and disposal of greenhouse gases; development of principles to guide interjurisdictional agreements; and development of joint monitoring and research programs.	1991-Ongoing	Western provinces, the territories, and the federal government
<b>Policy Area: FINANCE</b>			
Alberta-BC Agreement for the Exchange of Information Concerning the Administration and Enforcement of Provincial Taxes	Permits the exchange of information for the purposes of administering provincial taxes; mutual assistance in determining tax liabilities; and joint investigations or audits when mutually advantageous. Covers a number of Alberta and BC statutes (e.g., Fuel Tax Act and the Hotel Room Tax Act).	1988-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Alberta-Manitoba Agreement for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tobacco Tax	Intended to facilitate cooperation between the provinces in matters relating to the administration and enforcement of tobacco taxes by increasing the exchange of information in matters of mutual interest.	1982-Ongoing	Alberta and Manitoba
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreement for the Exchange of Information Concerning the Administration and Enforcement of Provincial Taxes	Permits the exchange of information for the purposes of administering provincial taxes, mutual assistance in determining tax liabilities, and joint investigations or audits when mutually advantageous. Covers a number of Alberta and Saskatchewan statutes (e.g., the Fuel Tax Act and the Hotel Room Tax Act).	1988-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Exchange of Information Tax Agreements	Manitoba has exchange of information agreements with almost all Canadian jurisdictions. These agreements cover tax acts (Corporation Capital Tax Act, Gasoline Tax Act, Mining Tax Act, Retail Sales Tax Act, Tobacco Tax Act, Motive Fuel Tax Act, Pari-Mutual Tax Act, Revenue Act, and the Payroll Act).	Ongoing (agreements signed: BC-1986; AB-1989; and SK-1993)	Manitoba and Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan
Financial Institutions	In 1988, the western provinces signed an intergovernmental agreement (Alberta-British Columbia-Manitoba-Saskatchewan Intergovernmental Agreement on Information Sharing on Financial Institutions) to facilitate the exchange of information on financial institutions operating across the four western provinces. Western cooperative efforts have been folded into a Canada-wide federal-provincial process to harmonize legislation and policy.	1988-Ongoing	Western provinces (now includes all Canadian provinces)



<b>Policy Area: FINANCE continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Reports of the Western Finance Ministers	In 1990, the western premiers asked their ministers of finance to prepare reports on the economic and fiscal challenges facing western Canada. These reports are written cooperatively by the four ministers on an annual basis and are presented at each year's Western Premiers' Conference.	1990-Ongoing	Western provinces
Western Canada Lottery Board	The Western Canada Lottery Corporation is a regional marketing organization responsible for marketing lottery products in the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.	1974-Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan (the territories participate as Associate Members)
<b>Policy Area: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES</b>			
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreement for Processing Medical and Hospital Services for Alberta Residents on the Onion Lake Reserve</i> – covers the administration of claims relating to the provision of medical and hospital services provided by the Province of Saskatchewan to Alberta residents residing on the Onion Lake Reserve that straddles the Saskatchewan-Alberta border.	1988-mid-1990s	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Alberta-Saskatchewan Dental Plan Agreement</i> - Saskatchewan Department of Health provides dental health education and preventative services to children of Alberta residents attending elementary schools within the boundaries of Lloydminster.	1983-mid-1990s	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Alberta-Saskatchewan Joint Child and Family Service Centre</i> - a partnership whereby Saskatchewan Social Services' Child and Family Services branch and Alberta's Ribstone Child and Family Services Authority will house their offices in the same building. This simplified and coordinated approach is the result of extensive community consultations.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Alberta-Saskatchewan Mental Health Agreement</i> - Saskatchewan Mental Health (North Battleford Region) provides community mental health services to Alberta residents living in Lloydminster and the surrounding area. Alberta Health reimburses Saskatchewan for services.	1973-mid-1990s	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Alberta-Saskatchewan-Lloydminster Home Care Funding Agreement</i> - Agreement renews previous agreements with Saskatchewan providing Alberta residents of Lloydminster with home care services. Alberta Health reimburses Saskatchewan.	1990-mid-1990s	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Alberta-Saskatchewan Agreements Relating to the Town of Lloydminster	<i>Collaboration Between Alberta Health and Lloydminster School Boards</i> - Alberta Health, through Speech and Hearing Services, of the Public Health Division, provides funding to Lloydminster school boards for the provision of speech language pathology to Alberta children.	1989-mid-1990s	Alberta and Saskatchewan

<b>Policy Area: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative	Addiction agencies of the western provinces met and developed an initiative to strengthen the family and the community; provide a variety of treatment approaches to meet the needs of young people; reduce the duplication of services; and to promote interprovincial cooperation. Each of the western provinces has reinstated, expanded or announced new alcohol and drug abuse initiatives and has exchanged information on existing programs.	1988-Ongoing	Western provinces
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) - National Working Group on Addictions Policy	The CCSA Working Group monitors policy issues, prepares policy discussion documents and helps coordinate substance abuse and problem gambling policy across Canada.	1992-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec
Canadian Executive Council on Addictions	Provides a forum to influence national public policy related to addiction. Consists of senior executives of addictions agencies or recognized provincial authorities operating in Canada and approved by the board of directors.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Ontario, and the federal government.
Cooperation in the Identification and Investigation of Welfare Fraud	Alberta has individual information sharing agreements (MOUs) with BC, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan to identify individuals who are collecting social assistance in both provinces in order to prevent, stop, or prosecute fraud. These agreements were replaced by a national initiative in 1998.	1992-1998 (BC- 1992; Saskatchewan- 1994; Manitoba- 1995)	Alberta and BC, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Interprovincial Agreements for Reciprocal Processing of Medical Hospital Claims	There are standard agreements which exist between almost all provinces which relate to the "portability" requirement of the Canada Health Act. The two most common agreements are: Agreements for Reciprocal Processing of Out-of-Province Claims for Medical Services by Physicians; and Health Hospitals and Medical Care-Interprovincial Reciprocal In/Out Services Agreements.	Ongoing	All provinces (national) - some western collaboration/discussion
Prairie Northern Pacific Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Partnership	Founded by the three prairie provinces. At its creation in 1998, three provincially-based projects were announced: Manitoba would develop a model for diagnosis of FAS in remote locations; Saskatchewan would develop training materials for professionals; and Alberta would develop clinical practice guidelines for physicians and midwives. Membership and activities have broadened since 1998.	1998-Ongoing (the prairie provinces were the original members; the territories and BC joined later)	Western provinces and the territories
Rationalization of Post-Graduate Medical Education	Emerged from the 1992 Banff Conference of Ministers of Health who endorsed a national strategy for managing physician resources. Four regional committees were created: West/North, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada. It is important to note that, although four regional committees exist, this is a national initiative.	1992-Ongoing	All provinces (West/North regional committee)
Sites of Excellence	The provinces have pledged to establish sites of excellence in health care in order to share human resources and equipment. At the 2002 Western Premiers' Conference, it was announced that a Pediatric/Cardiac Surgery Network of specialized sites will be developed - Gamma Knife Neurosurgery has been identified for Winnipeg.	2002-Ongoing	All provinces and territories (western collaboration on regional sites)

<b>Policy Area: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Western "Best Practices Report" on Youth Employment and Student Debt	Western provinces prepared a "Best Practices Report" that articulates a coordinated western approach to the national discussions on a youth employment strategy and on reducing student debt. The report was tabled by BC at the annual Premiers' Conference and endorsed by all premiers as a step toward a national strategy. A "Four Point Agenda for Action on Youth Employment" report was also prepared by the western labour market ministers.	1997-1998	Western provinces
Western Canadian Committee on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)	Addresses and coordinates action on issues related to naturally occurring radioactive material. The Committee consists of industry representatives and representatives from the relevant government departments of Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan.	1991	Alberta, BC, and Saskatchewan
Western Health Information Collaborative (WHIC)	A process initiated by the western premiers and deputy ministers of health to explore collaborative opportunities with respect to health "infostructure" initiatives. This collaboration has explored common opportunities that meet western provinces and territories' health information needs and support the strategic directions and initiatives for health "infostructure" at the national level. Projects include a provider registry; client registries; pharmaceutical information network and standards; laboratory information and standards; architecture; telehealth; and an electronic health records strategy.	1999-Ongoing	Western provinces, the territories and key provincial "infostructure" providers
<b>Policy Area: JUSTICE</b>			
BC Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders	BC has reciprocal agreements for the enforcement of maintenance support orders with all Canadian provinces and territories and also with US jurisdictions.	Ongoing	BC, Canadian provinces and territories, and US jurisdictions
Conference of Western Attorney Generals (CWAG)	The purpose of CWAG is to provide a forum for the exchange of views and experiences on justice issues, to foster interstate cooperation on legal issues, and to conduct policy research and analysis pertaining to the law.	Ongoing	Western provinces and US states
Court Services	Information regarding court services is routinely shared by justice departments. Examples of programs where information is shared are: Winnipeg Family Violence Court Model; Manitoba's Action Plan Against Stalkers; Alberta's Protection Against Family Violence Act; Alberta's Civil Enforcement Act; and British Columbia's Protocol on Child Sexual Abuse.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Crown Prosecutors' Continuing Legal Education ("Crown School") - formerly the Western Canada Crown Prosecutors' Conference	This is an annual course targeted at junior prosecutors. Prosecutors have attended from jurisdictions across Canada, including BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the NWT, Nunavut, the Yukon, and Ontario.	1982-Ongoing	All provinces and territories (formerly only the western provinces)

<b>Policy Area: JUSTICE continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Information Sharing Among Financial Service Regulators	Information sharing arrangements between financial services regulators exist between the western provinces and nationally.	Ongoing	Western provinces and nationally
Mutual Prosecutorial Assistance in the Review and/or Prosecution of Sensitive Criminal Cases (Informal Agreement)	Occasionally a provincial attorney general's department finds itself in a potential or perceived conflict of interest. As a response, the western provinces have developed a practice of providing reciprocal prosecutorial assistance for these types of cases.	1988-Ongoing	Western provinces
Reciprocal Agreements Regarding Withholding Driver's Licenses	Allow jurisdictions to withhold driver's licenses for non-payment of fines in other participating provinces.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Return of Fugitives Agreement	A reciprocal enforcement agreement for the return of fugitives between Alberta, BC, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.	Ongoing	Western provinces
Saskatchewan-BC Film Classification Agreement	Agreement between BC and Saskatchewan under which BC's Film Classification Office classifies all new theatrical releases and adult videos on behalf of the Saskatchewan Film and Video Classification Board.	1997-Ongoing	BC and Saskatchewan
Sexual Offender Registry	Western provinces pledged to examine the feasibility of establishing a network of provincial sex offender registries in the absence of a national one. In February 2002, the federal government pledged to develop a national registry and therefore the western one is on hold.	2001 (unsure of current status)	Western provinces
<b>Policy Area: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>			
Alberta-British Columbia Business Network Technology Sharing Agreement	BC created an on-line electronic information service that carries Western Purchasing Information Network (WPIN) data. The Agreement ensures that subscribers have access to data as soon as it is available on WPIN, and that Alberta will market WPIN in the province and provide technical support to Alberta subscribers.	1990-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Alberta-Saskatchewan-Town of Lloydminster Surveying and Mapping Agreement	Alberta and Saskatchewan agreed to establish a survey and mapping system.	Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Canadian Light Source	Located in Saskatchewan, the Canadian Light Source will be one of the world's most powerful synchrotrons and will be used by university, government, and industrial researchers for unprecedented studies in material, chemical, and biological sciences. Funding partners are Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the federal government.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the federal government
Churchill Rocket and Research Range	A permanent facility in Manitoba provided a basis for rocket development and upper atmosphere research by western universities. It was built in the 1950s and was a major centre of activity for Canada's aerospace industry.	1950s-1998	Western provinces

<b>Policy Area: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Earth Environment Space Initiative	Western science and technology ministers established a task force of government and industry representation. A MOU was signed by western ministers and the Earth Environment Space Initiative industrial partners to work together to develop a small satellite-earth observation program.	1990-Ongoing	Western provinces
Genome Prairie	Genome Prairie operates in collaboration with Genome Canada and four other regional genome research centres, plus other partners that include the provincial governments of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, the private sector, federal laboratories, prairie universities and other national and international research agencies. It is a non-profit corporation with the goal of promoting research in the prairie region.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, private sector, and universities
Industrial Technology Centre	Participants include the Alberta Research Council (ARC) and the Saskatchewan Research Council. No formal agreements are in place. There have been talks to establish a more formal arrangement.	Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Memorandum of Understanding on the Coordination of Science and Technology Initiatives for Western Economic Diversification (WD)	At the 1994 Western Premiers' Conference, the western provinces and the territories agreed to increase cooperation in science and technology to stimulate economic development, wealth creation, and job creation. This MOU targets three areas for cooperation: strategic infrastructure; research and technology commercialization; and science and technology awareness.	1996-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the territories, and Western Economic Diversification
Pacific Institute for Mathematical Studies (PIMS)	A collaborative venture of five universities in Alberta and BC. PIMS is dedicated to promoting all aspects of the mathematical sciences by stimulating, coordinating and facilitating the activities of mathematical scientists in Alberta and BC by linking them more closely with those in industry, business, government sectors, and mathematical scientists in the rest of the world.	Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and five regional universities
Provincial Research Council Agreements	Memoranda of Agreement and Understanding were signed between the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Alberta Research Council and the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Manitoba Economic Innovation and Technology Council that established cooperative working relationships and understandings to ensure the optimal use of resources across provinces in the application of science and technology for economic and regional development.	Expired 2002	Saskatchewan and Alberta; Saskatchewan and Manitoba
TRIUMF-KAON Project (involves splitting sub-atomic particles)	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan signed MOUs with BC expressing support for the KAON project. The federal government provided operating and capital investment. Project resulted in the TRIUMF-KAON Ventures Office which the BC government supported.	1991-1998	Western provinces (federal government funding)
TRLabs	TRLabs is Canada's leading research consortium in information and communications technology. Based on industry, university and government collaboration, TRLabs operates five laboratories in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, private sector, and universities

<b>Policy Area: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Western Governments' Telecommunications Conference	Conference involved the western provinces and territories. The objective was to exchange information and foster joint initiatives in the area of telecommunications. Intent was to develop an Interprovincial Telecommunications Sharing Agreement.	1993-Ongoing	Western provinces and the territories
Western Provinces Biotech Committee	Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA) participates on a Pan-Western Biotech Committee involving representatives from the four western provinces.	1999-Ongoing	Western provinces
WestGrid (Interprovincial Computer System Grid)	WestGrid is a \$30 million project that will link computer resources of eight research institutions in Alberta and BC to expand their research capabilities. WestGrid may eventually be a model for a national grid.	2002-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
<b>Policy Area: TRADE (Interprovincial and International)</b>			
Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)	The AIT was designed to promote the free movement of people, goods, services and capital across provincial borders by eliminating barriers to trade. It does this through eleven sectoral chapters: procurement; investment; consumer related measures; agricultural goods; alcoholic beverages; natural resources; energy; communications; transportation and environmental protection. The AIT replaces many trade agreements that were already in place between the western provinces. Chapter 18 of the AIT creates room for regional trade liberalization. To date, no Chapter 18 initiatives are underway in the West.	1995-Ongoing	All provinces, the territories, and the federal government
Cross-Sector Meetings	Western trade officials meet semi-annually with Western Economic Diversification (WD), External Affairs, Industry, and Science and Technology Canada to ensure maximum cooperation in the development of western Canadian exports and diversification of the western economy.	Ongoing	Western provinces and the federal government
EXTUS-Exporters to the US (Formally NEBS Plus)	Federally-sponsored program to help Canadian firms connect with appropriate export markets in the US. Participation in this project has resulted in joint Alberta-BC and Alberta-Saskatchewan-Manitoba trade missions to the US.	Ongoing	All provinces with room for regional cooperation
Trade Promotion and Representation Abroad	Cooperative trade promotion activities have been considered for a number of regions – including China, Mexico and Vietnam – for sectors such as agriculture-related equipment and technology, telecommunications, value-added food products and environment-related equipment technology. A Mexico Initiative Working Group was formed to review plans for this market and to recommend projects which could involve firms from more than one province.	1992-Ongoing	Western provinces
Trade Promotion and Representation Abroad – Team Canada West Trade Mission	Organized by the western provinces, territories, federal government and business delegates to increase trade. The first trade mission focused on California and resulted in 19 deals valued at \$92.8 million.	First Mission held November 2001	Western provinces, the territories, and the federal government

<b>Policy Area: TRADE (Interprovincial and International) continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Western Canada Federal/Provincial Trade Officials Committee	Formed out of the 1987 Western Premiers' Conference when premiers agreed to cooperate in the area of trade promotion and representation abroad. The Committee has cooperated on many trade missions, trade shows and other activities.	1987-Ongoing (meets twice annually)	Western provinces and the federal government
The Western Trade Barriers Reduction Agreement, or the "Western Accord"	Administrative agreement to reduce barriers to trade for printing services in western Canada. The "Western Accord" is still an active intergovernmental agreement. However, the measures established by this agreement have, as a practical matter, been superseded by the Agreement on Internal Trade.	1992-Ongoing	Western provinces
<b>Policy Area: TRANSPORTATION</b>			
British Columbia-Alberta Peace River Farm Agreement	Exempts commercial farm trucks operated by farmers resident in the Peace River area of Alberta from motor vehicle licensing in BC.	1960-Ongoing	Alberta and BC
Joint Vehicle Inspection Stations	Alberta and Saskatchewan run joint vehicle inspection stations. (Alberta and BC are negotiating a formal agreement.)	1995-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
Liquid Asphalt Specifications	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan participate to share information and develop specifications related to liquid asphalt.	Ongoing	Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan
Maintenance and Improvement to Highway 17 Jct. of Highway 14 to North of North Saskatchewan River	Agreement between Alberta and Saskatchewan whereby Saskatchewan undertakes capital improvements and maintenance on this section of the highway, and Alberta shares 50% of the cost.	Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan
MOU on Harmonization of Special Permit Conditions for Oversize/Overweight Loads	The western provinces are negotiating an MOU to reduce barriers to interprovincial transportation by improving the compatibility of standards for weights and dimensions of vehicles operating under the authority of oversize/overweight permits. A draft MOU was tabled at the Council of Ministers meeting held in Winnipeg in September 2002.	Completion expected by the end of 2002	Western provinces
Northern Great Plains Inc. - Trade and Transportation Infrastructure Investment Strategy Project	An organization dedicated to the economic region of the middle northwestern US states, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are involved in a three-year project launched in May 2002 intended to ensure that the transportation and information technology infrastructure is capable of serving the demands of the region.	2002-Ongoing	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota
North Dakota-Manitoba-Saskatchewan Border Planning Project	The goal is to develop a model for achieving international coordination of construction, planning, project programming and operation of second-tier border crossings (low volume crossings) and then apply the model to the Pembina, North Dakota-Emerson, Manitoba crossing. A Pembina-Emerson Border Planning Committee was established to work towards implementing recommendations.	Ongoing	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and North Dakota
Reciprocal Trucking Agreement Between Alberta and Saskatchewan	Reciprocal trucking arrangements allow trucks to cross borders without having to obtain or pay for vehicle registration in the other jurisdiction.	1989-Ongoing	Alberta and Saskatchewan



<b>Policy Area: TRANSPORTATION continued</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Regional Council of Western Transportation Ministers	In July 2002, the western transportation ministers signed a Letter of Intent to cooperate on transportation regulation, policy, and planning. Recognizing that the transportation network is largely a shared asset, the goal is to formalize a process that will facilitate a cooperative regional approach to transportation policy and planning issues of mutual concern – including common representation to the federal government – where appropriate through a joint council.	2002-Ongoing (Letter of intent signed July 2002; MOU signed November 18, 2002)	Western provinces
Standardized Vehicle Weights and Dimensions (Council of Ministers MOU)	The intent of the MOU is to improve uniformity in weight and dimension regulations for commercial vehicles operating between provinces and territories.	1988-Ongoing	Western provinces
Standardizing Vehicle Weights and Dimensions	In North America, the Interprovincial Task Force (IRP) on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy covers the prorating of registration fees among the 10 provinces and 49 states. In Canada, there is also the Canadian Registration and Reciprocity Agreement (CRRA) that deals simply with the reciprocity of vehicles covered by the IRP. The CRRA is a national agreement created in 2001, replacing a former agreement. (A Western Regional Task Force is a subgroup of the CCRA.)	Ongoing	All provinces, territories and the US states (the western provinces participate in a regional task force subgroup)
Transportation of Dangerous Goods Western Compliance Working Group	Formed to ensure the coordination of activities in compliance and enforcement of the dangerous goods legislation; identify problem areas and recommend and adopt solutions; and to ensure a coordinated effective approach to inspection and enforcement procedures.	1987-Ongoing	Western provinces
Transportation Regulation (MOU)	The MOU is intended to reduce barriers to interprovincial and territorial transportation.	1988-Ongoing	Western provinces
Western Association of Canadian Highway Officials (WACHO)	Activities include: exchanging and coordinating technical, engineering and administrative knowledge among highway officials; fostering cooperation; and establishing networks and developing professional relationships.	Meets annually (essentially defunct since 1995)	Western provinces
Western Canada National Safety Code Managers' Committee	This informal committee consists of western Canadian National Safety Code (NSC) Directors (directors with federal delegation) trying to harmonize NSC rating and profile rules across western Canada.	Ongoing (meets twice a year)	Western provinces
Western Provinces Rail Administrators	Activities include exchanging and coordinating technical, engineering and administrative knowledge among railway officials; fostering cooperation; and establishing networks.	2000-Ongoing (meets annually)	Western provinces



<b>Policy Area: KEY MEETINGS AND INSTITUTIONS</b>			
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Council of State Governors - West (CSG-WEST)	CSG-WEST is a public, non-partisan and non-profit association serving legislatures in the western states. Alberta and BC are associate members. The CSG-WEST promotes excellence in legislatures through regional cooperation, collaboration, and professional development.	1947-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, and western US states
Northern Great Plains Inc.	An organization dedicated to the economic region of the middle northwestern US states, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.	1997-Ongoing	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)	PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership created by Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and Alberta, BC, and the Yukon to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region. PNWER has an Executive Committee, Delegate Council, Secretariat, Working Groups, a Private Sector Council and hosts conferences. The Delegate Council encourages bilateral and regional interaction among legislative members.	1991-Ongoing	Alberta, BC, Yukon and Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
Western Premiers' Conference	Annual meeting of the western premiers and territorial leaders.	1973-Ongoing (Usually held in late spring)	Western premiers and territorial leaders
Western Premiers and Governors Meetings	To foster more communication and cooperation between western Canada and the western US, premiers and governors agreed to attend Western Premiers' Conferences and Western Governors' Association meetings. The WPC and the WGA agreed to establish an official committee that would provide a conduit between senior government departmental staff of the various states and provinces and to open avenues for communication and cooperation. Options are also being explored for informal dispute avoidance mechanisms.	1999-Ongoing	Western provinces and western US states

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