

Final Report

Premier Klein's Mission to Eastern Canada and the United States
June 9 –16, 2001



Overview:

Energy was the primary focus as Premier Klein met with key public and private sector leaders in Nova Scotia, Ottawa, Washington D.C., and New York. Highlights of the mission included the Premier's meeting with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, and top-level U.S. energy and financial leaders.

The mission was successful in meeting its objectives as outlined below.

Mission Objectives:

Nova Scotia

- Strengthen governmental and business ties with Nova Scotia.
- Build support for Alberta's positions on resource ownership and the role of the provinces in any discussions on the continental energy market.
- Outline Alberta's support for a fair equalization formula.

Ottawa

- Profile Alberta's leadership in creating a debt-free future for its citizens, establishing a low tax environment that nurtures innovative technology enterprises, and extending technology-based services throughout the province.

Washington D.C.

- Inform U.S. Administration and Congressional leaders responsible for energy policy of Alberta's role as a key supplier of energy within Canada/North America and of the Alberta government's jurisdiction over energy resources.
- Review with key decision-makers, the Cheney Energy Task Force Report and the process for implementation.
- Communicate Alberta's commitment to working with the U.S. Administration in the development of continental energy markets.
- Promote awareness of the competitive benefits of Alberta's distribution hub and services for connecting northern gas to U.S. markets.

New York

- Build on current awareness in the investment community about Alberta as an energy provider and gas distribution hub.
- Highlight new investment opportunities in Alberta's diversified economy.
- Introduce the Alberta Advantage message to select senior members of the investment community.
- Update the media on Alberta's dynamic economy and business prospects.

Results:Halifax – June 9-11

Premier Klein addressed the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing that all Canadians benefit from a strong Nova Scotia and that Alberta supports Nova Scotia's efforts to ensure it benefits fully from the development of offshore energy resources. In a meeting with John Hamm, Premier of Nova Scotia, he also reaffirmed Alberta's support for an objective equalization formula. He encouraged Premier Hamm to use Nova Scotia's resources to transform the province's economy.

Ottawa – June 12

While in Ottawa, Premier Klein accepted an award from the Canadian Advanced Technology Alliance at the "Globetech" conference, a key event for Canada's high-tech community. The award recognizes the Alberta government's contribution to a positive business climate in Canada. In his presentation, Premier Klein profiled Alberta's leadership in creating a debt-free future for Albertans. He highlighted the province's low tax environment that nurtures innovative technology and Alberta's plans to extend technology-based services throughout the province.

Washington, D.C. – June 13-14

In Washington, D.C., the Premier met with U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney. The meeting was the first between a Premier and a U.S. Vice-President since 1985 and was particularly valuable given Cheney's role as head of the U.S. National Energy Task Force. During the meeting, Premier Klein highlighted Alberta's energy resources and world-class technical expertise. He invited the Vice-President to visit Alberta to examine the vast energy reserves of the oil sands firsthand. The meeting provided the Premier with valuable information and insights into some of the specific issues and challenges facing the U.S. in its quest to expand energy supply.

Premier Klein held a series of meetings and discussions with congressional leaders, regulators and senior energy officials, including: Andrew D. Lundquist, the head of the National Energy Task Force; Frank Blake, Deputy Secretary of Energy; Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Senator Frank Murkowski, Member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and, Curt Hebert, Chairman of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

These meetings were excellent opportunities to discuss U.S. energy issues, the options offered by Alberta's vast energy reserves, pipeline expansion through Alberta, and the province's ownership of its natural resources.

New York, N.Y. – June 14-16

In New York City, the Premier and Gary Bettman, Commissioner of the National Hockey League (NHL), explored funding options for Alberta's NHL hockey teams, including the possibility of a new lottery ticket product.

The Premier also met with key representatives of Pricewaterhouse-Coopers and Merrill Lynch to explain Alberta's key role in the North American energy market and to outline Alberta's other economic advantages. He updated these leading financial analysts about Alberta's economy, its investment climate, and the province's role in continental energy discussions. Discussions also focused on the delivery of investment information on the Internet, tax considerations and issues, and corporate investment considerations. The analysts asked were also interested in the status of the proposed northern gas pipeline routes, the province's electricity generation and supply, and Alberta's oil sands.

Delegation:

- Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta
- Murray Smith, Minister of Energy
- Gerry Bourdeau, Deputy Minister, International and Intergovernmental Relations
- Gordon Olsen, Executive Director, Southern Alberta Office of the Premier
- Jim Law, Communications Manager, Southern Alberta Office of the Premier

Expenses:

The official delegation incurred the following expenses (Cdn \$):

Hotels:	\$14,120
Airfare:	\$10,600
Meals:	\$1,690
Other*:	\$1,270
Total:	\$27,680

* Includes telephone charges, taxis and sundries.