

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Meet with Alaska counterparts on the Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council to pursue joint interests and opportunities for collaboration
- Build on existing Alberta-Alaska ties and enhance relationships between Alberta and Alaska public and private-sector leaders

PROGRAM AND RESULTS

Date	Program
Thu, Mar 23	Departed Edmonton for Juneau (arrived Mar 24)
Fri, Mar 24	<p>Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working breakfast included overviews of Alaska and Alberta. Briefings were given on the Alaska gas pipeline, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, Alaskan-Canadian railway and northern transportation. Alaskan Governor Frank Murkowski addressed the council. ▪ Working group sessions followed, divided into the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Energy and Alaska gas pipeline ➢ Transportation, economic development and tourism ➢ Aboriginal issues and opportunities ➢ Human resources, education and training. Each working group will finalize workplans to guide activities over the next year. ▪ The council explored the following key initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Potentially extend the CANAMEX trade corridor to include Alaska ➢ Ensure the mobility of workforces ➢ Improve educational levels and learning opportunities for Aboriginals ➢ Continue to share information and best practices on the Alaska pipeline. ▪ Departed Juneau for Edmonton

There is strong support for the council in Alaska and enthusiasm for working with Alberta. Both the Alaska and Alberta delegations committed to maintaining an ongoing dialogue as they plan for the council's next meeting in Alberta.

BACKGROUND

- The council, made up of government and private-sector representatives from Alberta and Alaska, was created in 2002 to pursue joint interests and enhance relations between Alberta and Alaska.
- Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski led a delegation to Alberta for the council's inaugural meeting in May 2004.
- More information about Alberta-Alaska ties is available at www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/alberta_us_relations.asp

OFFICIAL DELEGATION

- Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Acting Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations
- Carol Dillman, Executive Assistant to Calahasen
- Mel Knight, MLA
- Len Webber, MLA
- Kim McCaig, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
- Neil Windsor, Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta
- Kells Boland, ProLog
- Harry Hobbs, Member at Large