

Final Report

Mission to France and Ukraine

June 13-22, 2006



Overview:

Premier Ralph Klein explored leading-edge cancer research, promoted Alberta's energy industry and enhanced ties with two of Alberta's sister provinces during a mission to France and Ukraine, June 13-22, 2006.

In early 2006, Alberta introduced the *Cancer Prevention Legacy Act* to make Alberta a worldwide leader in the fight against cancer. In France, Premier Klein learned firsthand about Cancéropôle de Toulouse, the country's leading-edge cancer research and treatment centre project.

Building upon a recent resurgence in French investment in Alberta, Premier Klein promoted the "Alberta Advantage" during presentations to the business community in France. He also impressed upon leaders of French industry that Alberta's oil sands projects welcome further investments from France, particularly in upgrading.

The Ukrainian leg of the mission reciprocated recent visits to Alberta by leaders of Alberta's newest sister provinces, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk. This mission focused on deepening Alberta's sister province relations with western Ukraine, the region from which most of Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian community of 300,000 originated. Premier Klein announced a genealogical research project, an education cooperation project, and opened a museum exhibit on Ukrainian immigration to Alberta.

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

Mission Objectives:

France:

- Promote French interest in Alberta's oil sands, including investment, technology, equipment supply, and skilled labour needs;
- Promote international recognition of Alberta's oil sands reserves by meeting with the International Energy Agency (IEA); and
- Study France's vision to establish the Cancéropôle de Toulouse, a centre for excellence for cancer research and treatment.

Ukraine:

- Official visit to reciprocate visits to Alberta by Governors of Alberta's twinned provinces of Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk; and
- Strengthen key areas of cooperation with twinned provinces, particularly in education, culture and heritage.

Results:**June 15**

Greg Melchin, Alberta Minister of Energy, joined Premier Klein for energy-related meetings in Paris, France, before continuing on his separate mission to the Netherlands and Germany.

Premier Klein began his program in Paris by discussing Alberta's geography, economic climate, high-tech and advanced education sectors, and Alberta's position as an energy supplier with approximately 50 journalists, members of the European American Press Club. The journalists were particularly interested in Alberta's successful debt elimination strategies and the challenges resulting from our province's current economic boom. This important event resulted in broad coverage of Alberta in leading media outlets including *Les Echos*, *La Tribune* and the European edition of *Time* magazine.

Following that event, Premier Klein focused on Alberta's booming economy and growing energy industry during an address to approximately 200 business leaders at a luncheon organized by the Chambre de Commerce France Canada and the Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF). The Premier pointed out that Alberta welcomes investment from France, not only in the oil sands where French companies are active, but also in the upgrading and petrochemical industry and downstream processing. He also recognized the important contributions of Alberta companies that are investing in France, among them Vermillion Energy Trust and EnCana.

June 16

In the morning, Minister Melchin met with Bill Ramsay, Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA). Minister Melchin thanked the IEA for a recent report which recognized Alberta's sizeable oil reserves of 175 billion barrels as the world's second largest after Saudi Arabia. Discussion of the global outlook for energy and Alberta's role as a secure and reliable supplier followed.

Later, Premier Klein and Minister Melchin met with Luc Doyon, Air Liquide Canada and Ron LaBarre, Senior Vice President, Air Liquide World for in-depth discussions concerning that company's current activities in Alberta and plans for future expansion. Air Liquide is a leading producer of hydrogen, a necessary feedstock for upgrading bitumen.

During an energy focused business luncheon hosted by Claude Laverdure, Canada's Ambassador to France, Premier Klein discussed with French and Canadian energy companies including Total, Technip, EnCana, and the IEA, the advantages and challenges facing Alberta's rapidly expanding energy sector.

Although schedules did not allow for a one-on-one meeting, Premier Klein and French Industry minister François Loos had a brief telephone discussion on common interest in promoting Alberta-France commercial relations. Minister Loos had visited Alberta just prior to the Premier's visit to France and shared his impressions of Alberta's vibrant energy industry.

The Premier and Minister Melchin later met with Thierry Desmaret, CEO, and Michél Seguin, Senior Vice President, of Total, the world's fourth largest oil company. Total has led recent significant French investment in Alberta's oil sands. In 2005, Total increased its stake in the Surmont oil sands project and acquired Deer Creek Energy for \$1 billion.

June 17

Alberta's new *Cancer Prevention Legacy Act* commits \$500 million to improving Alberta's research and treatment of cancer. For its part, France had announced in 2003 a national effort to mobilize its fight against cancer. On this day, Premier Klein was joined by Dr. Jean Michel Turc, President of the Alberta Cancer Board, in Toulouse for a meeting with Dr. Philippe Douste Blazy, France's Foreign Minister. Dr. Douste Blazy is also head of the Grand Toulouse economic region which is spearheading the Cancéropôle de Toulouse project, one of seven national cancéropôles. Cancéropôle de Toulouse stakeholders gave a presentation on the project and its unique governance structure that brings together public and private funding and research interests for a combined approach to cancer research and treatment. The Alberta Cancer Board established contacts with the research arms of major French pharmaceuticals including Sanofi Aventis and Pierre Fabre. The Premier also took time to visit the future Cancéropôle site, former industrial lands now under remediation and redevelopment.

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, arrived in Lviv a day prior to the arrival of Premier Klein. In the morning, Minister Zwozdesky met with the Deputy Minister of Education for the Lviv Oblast, Mr. Pavlo Khobzey, together with 13 senior educators from the Lviv region. Information was shared about educational practices and innovative educational ideas.

In the afternoon, he visited the 'Pochaiv' Orphanage Project, which has received funding support from Edmonton's St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish and the Alberta Wildrose Foundation. He toured the facility that houses this not-for-profit affiliate of Child Care International, discussed outcomes for primary school-aged children, perused donated care packages from Alberta and elsewhere, and inspected numerous sewing and clothing projects made by the orphans.

June 18

Prior to Premier Klein's arrival in Lviv, Minister Zwozdesky, on behalf of the Advisory Council on Alberta Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), hosted a luncheon with key contacts in western Ukraine (particularly education stakeholders), to recognize their ongoing efforts to build relations with Alberta. After the luncheon, Minister Zwozdesky announced the official twinning of three Alberta schools (from the Edmonton Public School Board) with schools in the Ukraine (Lviv), and discussed numerous follow up opportunities.

Minister Zwozdesky then joined the Premier for the Ukrainian portion of this mission. Premier Klein arrived in Lviv in the late afternoon. His program started with a dinner meeting with Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Abina Dann, to discuss Ukraine's

continuing democratization efforts, including the outcomes of recent elections, and Alberta and Canada's support for Ukrainian democracy.

June 19

In Lviv, Ukraine, Premier Klein and Minister Zwozdesky met with Governor Petro Oliynyk and other senior members of the oblast administration for discussions on future directions for the sister province twinning. As a result of the groundwork laid during his 2002 mission to Ukraine, Premier Klein announced the Alberta-Ukraine genealogical research project. This three-year project enables the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village in Alberta and the Instytut Narodoznavstva in Lviv to assist individuals trace their ancestry. More than 300,000 Albertans of Ukrainian heritage can access their family records in Ukraine without having to leave Alberta.

Other announcements included the enhancement by Alberta of the *Alberta Ukrainian Centennial Commemorative Scholarship*, and cooperation with Lviv Oblast that will enhance Ukrainian language instruction in Alberta. The scholarship will now be offered annually and education officials in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk were invited to nominate candidates for the award. Alberta and Lviv agreed to the posting of a Ukrainian language consultant to Alberta.

The Alberta delegation met Lviv's newly elected Mayor, Andriy Sadovyy, and several of his senior officials. They discussed economic development, education, innovation and technology, and related topics. Premier Klein also extended Alberta's congratulations to Lviv on the occasion of its 750th anniversary.

June 20

In Ivano-Frankivsk, Premier Klein and Minister Zwozdesky met with Governor Roman Tkach, Ivano-Frankivsk Mayor Victor Anushkevychus, and leaders of the Oblast State Administration to exchange ideas on potential areas for cooperation. Ivano-Frankivsk highlighted their interest in fostering relations with Alberta, particularly through post-secondary institutions such as the National University of Oil and Gas, and the Pre-Carpathian University. Premier Klein also opened the Oleskiw Exhibit on Ukrainian immigration to Alberta at the Museum of Local Lore. This exhibit chronicles the life of Joseph Oleskiw, a Ukrainian professor who promoted Ukrainian immigration to the Canadian prairies.

June 21

Back in Lviv, accompanied by Governor Oliynyk, Premier Klein and Minister Zwozdesky paid their respects with wreath-laying ceremonies to Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's national hero, and at a memorial for victims of political oppression.

Delegation:

- Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta
- Gordon Vincent, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier
- Marisa Etmanski, Communications Director, Office of the Premier

- Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education (Ukraine only)
- Pam Boutilier, Executive Assistant to Minister Zwozdesky (Ukraine only)