

Final Report

Mission to the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Israel
Oct. 30 to Nov. 14, 2008



Overview:

Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations Ron Stevens travelled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan and Israel to increase trade relations with key partners in the Middle East.

Mission Objectives:

The mission was successful in meeting the objectives below:

- Strengthen Alberta's relations with the UAE, Jordan and Israel;
- Highlight investment and trade opportunities in Alberta;
- Support Alberta companies attending the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference and help champion Alberta; and
- Demonstrate Alberta's commitment to responsible energy production.

Results:

United Arab Emirates

- Attended the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference and met with more than 30 Alberta companies actively pursuing opportunities in the Gulf region.
- Met with MASDAR, Abu Dhabi's global cooperative that focuses on renewable and sustainable energy, and discussed potential areas for investment in carbon capture and storage projects.
- Joined in the launch of Prairie Halal Foods in Dubai, which is a consortium of Alberta companies that will begin exporting beef, bison, elk, poultry and honey, among other Alberta products, to the UAE.
- Met with Ontario and Nova Scotia trade representatives and discussed their models for in-country representation in the UAE.
- Met with His Excellency Mohamed Bin Dhaen Al Hamli, Minister of Energy for the UAE and discussed methods in which the UAE and Alberta could increase bi-lateral visits and trade.

Jordan

- Follow-up meeting with Prince Talal bin Mohammed and Princess Ghida Talal of Jordan. Prince Talal visited Calgary in October 2008 and this second meeting was an opportunity to deepen the relationship.

- Met with Margaret Huber, Canadian Ambassador to Jordan and discussed opportunities for Alberta companies in Jordan in light of the recently concluded Canada-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

Israel

- Spoke at the Israel Prime Minister's Conference for Export and International Cooperation on the opportunities for clean technology applications in Alberta's energy sector.
- Contributed to a panel discussion on strategies for managing the current global economic situation.
- Met with various public and private sector officials, including Canadian Ambassadors to the UAE, Jordan and Israel as well as many potential investors in Alberta's energy sector.
- Toured the Technion Institute of Technology and Nanotechnology Virtual Centre and discussed areas for future collaboration with Alberta's growing nanotechnology sector.
- Met with Ormat Industries Ltd., a major Israeli company, which has developed technology that would reduce the carbon footprint of energy operations, and discussed investment potential in the oil sands.
- Met with the Honourable Eliyahu Yishai, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, Boaz Hirsch, Senior Director General, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour, and Hezi Kugler, Director General, Ministry of Infrastructure and discussed opportunities for bi-lateral trade and research in the areas of clean coal research and water management.

Ramallah

- Travelled to Ramallah to meet with the Palestinian Authority's Minister of National Economy, Public Works and Telecommunications, Kamal Hassouneh, to explore potential areas of economic cooperation.

Delegation:

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

Peter Brodsky – Executive Assistant (Israel Only)