
Overview:

Alberta's Chair of the Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council (MABAC), Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat, and Broyce Jacobs, MLA for Cardston-Taber Warner, represented the province at the annual MABAC meeting in Helena, Montana.

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

Mission Objectives:

Advance issues of importance for Alberta and cultivate relationships with Montana decision makers at the Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council meeting.

Results:

During the meeting, Mitzel and Jacobs participated in roundtable discussions on agriculture, energy and natural resources with elected representatives and officials from the State of Montana, including:

- Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger;
- State Senator Trudi Schmidt;
- State Representative Wayne Stahl;
- State Representative Hal Jacobsen;
- Ron de Yong, Director, Department of Agriculture; and
- Other officials from the Commerce and Natural Resources and Conservation departments.

Meeting participants reviewed Alberta's current and future role in the development of Montana's energy sector, including the possibility of increasing upgraded oil sands products to supply Montana's refining industry. Alberta noted that both jurisdictions should be concerned about initiatives that seek to constrain or penalize oil sands products in the US.

The MLAs also highlighted the strong relationship Alberta shares with Montana in a variety of sectors. Alberta expressed concern over the level of trade distorting subsidies and country of origin labeling provisions provided in the US Farm Bill.

Montana provided an update on initiatives to address infrastructure challenges with the St. Mary's River canal. Both sides agreed to continue to work together to consider alternatives. Other topics discussed included National Geographic's "Crown of the Continent" map project, the Wildhorse border crossing, and efforts for direct Alberta-Montana air links.

Delegation:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat
Broyce Jacobs, MLA Cardston-Taber Warner