

Final Report

Mission to Washington, D.C. and Boston
March 21-25, 2005

Overview:

Premier Ralph Klein's mission to Washington, D.C. and Boston, March 21 to 25, 2005, focused on important matters such as North American energy security, expanded trade and investment opportunities, and the official launching of Alberta's new office in Washington, D.C. The mission also reinforced Alberta's commitment to finding lasting solutions to the BSE and softwood lumber disputes. It bolstered Alberta's reputation as a Canadian province that truly understands and appreciates the importance of good relations with the United States and advocates for a more positive approach to Canada-U.S. relations.

The mission to Washington was an opportunity to officially open the Alberta Office in the U.S. capital; meet with Canada's new Ambassador to the United States; and advance Alberta's interests and priorities in key areas in meetings with the U.S. Energy Secretary. The Boston leg enabled Alberta to establish closer ties with an important business and political centre of the U.S., including the Governor of Massachusetts.

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

Mission Objectives:

- Officially open the Alberta Office in Washington, D.C., co-located in the Canadian Embassy.
- Explore with Frank McKenna, the newly appointed Canadian Ambassador to the U.S., his plans for strengthening Canada-U.S. relations.
- Reinforce Alberta's commitment to achieving the full re-opening of the Canadian-U.S. border to trade in beef and cattle, and to finding a lasting solution to the softwood lumber dispute.
- Reinforce Alberta's key and growing role as a secure and reliable supplier of energy within North America.
- Raise Alberta's profile and promote investment to government, business, and academic leaders in Boston.

Results:

March 22

Premier Ralph Klein met with Canadian Ambassador Frank McKenna to review how Alberta and Canada can cooperate in building better relations with the United States, our largest and most important trading partner. Premier Klein thanked the Ambassador for the Embassy's support in establishing the Alberta Office in the Washington Embassy and committed to continuing to work closely together.



Premier Klein and Ambassador Frank McKenna

The Premier outlined to Samuel Bodman, recently appointed U.S. Secretary of Energy, Alberta's role as a stable, secure and reliable supplier of a variety of forms of energy. The Premier was impressed with the Secretary's knowledge of Alberta's oilsands and his interest in closer cooperation.

At an Alberta-hosted luncheon with beef industry representatives and senior U.S. government officials, Premier Klein expressed his appreciation for the Administration's efforts aimed at fully re-opening the Canada-U.S. border to trade in beef and cattle. Guests included Roger Noriega, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State; J.B. Penn, U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture; Jim Hodges, President of the American Meat Institute; and Canadian Embassy officials.

The mission to Washington concluded with the official opening reception for the new Alberta Office in Washington, D.C. More than 300 guests attended, including:

- the Chair of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee;
- senior Administration officials;
- other senior staff members from the offices of Senators and Representatives;
- heads of industry groups and think-tanks; and
- prominent American and Alberta business leaders.



Premier Klein officially opens the Alberta Office in Washington, D.C. with an Alberta rancher

The opening also drew the attention of local, international, and industry media.

March 23

After arriving in Boston from Washington, Premier Klein was guest of honour at a dinner for members of the Massachusetts business and political community. The dinner, hosted by Canada's Consul General in Boston, provided an opportunity to showcase Alberta and promote investment opportunities. Guests included representatives from select Boston investment firms and Massachusetts State Senators Bruce Tarr and Stanley Rosenberg.

March 24

The Premier discussed with Mitt Romney, Governor of Massachusetts, the role of Alberta natural gas in helping to meet his state's current and future energy needs. They also explored means of expanding trade and investment ties between Alberta and Massachusetts.

The Premier then participated in an investment roundtable with analysts from Boston's financial community that highlighted Alberta's favourable economic and investment climate and the opportunities it presented, particularly in the oilsands.

The Premier concluded his mission to Boston with a luncheon and address at Harvard University focusing on Alberta's key role in North American energy security.

Delegation:

Premier Ralph Klein

Gord Vincent, Deputy Chief of Staff

Marisa Etmanski, Communications, Office of the Premier