

Final Report

MLA Shiraz Shariff's Mission to South Africa and India
September 22 - October 9, 2005



MISSION OBJECTIVES

South Africa

Mpumalanga

- Discuss and explore opportunities for future Alberta-Mpumalanga governance initiatives and projects, as chair of Government of Alberta's International Governance Office
- Accompany Premier Klein's first mission to Alberta's South African sister province to
 - See firsthand results of Alberta's contribution to building democratic governments in post-apartheid South Africa
 - Renew and expand Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning agreement

Johannesburg/World Petroleum Congress

- Accompany Klein to support Alberta companies exhibiting and receiving awards at the World Petroleum Congress

India

- Promote Government of Alberta's International Governance Office and explore potential partnerships with Indian organizations, and state and municipal governments
- Sign memorandum of understanding with Indian Institute of Public Administration to enable cooperative governance-focused initiatives

PROGRAM AND RESULTS

Date	Program
Thu, Sep 22	Departed Calgary for Johannesburg, arriving Sep 24
Mon, Sep 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Accompanied Klein to World Petroleum Congress awards luncheon, where<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Nexen and Encana, both Alberta-based companies, received two of four WPC excellence awards➢ Randy Gossen of Nexen was elected president of World Petroleum Council▪ Visited Alberta companies exhibiting in the World Petroleum Congress trade show. A display of Alberta oilsands at the Canadian exhibit captured much interest and received an exposition award for the Canadian booth.▪ Met with executives of Canada's delegation at World Petroleum Congress
Tue, Sep 27	Departed Johannesburg for Nelspruit, Mpumalanga

Wed, Sep 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussed future Alberta-Mpumalanga governance and project initiatives with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Thulani Mdakane, Office of the Premier ➢ Diana Youdell, Canadian International Development Agency ▪ Met Klein and delegation on their arrival
Thu, Sep 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accompanied Klein to meeting with Mpumalanga Premier Thabang Makwetla, his cabinet, and the Deputy Speaker of the legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Klein and Makwetla renewed and expanded the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning agreement ➢ Klein referred to successful areas of cooperation, including the development of a Hansard system for Mpumalanga's legislature and in-house training of Mpumalanga government's financial officers in financial management by Alberta officials ➢ Klein mentioned Alberta's interest in pursuing areas of common economic interest, noting Mpumalanga's expertise in the conversion of coal to gases and liquid fuels ➢ Makwetla said "Mpumalanga is the Alberta of South Africa," citing its agriculture, national parks and energy. He stressed his hope of expanding the twinning to include exchanges in new areas, including environmental management, agricultural processing and tourism. ➢ Makwetla acknowledged Canadians as key supporters in South Africa's fight against apartheid and move toward greater democracy ▪ Visited Nkomazi municipality community centre. Mpumalanga municipal officials visited Alberta in 2004 to study integrated federal-provincial government service delivery. Alberta's model was incorporated into Mpumalanga's community centre concept.
Sat, Oct 1	Departed Nelspruit for Mumbai, arriving Oct 2
Mon, Oct 3	<p>Met with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annie Dube, Acting Canadian Consul General in Mumbai ▪ Johny Joseph, Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Explored potential partnerships in emergency management and response, and Mumbai's work with the World Bank. ▪ Vijay Mahajan, Chief Executive Officer of Bombay First, an Indian non-government organization working on governance issues in Mumbai. Discussed Government of Alberta's International Governance Office, and emergency response and management system.
Tue, Oct 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Met with R. M. Premkumar, Chief Secretary of the Government of Maharashtra, and other department secretaries. Discussed Alberta's Emergency Management Response Centre and the technology used for provincial and municipal disaster management. ▪ Attended the inauguration of Operation Eye Sight project, a joint Mumbai-Calgary Rotary Club initiative funded in part by Calgary's Operational Eye Sight Universal and Rotary Club's \$100,000 donation. This project will allow for 2,700 cataract surgical operations.
Wed, Oct 5	Departed Mumbai for New Delhi

Thu, Oct 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Met with Sanjeev Reddy, Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Handed over a 150-book Government of Alberta donation to the institute's library ➢ Signed and witnessed a memorandum of understanding between the institute and Alberta. The MOU will enable cooperation and training initiatives in such areas as environmental management, emergency management and response, e-government, public administration, and freedom of information legislation. ▪ Paid a courtesy call on Ken McCartney, Deputy Canadian High Commissioner
Fri, Oct 7	<p>Met with Pratima Dayal, Asian Development Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussed Government of Alberta's International Governance Office, and MOU with Indian Institute of Public Administration ▪ Discussed the bank's available funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the MOU ▪ Reported on earlier meetings in Mumbai about Alberta's emergency management operations
Sat, Oct 8	Departed New Delhi for Calgary

BACKGROUND

South Africa Mpumalanga

- Alberta twinned with Mpumalanga in October 1996 under the South Africa-Canada Program on Governance, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Under this program, exchanges covering legislature operations, financial management and the role of central agencies took place between Alberta and Mpumalanga.
- Both sides reaffirmed their twinning in April 2002. The relationship focused on helping the Mpumalanga public service in the areas of financial management, performance management, local economic development, legislature operations and communications.
- Shariff was instrumental in bringing together Alberta and Mpumalanga, and supporting the twinning. He has hosted almost every Mpumalanga delegation visiting Alberta.
- Details on Alberta-Mpumalanga relations at http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/twinning_relations.asp

Johannesburg/World Petroleum Congress

- Organized by the London-based World Petroleum Council, the World Petroleum Congress is attended by over 90 countries, representing oil and gas-producing and consuming nations. Congresses cover the petroleum industry, ranging from exploration to downstream activities.
- Alberta's participation in the WPC expo is coordinated through the World Petroleum Congresses Canadian Association
- Calgary hosted the 2000 World Petroleum Congress. Details at http://www.wpc2000.com/Congresses_16thWPC.htm
- World Petroleum Congress: <http://www.world-petroleum.org/>

India

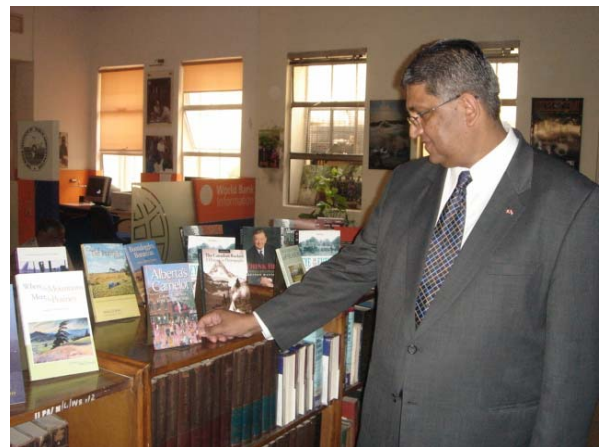
- More on Alberta-India relations at http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/world_relations_asia_pacific.asp

Government of Alberta's International Governance Office

- The IGO was created to help share Alberta's public sector expertise in international development projects. It builds partnerships between the public and private sectors on international development projects, specifically in the area of governance.
- In the international community, there is awareness that in order for aid to be effective and produce sustainable development, donors need to become actively involved in promoting good governance in recipient countries. Without efficient government structures, aid is often misguided or wasted. Building the capacity for effective governments is today at the forefront of foreign aid programs. Building good governance can create the political, social and economic environment necessary to sustain reforms and projects, as well as to create an atmosphere conducive to investment and development.
- Shariff heads the IGO Advisory Committee
- Details at http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/igo.asp

OFFICIAL DELEGATION

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Shariff reviews Alberta book donation to Indian Institute of Public Administration