

Final Report

Mission to Juneau, Alaska
January 20-22, 2008

Overview:

In his capacity as Chair of Alberta's legislative delegation to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), David Coutts, MLA Livingstone-Macleod, took part in a delegation of PNWER representatives who travelled to Juneau, Alaska.

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

Mission Objectives:

- represent Alberta in a delegation of PNWER representatives visiting Alaska
- ensure Alberta's priorities are reflected in discussions

Results:

As part of the PNWER delegation, Coutts participated in more than a dozen meetings with elected representatives and officials from the State of Alaska, including:

- Governor Sarah Palin;
- Lieutenant Governor's Chief of Staff;
- State Senate President Lynda Green;
- State Senate Majority Leader Gary Stevens;
- Speaker of the State House of Representatives John Harris;
- State House of Representatives Majority Leader Ralph Samuels; and,
- State Director of Oil and Gas Kevin Banks.

While discussions were wide ranging, Coutts focussed on issues of importance to Alberta, including:

- status of the Alaska natural gas pipeline – Alaska is currently in the midst of an internal selection process to build a pipeline to bring Alaska natural gas to the lower 48 states, likely through Alberta; and,
- regional opportunities to capitalize on tourism associated with the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Coutts initially planned to participate in PNWER delegations to Salem, Oregon (February 3-4) and Olympia, Washington (February 4-6), but cancelled due to developments in Alberta.

PNWER is a regional multilateral forum that brings together legislative, government and private sector leaders from Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The organization advances public policies that promote the economies of the region. It seeks to build stronger economic links among jurisdictions in the Pacific Northwest, facilitate trade and deal with regional issues.

Delegation:

David Coutts, MLA Livingstone-Macleod