

Final Report

**MLA Len Mitzel's Mission to Washington, D.C.
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance (Can/Am BTA)
October 2-4, 2011**

Overview:

Len Mitzel, MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat, represented Alberta at the Can/Am BTA meeting in Washington, D.C.

Can/Am BTA is a bi-national organization striving to improve the efficient flow of goods and people across the Canada/U.S. border. Members of Can/Am BTA are Canadian and U.S. private and public entities and individuals involved in border trade, border issues and border operations.

Mission Objectives:

The mission was successful in meeting a number of objectives:

1. Reinforced Alberta-U.S. ties and promoted effective and efficient border management.
2. Promoted Alberta's important and growing role as a secure and responsible energy supplier to the U.S.
3. Profiled Alberta as a desirable partner for trade and investment and a strong supporter of greater economic co-operation with the U.S.
4. Networked with U.S. government representatives and officials at the meeting to advocate for efficient and effective management of the Canada-U.S. border.
5. Worked with the Can/Am BTA members on common issues and opportunities and exchanged ideas related to border management.

Results:

MLA Mitzel participated in the conference and met officials from Customs and Border Protection, the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, and a number of U.S. federal representatives.

He discussed border management issues with delegates and received an update on the Beyond the Border Perimeter vision from the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in terms of improving the efficiency of border operations between Canada and the U.S. Mitzel delivered a breakfast keynote address on October 3 giving an overview on the Keystone XL pipeline approval process and Alberta's value to the U.S. as a stable and secure source of energy. In addition, he outlined Alberta's economic outlook and reiterated the importance of trade between Canada and the U.S. and the need for the unimpeded free-flow of goods. In closing he brought greetings from the new Alberta Premier-Designate and provided a brief overview of the new Premier's objectives over the course of the next few months.

A presentation by the Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade provided an outlook on trade between Canada and the U.S. and how the economies have been holding up given the world-wide economic downturn. For the most part trade volume is down yet holding up well all things considered, with a view that the worst may be over as trade numbers are beginning to show some signs of recovery.

Ambassador Roger Noriega, VisionAmerica gave an overview of the world oil and energy situation focusing primarily on Canada, Mexico, Venezuela and Columbia. Of note he discussed the growing importance of Alberta oil sands in the energy mix and the increasing security that this provides the U.S. in turbulent and politically volatile world energy markets.

Delegation:

Len Mitzel
MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat