

Final Report

Mission to Asia (China, Japan, Korea)

June 13 to 23, 2008



Overview:

As Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Ron Stevens took part in a variety of meetings in Beijing, China; Tokyo, Japan, and Gangwon, and Seoul, Korea.

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

Mission Objectives:

- Strengthen Alberta's relationships with Asian markets.
- Enhance trade and investment opportunities for Alberta.
- Position Alberta as an attractive immigration destination.
- Provide assurances of Alberta's capacity to serve as a secure, reliable and growing supplier of energy.
- Reinforce Alberta's commitment to environmental responsibility in the development of its resources.
- Review the operations, priorities and strategic plans of the Alberta Offices in Asia.

Results:

During his mission, Minister Stevens met with a variety of elected officials, department staff, diplomatic staff and businesses in each country to discuss key issues of interest for Alberta. The following are highlights of the meetings during the mission.

China:

- Meeting in Beijing with Honourable Robert Wright, Canada's Ambassador to China. Discussions focused on increasing Alberta's presence in China and Alberta's concern that China remains closed to Canadian beef.
- Meeting with China's Human Resources and Social Security officials, including Vice Minister Zhang Xiao Jian. This meeting focused on exchanging economic and labour market information, and strengthening opportunities for further cooperation between the department and Alberta.
- 'Alberta Reception' in Beijing. Key business and government officials attended this event, which was designed to promote trade and investment opportunities between China and Alberta.
- Meeting with SOHO, one of Beijing's most successful real estate developers. Minister Stevens used this opportunity to promote Alberta's leading environmentally friendly building products and design capabilities.

- Meeting with executives from Alberta investor China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec). This meeting focused on enhancing relations and reviewing current and future investment opportunities in Alberta.
- Meeting with Alberta investor, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). Minister Stevens met with executives to encourage further investment from CNPC, particularly in Alberta's value-added products and services.

Japan:

- Meeting at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo with Joseph Caron, Canada's Ambassador to Japan. Discussions focused on Japan's political, economic, and commercial situation and Canada's desire to negotiate a free trade agreement with Japan.
- Meeting with Japan's Economist Intelligence Unit, an exclusive, membership-based senior executive briefing and networking service. Minister Stevens met with Mr. Graham Davis Director, Japan Corporate Network, to receive the latest political, economic and commercial market intelligence, and discuss new market opportunities for Alberta.
- Meeting with Mr. Naoki Kuroda, President of INPEX. Minister Stevens welcomed INPEX as an investor in Alberta and encouraged INPEX to invest further in Alberta.
- Minister Stevens hosted an Alberta Stakeholder's Luncheon in Tokyo, which provided him with an opportunity to promote Alberta and strengthen relations with key Japanese businesses, investors, clients and other stakeholders.
- Meeting with Hitachi Ltd. President, Mr. Kazuo Furukawa. During the meeting, Mr. Furukawa elaborated on Hitachi's current interests in Alberta power generation, construction machinery and water treatment technologies. Minister Stevens took the opportunity to encourage Hitachi's investment and to conduct more research in Alberta.

Korea

- Meeting in Seoul at the Canadian Embassy with Mr. Ted Lipman, Canada's Ambassador in Korea. Discussions focused on strengthening Canada and Alberta's position in Korea and increasing efforts to allow Canadian beef back into the Korean market.
- Meeting with Mr. Kim, Yong-dal, President of Human Resources Development of Korea (HRDK). Discussions focused on enhancing relations and improving labour mobility between Korea and Alberta. Minister Stevens provided an update on Alberta's economy and expressed appreciation for the continuous support and cooperation of HRDK to meet Alberta's labour needs.

- Meeting with Mr. Lee, Yong-dae, President of BB C&F, to encourage further investment in Alberta.
- Minister Stevens hosted a lunch meeting with key Alberta stakeholders to help expand trade and investment opportunities, and to celebrate Korea as a trade and investment partner and source of skilled workers.
- Meeting with Dr. Kim, Seong-hoon, Executive Vice President of Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC). This meeting provided Minister Stevens with an opportunity to strengthen relations, thank KNOC for investing in Alberta, and to learn about KNOC's long-term business interests in Alberta.
- Meeting with Governor Kim, Jin-sun of Gangwon Provincial Government. This meeting focused on building Alberta's 35 year relationship with Gangwon and enhancing research and development opportunities.

During his mission to Asia, Minister Stevens consistently highlighted Alberta's commitment to being a safe, secure and environmentally responsible producer of energy.

Delegation:

Ron Stevens, Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations.