

# Final Report

Premier's Mission to Western Governor's Association  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
June 28 – July 1, 2008

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## Overview:

Premier Ed Stelmach and Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resources and Development represented Alberta at the 2008 Western Governor's Association Meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

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

## Mission Objectives:

Network with Governors from western U.S. states and address issues of mutual interest and develop common approaches.

- Demonstrate Alberta's willingness and capability to work with U.S. states on energy, climate change and wildlife corridors for the Western region as a whole.
- Develop strong working relationships that can be used to address future challenges and opportunities.

Reassure U.S. political and business decision-makers of Alberta's continued commitment and capacity to serve as a secure, reliable and growing supplier of energy.

Demonstrate Alberta's commitment to environmental responsibility in the development of its resources.

- Highlight the leadership taken by Alberta through its climate change initiatives.
- Dispel myths about the environmental impacts of oil sands production.

## Results:

Premier Stelmach used the various roundtables, forums and meeting opportunities to reiterate Alberta's commitment to environmental responsibility and that the province plays a key role helping meet the energy needs of North America. This is important to Alberta because the Governors agreed to work in concert to deliver recommendations to the incoming U.S. federal administration on a national energy policy.

The Governors stressed there is only so much the United States can do on its own and that they wanted people outside their nation's borders to bring an international dimension to the WGA. Premier Stelmach voiced strong support for a greater international

dimension and said Alberta stood to learn through interaction and looked forward to developing even stronger working relations with the WGA.

Other issues explored included water management and wildlife protection. Premier Stelmach and Minister Morton informed their colleagues about Alberta's 500 parks and more than 27,500 square kilometres of land to protect wildlife. Premier Stelmach also highlighted Alberta's role in Western Water Conservation Initiative and the Western Water Stewardship Council.

**Delegation:**

Premier Ed Stelmach and Mrs. Stelmach  
Honourable Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development  
Ken Faulkner, Executive Director, Southern Alberta Office  
David Heyman, Communications Manager, Southern Alberta Office