

This Settlement marks the successful resolution of long-standing Canadian concerns over the proposal approved by the International Joint Commission in 1942 to raise the Ross Dam in the State of Washington, thus flooding the Skagit River Valley, to supply electricity to Seattle. The settlement was negotiated by senior officials of the Governments of Canada, the United States and British Columbia as well as the City of Seattle under the aegis of the International Joint Commission.

The Settlement, which will be in force for a period of eighty (80) years, ensures that the flooding of the Skagit Valley into British Columbia will not take place. Seattle will not raise the Ross Dam and, in return, British Columbia will supply the city with electricity equivalent to that which would have been generated had the dam been raised. British Columbia will receive as payment for the electricity the sums equivalent to the cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the dam.

Signature of the Canada-British Columbia Agreement, represents acceptance by both Governments of their Settlement roles and obligations. It also opens the way for the Proclamation of the Federal Skagit Valley Treaty Implementation Act, which received Royal Assent on June 7, 1984 - bringing into the force of Canadian law important provisions of the Skagit River Valley Treaty. Proclamation will allow Canada and the United States to ratify the Treaty and thus initiate the Settlement.