

# Final Report

Council of State Governments WEST (CSG-WEST)

Annual Meeting Santa Fe, New Mexico

Date: October 5 - 8, 2009

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# Government of Alberta ■

## Overview:

Ty Lund, MLA for Rocky Mountain House, participated in the Council of State Governments WEST (CSG-WEST) Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 5 - 8, 2009. The event covered a number of policy issues relevant to Alberta's interests, including energy and transportation, global competitiveness, and the U.S. stimulus plan. The CSG-WEST provides a non-partisan platform where legislators and government leaders can discuss issues of common interest, share ideas and best practices and build collaborative networks with other legislators. Alberta and British Columbia are associate members of the CSG-WEST.

## Mission Objectives:

The mission was successful in meeting its objectives, allowing Alberta to:

- Profile the province to legislators from across the U.S.;
- Participate in the meeting's second North America Summit that focused on building stronger relations with Canada, U.S. and Mexico, and enhancing North America's competitive edge in the global market;
- Showcase Alberta as a resourceful, responsible energy producer and a strong supporter of greater economic cooperation with the U.S.; and
- Strengthen Alberta-U.S. ties.

## Results:

The mission provided an opportunity to network with U.S. political and business decision-makers and reassure them of Alberta's continued commitment and capacity to serve as a secure, reliable, environmentally responsible supplier of energy to the U.S. MLA Lund represented Alberta at the CSG-West Executive Committee Meeting and presented Alberta views in support of a "Resolution Supporting Open and Reciprocal Trade By and Between the United States, Canada and Mexico." The resolution was subsequently passed.

MLA Lund also represented Alberta on two panels in the North America Summit. In a session titled, "Achieving Energy Independence for North America: *A discussion on continental energy resources and strategies to achieve independence*". MLA Lund gave an overview on Canadian efforts to develop its energy capacity, with particular emphasis on Alberta's role as a secure, reliable and responsible energy supplier to the U.S. In his presentation, he highlighted Alberta's \$2 billion carbon capture and storage investment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, he spoke of Alberta's mandatory reduction program for large industrial emitters whereby a company may choose to make facility

improvements, purchase Alberta-based carbon offset credits, or pay \$15 for each tonne over target into the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund. He indicated that the fund currently holds CDN \$123 million and the money is earmarked for supporting technologies that reduce greenhouse gases in Alberta.

MLA Lund also represented Alberta in the following CSG-WEST Committee meetings:

- Energy & Environment Committee, which examined policies to ensure the reliable production, generation, and transmission of the West's fossil and renewable energy resources.
- Trade & Transportation Committee, which investigated the critical transportation issues facing the West such as the impacts of exploding population growth combined with aging transportation infrastructure.

**Delegation:**

Ty Lund, MLA for Rocky Mountain House