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**Overview:**

Premier Ed Stelmach and the Honourable Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, attended the 2008 Bio International Convention in San Diego, California.

BIO 2008 is known as North America's largest biotechnology conference and trade show, attracting more than 20,000 delegates from 60 countries. Delegates at the event included executives, investors, scientists, researchers and policy makers from around the world.

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

**Mission Objectives:**

- Promote trade, research and investment in Alberta.
- Support labour attraction efforts by highlighting biotechnology employment opportunities in Alberta.
- Promote Alberta's new technology commercialization action plan.
- Support the participation of Alberta companies in BIO 2008.

**Results:**

- Premier Stelmach and Minister Horner held meetings with technology investors and executives from several multinational companies in the life sciences industry, including Pfizer Canada, GlaxoSmithKline and Cortex Pharmaceuticals.

At the meetings, Premier Stelmach and Minister Horner introduced Alberta's technology commercialization action plan, delivered important messages about Alberta's commitments to innovation, and highlighted the research and development capabilities of Alberta's world-class universities.

During the mission, several pharmaceutical companies expressed a high level of interest in working with the Government of Alberta to advance innovative research and development in Alberta.

- Premier Stelmach and Minister Horner also met with many Alberta business people who own, work in, or invest in, California-based technology enterprises. There were 12 Alberta businesses represented during the BIO 2008 conference.

- With his keynote speech at the Alberta Reception, Premier Stelmach addressed an audience of more than 200 life sciences' industry representatives and emphasized the importance of biotechnology industry in Alberta.
- Throughout their meetings during BIO 2008, Premier Stelmach and Minister Horner promoted Alberta's strengths and capabilities in the biotechnology industry, and encouraged global biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to consider investment in Alberta

**Delegation:**

Premier Ed Stelmach and Mrs. Stelmach  
Honourable Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology  
Jason Krips, Executive Assistant to Minister Horner  
Ron Glen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier  
Paul Stanway, Director of Communications, Office of the Premier