

July 18, 2007

Pacific Northwest cooperation tops agenda for Alberta delegation to Alaska

Edmonton... Cooperation on cross border issues is the focus as ten Alberta elected representatives participate in the summer meeting of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, July 22 to 26, in Anchorage, Alaska.

The 17th annual Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) summit will include discussions on a wide variety of issues of mutual importance, including energy, agriculture, workforce development, tourism, environment, and trade and economic development. The complete agenda is available at <http://www.pnwer.org/>.

"Alberta's participation in organizations such as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region is essential to ensure our province continues to have a strong voice in regional matters," said Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner, who will participate in a panel discussion on climate change and make a presentation on water management in the South Saskatchewan River Basin. "It provides opportunities to build contacts with U.S. decision makers in a key market for Alberta, and promote Alberta's objectives on transboundary issues."

Along with Minister Renner, Alberta's delegation consists of Alberta's Associate Minister of Tourism Promotion, three of Alberta's PNWER delegate council members and four alternates, including two members of the official opposition:

- Cindy Ady (MLA, Calgary-Shaw), Associate Minister of Tourism Promotion;
- Dave Coutts (MLA, Livingstone-Macleod), chair PNWER session on sustainable development;
- Len Mitzel (MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat), co-chair PNWER session on border issues;
- Richard Marz (MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills), co-chair PNWER session on agriculture;
- Clint Dunford (MLA, Lethbridge-West), co-chair PNWER session on trade and economic development;
- Barry McFarland (MLA, Little Bow);
- LeRoy Johnson (MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose), on behalf of the Alberta Research Council;
- Bruce Miller (MLA, Edmonton-Glenora); and,
- Dr. David Swann (MLA, Calgary-Mountainview).

PNWER is a regional multilateral forum that brings together legislative, government and private sector leaders from Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Its goal is to build stronger links among jurisdictions in the Pacific Northwest, facilitate trade, and deal with regional issues through dialogue. Alberta hosted the annual PNWER summit in 2006 in Edmonton and in 2003 in Calgary.

Cost of travel, accommodations and meals for the delegation and two executive assistants is approximately \$41,000.

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Attachment: General itineraries.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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Backgrounder

Mission to Anchorage Alaska for PNWER Annual Meeting

General Itinerary

This itinerary is tentative and subject to change

July 19	MLA Johnson travels to Anchorage, Alaska
July 20	MLAs Coutts, Mitzel, Dunford and Miller travel to Anchorage, Alaska
July 22	Minister Renner, Associate Minister Ady, MLAs Marz, McFarland, and Swann travel to Anchorage, Alaska PNWER Executive Committee meeting
July 23	MLA Mitzel co-chairs session on border issues MLA Coutts co-chairs session on sustainable development MLA Marz co-chairs session on agriculture MLA Coutts chairs session on natural resource management
July 24	MLA Dunford co-chairs session on trade and economic development Minister

	Renner's presentation on water management in the South Saskatchewan River basin Associate Minister Ady returns to Alberta
July 25	Minister Renner's presentation as part of a session on climate change Minister Renner, MLAs Johnson, Mitzel, Swann, and McFarland return to Alberta MLA Coutts attends PNWER executive committee meeting
July 26	MLAs Coutts, and Marz participate in PNWER tour to Prudhoe Bay MLA Miller returns to Alberta
July 27	MLA Coutts returns to Alberta
July 29	MLAs Marz and Dunford return to Alberta

The complete agenda is available at <http://www.pnwer.org/>.

The Government of Alberta will cover costs of travel to and from the conference, and meals and accommodation for only July 22 to 26 inclusive. Each individual MLA will be responsible for any cost they incur on the days before or after those dates.

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