

# Final Report

## Mission to Havre, Montana

### January 16, 2008



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#### Overview:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat, participated, on behalf of Alberta, in a mission to Alberta and Montana by officials representing the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition.

The mission met its objectives as outlined below.

#### Mission Objectives:

Promote issues of importance to Alberta during a mission to Alberta and Montana by officials from the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition.

#### Results:

Michael Reeves, President, Great Plains International Trade Corridor Coalition; and Scott Flukinger, Advisor for Cross Border Affairs, Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition, visited Alberta and Montana January 16-18, 2008. The focus of their mission to the border communities of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, Alberta, and Havre, Montana, included the Alberta-Texas trading relationship, especially in energy; high-tech; defense and security; engineering and construction; and agriculture. MLA Mitzel, who is co-chair of the Montana-Alberta Bilateral Council, participated in the mission with the U.S. officials.

On January 16, the delegation travelled from Calgary to Havre, Montana via the Wild Horse border crossing and returned to Lethbridge later that day via the Coutts-Sweetgrass border crossing. The route allowed the U.S. officials to see the highway infrastructure at these border posts. In Montana, the delegation met with Havre Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce.

In meetings in Havre, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, the U.S. officials were made aware of the potential in southern Alberta in a variety of areas including defense related industries, agriculture, and oil and gas development.

The Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is an existing, largely rural, 1,360-mile high-priority corridor that extends from the Texas-Mexico border to Colorado. An extension of the corridor to Alberta would link the province to a region that accounts for 14 per cent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 20 per cent of U.S. trade under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

#### Delegation:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat