

# Final Report

Mission to Helena, Montana

January 10, 2007

## Overview:

On January 10, 2007, Len Mitzel, Member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly for Cypress-Medicine Hat, represented the Government of Alberta at a hearing of the Montana House Transportation Committee in Helena, Montana.

At the hearing, MLA Mitzel spoke in support of House Joint Resolution 3 (HJ3). The resolution calls upon the Government of Montana and Montana's Congressional delegation to support a second 24-hour Montana/Alberta border crossing at the Port of Wild Horse which would complement the existing border crossing at Coumts/Sweetgrass.

The border crossing initiative arose out of the May 2006 meeting of the Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council (MABAC), having previously received unanimous support in the Alberta Legislature.

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

## Mission Objectives:

1. Voice Alberta's support for House Joint Resolution 3 in the Montana State Legislature
2. Meet with Montana legislators to advance Alberta-Montana relations in several areas

## Results:

Montana House Representative John Musgrove, who also represents Montana on MABAC and sponsored HJ3, introduced MLA Mitzel at the committee hearing.

In his presentation to the committee, MLA Mitzel outlined the economic benefits that a second 24-hour border crossing at Wild Horse would provide to Montana and Alberta and how it would enhance two-way trade within the region.

Other Alberta representatives also made presentations to the committee, including:

- Garth Vallely, Mayor of Medicine Hat;
- Alan Hyland, Mayor of Bow Island, and chair of the Palliser Economic Partnership;
- Kay Olsen, Medicine Hat and Alberta Chambers of Commerce; and,
- Harold Wilson, Economic Development Alliance of Southeastern Alberta and the only non-American member of the Montana Economic Development Association.

Hearing no opposition, the committee moved into executive action and unanimously supported the resolution.

Following the committee hearing, members of the Alberta delegation met with Mayor Bob Rice of Havre, Montana; Representative Musgrove; and Representative and MABAC member Hal Jacobsen to discuss Alberta-Montana relations.

MLA Mitzel indicated that the Alberta government would continue to advance the cause of the Port of Wild Horse in upcoming meetings at federal levels in both countries and in Alberta/Montana meetings.

On January 16, 2007, Montana's House of Representatives passed HJ3. Montana's State Senate passed it on February 8, 2007.

## Delegation:

Len Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat