



OIL AND GAS
COMMISSION



Mediation and
Arbitration Board

NEWS RELEASE

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OIL AND GAS COMMISSION AND MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION BOARD SIGN COORDINATION AGREEMENT

FORT ST. JOHN – The BC Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) and the Mediation and Arbitration Board (MAB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) providing enhanced services to parties seeking dispute resolution, OGC Commissioner Alex Ferguson and MAB Chair Cheryl Vickers announced today.

“Both organizations understand there can be confusion over which organization is best suited to address issues facing landowners and oil and gas companies,” Ferguson said. “The MOU provides coordinated support and information to parties through parallel dispute resolution processes.”

“The OGC and MAB retain distinct authorities for addressing unresolved issues with respect to subsurface resource development accessed through private land,” said Vickers. “Coordinating the application of those authorities provides better service and better outcomes for the parties involved.”

The MOU enables a combination of the independent dispute resolution processes of the OGC and the MAB. Landowners and oil and gas companies now have the benefit of working through both processes simultaneously, effectively coordinating available dispute resolution processes. The goal is to provide objective, comprehensive and streamlined dispute resolution to fully address the concerns of all parties.

The OGC is an independent, one-window integrated regulatory agency with responsibilities for overseeing oil and gas operations including exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation. It is charged with balancing a broad range of environmental, economic and social considerations. Among its more specific objectives are public safety, conservation of petroleum resources, fostering a healthy environment, and equitable participation in production.

The MAB is an independent, quasi-judicial board established to resolve disputes between landowners and sub-surface holders with respect to surface access and compensation. If landowners and holders of sub-surface rights are unable to negotiate a surface lease agreement providing the subsurface holder with surface access and the landowner with compensation for that access, the MAB may issue a right of entry order and determine compensation and other terms. The MAB provides mediation and arbitration to resolve disputes.

A company wishing to remove petroleum and natural gas resources by accessing private land must first obtain development and operating approval from the OGC. Landowners have the right to be compensated for access to their land for the purpose of developing the subsurface resources. At times, one or both parties seek assistance or intervention from either the OGC or MAB to resolve issues the parties cannot resolve themselves.

BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact:

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