

# Washington – Alberta Relations

Government  
of Alberta ■



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Olympia

**Population:** 6,724,540 (2010)

**Language:** English

**Government:** Bicameral state government

**Head of Government:** Governor

Christine Gregoire (D)

**Currency:** \$1CDN = \$0.9830 U.S.  
(November 2011)

**GSP:** \$351.1 billion U.S. (2010)

**GSP Per Capita:** \$52,403 U.S. (2010)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Aerospace, agriculture, forestry, fishery, high tech, mining, manufacturing, tourism, energy, shipping & transport

**Unemployment:** 9.1% (September 2011)

**Main Cities (Metro Areas):**  
(2010 est.)

- Seattle-Tacoma: 3,344,813
- Spokane: 462,677
- Vancouver: 160,800
- Olympia: 245,181

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Microsoft and Boeing are two of Washington's leading industries.
- Due to the steep drop from its origin to its mouth, the Columbia River is one of the greatest sources of hydroelectric power in the world.
- Both Alberta and Washington have twinning relationships with Jalisco, Mexico.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

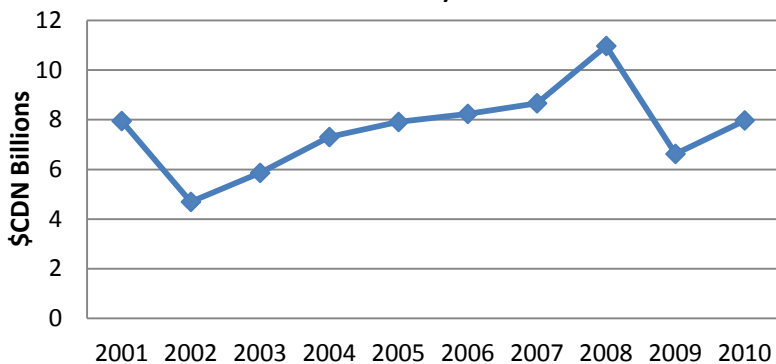
- In 2010, Washington was one of Alberta's largest domestic export markets in the U.S.
- Alberta and Washington have a common interest in Pacific Northwest trade and transportation, as well as gaining access to the Asian market.
- Spokane business leaders have identified Alberta as their number one international priority.
- Washington's participation in transboundary co-operation bodies reflects a strategy of strengthening their relations at the state and regional level and coincides with Alberta's emphasis in this area.

- Washington has focused on the I-5 Corridor, "Cascadia", from Portland through Seattle to Vancouver, B.C. Alberta is keen to attract attention to the other side of the mountains.

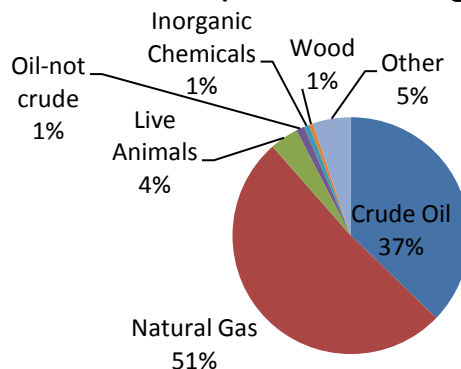
## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Washington's refineries are becoming increasingly dependant on crude oil imports from Canada and other countries. The Trans Mountain Pipeline from Alberta supplies more than one-tenth of Washington's crude oil supply.
- Top exports to Washington include oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, and beef. Approximately 60% of exports to Washington are petroleum and gases.
- From 2006-2010 Alberta's exports to Washington have averaged approximately \$8.5 billion.
- Washington has been identified as home to over 20 suppliers and business partners for Canadian oil sands and pipeline projects.

**Alberta's Domestic Exports to Washington (2001-2010)**



**Alberta's Domestic Exports to Washington (2006-2010 Average)**



\* Note: Natural gas that is later sent to the California market accounts for a percentage of exports to Washington.

**ENERGY**

- Washington is the leading hydroelectric power generator in the U.S. and produces energy from wind, wood and wood waste.
- Alberta exported 35.0 billion cubic feet of natural gas to Washington in 2009.
- Washington approved a new renewable energy standard in November 2006, requiring utility companies (that serve 25,000 people or more) to use renewable energy sources to produce 15% of their energy by 2020.
- There are opportunities for Alberta's clean-technology and alternative-energy companies in Washington. Of particular interest are the new technologies, processes and equipment that use plant waste rather than grain or corn to produce ethanol.
- In May 2009, an Executive Order was issued to assess whether a Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) would best meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. LCFS development in Washington State is currently on hold, however, due to budgetary considerations.

**AGRICULTURE**

- Alberta's 2009 agri-food exports to Washington State totaled \$449 million. Top exports included live cattle (\$335 million), refined canola oil (\$13.6 million), ethyl alcohol and other spirits (\$13 million), beef (\$10 million) and milled wheat, oats and barley (\$9.9 million).
- Alberta participates in a number of

regional forums providing opportunities to engage with Washington State on common agricultural issues.

**FORESTRY**

- There have been no specific Alberta-Washington issues on softwood lumber.
- Alberta is a member of the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force, which has a mandate to monitor U.S. state and federal forest policies, and lobby for sound forest management practices.

**TRANSPORTATION**

- Alberta supports an integrated, efficient regional transportation system and has potential export interests relating to the proposed Inland Highway Corridor that would link the B.C. Interior, eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and Oregon.
- Alberta monitors the availability of the ports of Seattle and Tacoma as alternatives to Vancouver B.C. for the export of Alberta products.

**EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Food and agricultural products
- Aerospace
- Tourism
- Environmental technology
- High technology

**SHARED ORGANIZATIONS**

- Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)
- Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)
- Western Association of State Highway

and Transportation Officials (WASHTO)

- Western Legislative Forestry Task Force
- Western Governors Association (WGA)
- Council of State Governments – West (CSG-West)

**RECENT VISITS**

- April 2011: IIR Minister Iris Evans represented Alberta at a Western Washington University Conference on Canada-U.S. relations and met with the Mayor and City Council of Bellingham, Washington regarding a resolution critical of oil sands production.
- January 2011: SRD Minister Mel Knight and MLA George Groeneveld represented Alberta at the PNWER legislature visit in Olympia.
- November 2010: SRD Minister Mel Knight and MLA George Groeneveld represented Alberta at the PNWER Winter meeting in Stevenson.
- January 2010: MLA Kyle Fawcett represented Alberta at the PNWER legislator visit to Olympia.
- January 2009: MLA Kyle Fawcett represented Alberta at the PNWER legislator visit to Olympia.
- October 2006: AAND Minister Pearl Calahasen led a delegation to Spokane to discuss aboriginal cultural and education issues.

**DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION**

- The U.S. Consul General in Calgary is Laura Lochman.
- The Canadian Consulate responsible for Washington State is located in Seattle. Denis Stevens is the Consul General.