

Final Report

Mission to Washington, D.C.

September 14-16, 2008



Overview:

MLA Len Mitzel represented Alberta at the 2008 Can/Am BTA meeting in Washington D.C. The focus was on customs and border protection, border congestion and economic security.

Can/Am BTA is a bi-national organization striving to improve the efficient flow of goods and people across the Canada/U.S. border. Members of Can/Am BTA are Canadian and U.S. private and public entities and individuals involved in Canada/U.S. border trade, border issues and border operations.

The 2008 Washington conference featured an address by Gary Mar, Alberta's representative in Washington, D.C.

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

Mission Objectives:

- Encourage strengthened Alberta-U.S. ties and promote effective and efficient border management.
- Expand Alberta's network of contacts with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Outline Alberta's continued commitment and capacity to serve as a secure, reliable and growing supplier of energy:
 - reinforce Alberta's commitment to help meet North America's energy needs in an environmentally responsible way; and
 - highlight Alberta's recent \$4-billion investment in initiatives to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Results:

MLA Mitzel provided Alberta's perspective on a variety of border management issues, gathered information on developments relevant to Alberta's interests, and built relationships with a variety of cross-border groups committed to the efficient operation of the border.

Gary Mar delivered the keynote speech at the closing lunch at the conference. He provided an update on Alberta's oil sands as well as other energy and climate change

initiatives. During his address, he emphasized Alberta is a secure, growing and environmentally responsible supplier of energy to the U.S. committed to the stability of energy markets in North America.

Delegation:

Leonard Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat