

Final Report

Mission to Great Falls, Montana
January 8-9, 2008



Overview:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat, represented Alberta at the Border Communities Roundtable meeting in Great Falls, Montana on January 8, 2008.

The mission highlighted the positive cross-border dialogue that exists in the region and successfully met its objectives as outlined below.

Mission Objectives:

Promote issues of importance to Alberta at the Border Communities Roundtable meeting.

Results:

The Border Communities Roundtable meeting was an opportunity for city, state and provincial elected officials from border communities in Montana, Alberta and Saskatchewan to meet to discuss current issues and explore opportunities for increased collaboration.

The meeting brought together representatives from the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the State of Montana, the Canadian Consulate in Denver, and Montana city officials.

Mitzel updated the Roundtable on collaboration between groups on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border to establish the Port of Wildhorse as a 24-hour crossing. He pointed to the growing commercial relations between southern Alberta and northern Montana that require the free movement of goods across the border, and how this is integral to continued economic growth. As part of the discussions, representatives from Saskatchewan and Montana raised other areas of concern, such as border movement by emergency crews on either side of the border.

Officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection provided an update on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

Delegation:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat