

Final Report

Mission to Mexico

Date March 20 – 29, 2009

Government of Alberta ■

Overview:

Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations Ron Stevens engaged in a mission to Mexico to build overall trade relations and increase opportunities for companies in Alberta's energy sector. This mission was supported by the Alberta Mexico Office.

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

Mission Objectives:

- Strengthen Alberta's relations with the Mexican central government and with the Mexican States of Jalisco (with which Alberta has a sister province relationship) and Veracruz;
- Promote Alberta's exports in Mexico; particularly machinery for use in oil and gas exploration;
- Support Alberta oil and gas companies in pursuing business ventures in Mexico;
- Demonstrate Alberta's commitment to responsible energy production;
- Represent Alberta as the keynote speaker at Cancham Day, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce premier annual event in Mexico City.

Results:

Mexico City

- Delivered the message of Alberta's commitment to the environment in developing its energy resources to 200 leading Mexican and Canadian officials and business people at the Canada Mexico Partnership, the highest level bilateral cooperation mechanism between Canada and Mexico. Highlighted the potential for carbon capture and storage in combating climate change, including Alberta's two billion dollar investment in developing this technology. Supported 11 Alberta oil and gas companies attending the Canada Mexico Partnership event in pursuing business ventures in Mexico.
- Delivered the keynote address that reiterated and reinforced the message that Alberta is committed to the responsible development of its energy resources at Cancham Day, the annual business conference of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico to an audience of 300 Mexican and Canadian officials and business people.
- Engaged in dialogue and advanced Alberta's positions and priorities in meetings with Guillermo Rischynski, Canada's Ambassador to Mexico, Francisco J. Barrio-Terrazas, Mexico's new Ambassador to Canada resulting in strengthened relationships between Alberta and Mexico.

Veracruz

- Reciprocated the visit of Fidel Herrera, Governor of the Mexican State of Veracruz, who visited Alberta in the winter of 2008. Veracruz is home to a PEMEX regional office and the Chicontepec oil field, which consists primarily of heavy oil and represents significant opportunities for Alberta oil and gas service companies.
- Hosted a luncheon for PEMEX's Vice-President for its north region, the Mayor of Poza Rica, Veracruz and representatives from the Veracruz state government highlighting the capabilities of nine Alberta oil and gas companies pursuing opportunities in Mexico.
- The mission garnered significant local media interest, resulting in four newspaper articles that raised awareness of Alberta's energy resources and the capabilities of Alberta energy companies.

Guadalajara

- Strengthened the close relationship between Alberta and the Mexican state of Jalisco in meetings with Jalisco's Secretary General Fernando Antonio Guzman Perez Pelaez. Reviewed areas of future cooperation in Alberta's twinning relationship with Jalisco State, including environment, health and science and technology. Also discussed the upcoming visit of Jalisco's Governor to Alberta in July 2009.
- Supported the collaboration between Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Jalisco's Secretariat of Rural Development on a forest firefighter training center outside of Guadalajara that has trained close to 150 firefighters from Jalisco who then fight fires over the summer in Alberta. The cooperation program also includes joint pine beetle research and cooperation on the Junior Forest Ranger Program.
- Supported the new science and technology partnership agreement between Alberta Advanced Education and Jalisco's Secretariat of Economic Promotion on a visit to bilateral cooperation project at the Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the national Polytechnical Institute.
- Fostered closer ties between Alberta and Jalisco by speaking at a reception celebrating 10 years of the twinning agreement between Alberta and Jalisco. Approximately 80 people attended, including one Mexican Senator, several members of the Jalisco Cabinet, along with prominent businesspeople, representatives of the educational sector and community leaders.
- Stimulated the potential for cooperation between Alberta and Jalisco on value-added food processing in a meeting with Jalisco's Secretary of Rural Development, Mr. Alvaro Garcia Chavez, and received an update on the development of a value-added food processing centre in Jalisco modeled on the Leduc Food Processing Centre.

Delegation:

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