



## British Columbia – Washington State

### Joint Action Plan on Awareness and Outreach for Coastal Impacts of Climate Change



**Whereas**, the Province of British Columbia and Washington State recognize the need for urgent and bold action on climate change;

**Whereas**, our governments have previously committed to take joint action on communicating and reaching out to the public on impacts of and adaptation to climate change under a Memorandum of Understanding on Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, signed on June 20, 2008;

**Whereas**, the Province of British Columbia and Washington State share a coastline that is vulnerable to a similar range of impacts caused by global climate change;

**Whereas**, our governments have already undertaken efforts to build an understanding of coastal impacts from climate change, including rising sea levels;

**Whereas**, we wish to continue to enhance understanding of specific vulnerabilities to sea level rise at a local level;

**Whereas**, we recognize that the success of mitigating and adapting to climate change will depend greatly on the support and participation of citizens;

**Therefore**, the Province of British Columbia and the Washington State Department of Ecology resolve to implement the following Action Plan:

#### **Coastal Impacts of Climate Change: Awareness and Outreach**

In support of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies of both governments, the Province of British Columbia and the Washington State Department of Ecology agree to:

- Work together to highlight the real impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments in coastal areas, and the public's role in adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts;
- Engage citizens in gathering images and other materials that promote awareness of the specific potential impacts of sea level rise and storm surges;
- Share communications, material and strategies;
- Share learning associated with delivering climate change messages and information about climate risks and public engagement in actions they can take; and
- Coordinate outreach through interested non-government organizations.

The Washington State Department of Ecology will provide the Province of British Columbia information on the development of its Beach Observation Program, which is designed to evaluate physical changes to beaches resulting from natural events and human alterations.

**Limitations**

The undersigned signatories agree that this Action Plan shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on either the Province of British Columbia or Washington State. Neither the Province of British Columbia nor Washington State shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this Action Plan.

AGREED as to form and content and signed and dated in two (2) duplicate originals in Olympia, Washington this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2011.

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**The Honorable John Yap**  
**Minister of State for Climate Action**  
**Province of British Columbia**

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**Ted Sturdevant**  
**Director**  
**Washington State Department of Ecology**