

Final Report

Mission to the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Germany
Nov. 7 to Nov. 16, 2008



Overview:

Premier Ed Stelmach embarked on his first international mission to the United Kingdom (U.K.), the Netherlands and Germany in November 2008 to meet with European government and business leaders. The European Union represents Alberta's third largest export market and an important source of investment capital for Alberta industry. The Premier's mission emphasized the province's stable and transparent investment climate, alongside its responsible and balanced approach to energy and the environment.

Mission Objectives:

- Reinforce that, during these uncertain economic times, Alberta is a safe, secure place to invest.
- Highlight Alberta's global role as a stable, resourceful, responsible energy producer.
- Explore opportunities to strengthen economic relations.

Results:

U.K.

- Premier Stelmach joined British and Canadian veterans to remember and express appreciation for the sacrifices of the men and women who died in the First and Second World Wars, as well as other conflicts, and prayed for those Canadians currently serving in Afghanistan, and peacekeeping missions around the world.
- Delivered the keynote address at a Canada-U.K. Chamber of Commerce lunch, attended by over 100 influential government and business leaders.
 - Reinforced that international trade is important during a global economic slowdown.
 - Stressed Alberta's commitment to the environment and highlighted the province's \$2 billion commitment to carbon capture and storage.
- Hosted a highly successful skilled worker reception that was attended by more than 120 potential immigrants. The event was an opportunity to showcase Alberta as a great place to live and work, and to highlight Alberta's recently updated Immigrant Nominee Program that presents an opportunity for some to fast-track their immigration process to Canada. The U.K. is the key European centre for skilled labour attraction for Alberta.
- Met with U.K. investment fund managers to discuss Alberta's commitment to environmental stewardship, Alberta's energy royalty regime, and the challenges and opportunities the Alberta economy presents to these institutional investors. This meeting allowed the Premier to emphasize Alberta's actions on energy and the environment.

- Canada's High Commissioner to the U.K. hosted a working dinner for Premier Stelmach and Canadian and U.K. energy companies as well as key contacts from the U.K. financial sector. The Premier used the dinner to highlight Alberta's commitment to responsible energy production and the importance carbon capture and storage will play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Netherlands

- Met with Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende in follow-up to the Prime Minister's visit to Alberta in June 2007. During their meeting, they discussed the significance of growing Alberta-Dutch economic relations that has led to the recent opening of a Dutch trade office in Edmonton.
- Delivered the keynote address at a well attended Canada-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce luncheon including influential government and business leaders.
 - Spoke on the importance of Alberta's energy resources as well as the role that technology will play in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Encouraged stronger Alberta-Netherlands bilateral trade and investment in a number of sectors including environmental technologies and immigration.
- Met representatives of Dutch research organizations and universities to learn about their efforts in nano-technology, soil and water remediation, and carbon capture and storage, and explored the potential for new and expanded collaboration with Alberta partners.
- Canada's Ambassador to the Netherlands hosted a dinner meeting for the Premier with Dutch investors in Alberta. Dutch investment in Alberta is significant and dinner guests represented a cross-section of leading companies in the energy, construction, and agriculture sectors.

Germany

- Hosted a reception attended by more than 150 guests to highlight Alberta-Germany economic relations, and introduce the new Managing Director of the Alberta Germany Office. The event was held in cooperation with the Bavarian Business Alliance (VBW), an organization comprised of Bavaria's leading companies. The VBW announced its intention to lead a Bavarian contingent to the 2009 GO-Expo trade show. GO-EXPO is held in Calgary and is one of North America's fastest growing oil and gas events with 700 exhibiting companies and 20,000 registered attendees.
- Met with new Bavarian Minister-President Horst Seehofer and Ministers to explore mutual interests in deepening collaboration in energy, environment, and health and educational policy. The meeting paves the way for a possible visit to Alberta by Minister President Seehofer in the coming year, and for new avenues of cooperation including a researcher mobility program.
- Met with Senior Executives of Siemens SA for an overview of the company's innovative new technologies for oil sands extraction and carbon capture, as well as its high speed transit systems.

Delegation:

Premier and Mrs. Stelmach

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