

Final Report

MLA David Coutts Mission to Washington, D.C.
September 10 – 12, 2007

Overview:

David Coutts, MLA Livingstone-Macleod, traveled to Washington, D.C., September 10-12, 2007, to represent the Government of Alberta at the annual U.S. meeting of the Canadian-American Border Trade Alliance. Coutts delivered a keynote luncheon address providing an overview of Alberta's oil sands developments to more than 50 delegates from both sides of the border.

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

Mission Objectives:

- represent the Government of Alberta at the annual U.S. meeting of the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance
- provide delegates with an overview of Alberta's oil sands developments

Results:

The Canadian-American Border Trade Alliance is a grassroots organization of public and private sector organizations and individuals involved in Canada-U.S. trade and tourism. It is an important forum for Alberta to promote its views on transboundary issues.

Other speakers at the meeting included Michael Chertoff, United States Secretary of Homeland Security, who provided an overview of public and economic security developments; and Michael Wilson, Canadian Ambassador to the U.S., who spoke on the Canadian perspective on border security issues.

Issues covered in panel discussions included:

- enhancing U.S.-Canadian border security;
- border crossing issues;
- how an expanding list of prohibited items affects security and the flow of people/goods; and,
- the importance of U.S.-Canada relations.

Delegates, including Coutts, also participated in a border security technology site visit.

Originally scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, September 9, an unexpected flight cancellation delayed Coutts' arrival until September 10.

Delegation:

- David Coutts, MLA Livingstone-Macleod