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**Overview:**

As Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Ron Stevens took part in a variety of meetings in Washington DC.

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

**Mission Objectives:**

- Obtain, in the lead-up to the November 2008 US elections, first-hand information and insights on US political developments that may affect Alberta's key interests.
- Provide assurances of Alberta's capacity to serve as a secure, reliable and growing supplier of energy to the US.
- Reinforce Alberta's commitment to environmental responsibility in the development of its resources, and build support for US cooperation in making this happen.
- Review the operations, priorities and strategic plans of the Alberta Washington Office.

**Results:**

During his mission, Minister Stevens was able to meet with a variety of elected officials, department staff, diplomatic staff and United States "think-tank" groups to discuss key issues of interest for Alberta, including:

- The Honourable Michael Wilson, Canada's Ambassador to the US to review developments in the US capital and the operation of the Alberta Washington Office, which is co-located in the Embassy.
- David Biette, Director, Canada Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Christopher Sands, Senior Fellow, The Hudson Institute on Canada-US relations and their outlook for the 2008 US elections.
- Former Republican Congressman Thomas J. Corcoran to discuss US oil policies towards Canada. Mr. Corcoran now represents the Center for Unconventional Fuels.
- Representative Don Young (R-AK), Ranking Member on the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- Ms. Vinita Watson, Executive Director for Canada at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to discuss the IDB's plans to undertake a mission of senior bank officials to Alberta.
- The US Department of Interior to follow-up on Premier Stelmach's meeting in January 2008. Mr. C. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals

Management and Mr. Foster Wade, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management spoke to Minister Stevens about opportunities for further cooperation between the department and Alberta.

During his meetings, Minister Stevens highlighted Alberta's commitment to being a safe, secure and environmentally responsible producer of energy. He also raised Alberta's concerns over Section 526 of the US Energy Independence and Security Act, the implementation of which could unfairly penalize oil sands products.

**Delegation:**

Ron Stevens, Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations