

Executive Order No. 29-2008

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE MONTANA-CANADIAN PROVINCES RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the State of Montana shares an international border with the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS, the people of Montana and bordering Canadian Provinces have enjoyed long-standing friendships, as well as close cultural, family, and trade relations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana and bordering Canadian Provinces share a number of cross-border management issues including agriculture, livestock, wildlife, energy, environment, water management, transportation, tourism, education, economic development, law enforcement and emergency preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, ongoing consultations on cross-border issues and open communications help to foster mutual understanding and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, the Governor of Montana and the Premier of Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, which provides, in part, for annual meetings of government officials to discuss issues of mutual concern and to facilitate cooperation; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2001, the Governor of Montana and the Premier of Saskatchewan signed an Intergovernmental Accord on Cross-Border Relations, which provides, in part, for annual meetings of government officials to discuss issues of mutual concern and to facilitate cooperation; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2003, the Governor of Montana and the Premier of British Columbia signed an Environmental Cooperation Arrangement, which provides, in part, for the development of a process to identify, coordinate and promote mutual efforts to ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of our shared environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby continue the Montana-Canadian Provinces Relations Advisory Council.

I. PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The purpose of the Council is to facilitate an open dialogue, promote closer relations and further the exchange of information with government officials representing Canadian Provinces. The Council shall invite the participation of executive branch agency representatives to assist in coordinating policy and to address issues within their areas of expertise.

II. COMPOSITION

The Council shall consist of the Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as the Council Chair, and members of the Montana Legislature, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The names and addresses of the Council members shall be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State and the Department of Commerce.

The Council is attached to the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes. The Department shall assist the Council by providing staff and other resources to carry out the Council's purpose. Working with the Lieutenant Governor, the Commerce Department, on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, may request executive branch agencies to provide information and/or representatives to participate in Council meetings for the purpose of providing agency expertise and may request information and/or representatives of the public to provide specific knowledge and expertise.

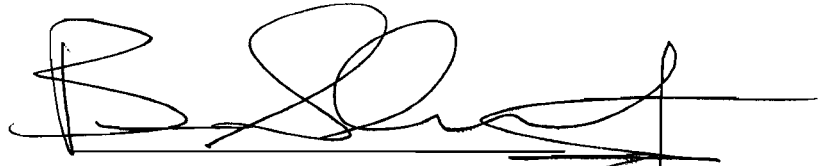
III. COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL

Council members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Department of Commerce in an amount to be determined by the Department head, not to exceed \$50 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of Council duties. Permission is hereby given for the Council to meet outside of Helena (§ 2-15-122(7), MCA).

IV. DURATION

The Council shall exist for two years from the effective date of this Order. This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Montana this 9th day of April, 2008.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:


BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State *deputy*