

Final Report

Honourable Cal Dallas' Mission to
World Petroleum Congress (WPC); Doha, Qatar
December 3–8, 2011

Overview:

As Head of Delegation for Canada, Minister Dallas led close to 200 Canadian participants to the 20th WPC, held in Doha, Qatar. The world's largest gathering of researchers, policy makers and senior executives in the oil and gas industry provided an excellent backdrop to allow Minister Dallas to meet with Ministers and executives from around the world, as well as representatives from leading Canadian and Alberta companies. Minister Dallas spoke about Alberta's energy and environmental plans, and our attractiveness as an investment destination, and learned how we may work more closely with Alberta's manufacturing and service sectors to assist them internationally.

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

Mission Objectives:

1. Support Alberta industry at the 20th WPC.
2. Support Alberta's energy and environmental advocacy, trade and investment by participating in ministerial sessions attended by global attendees and media.
3. Establish political and business ties with world leaders in the energy industry.

Results:

Minister Dallas was the keynote speaker at Canada's ministerial session, attended by approximately 150 international representatives, including members of the international press corps specializing in the energy sector.

He spoke about Canada's energy strategy, Alberta's position as an energy producer and supplier of technological expertise, Alberta's Climate Change Strategy and our commitment to renewable energy and innovative practices. He also addressed Alberta's commitment to responsible development of our resources, investment opportunities in Alberta's energy sector, and our attractiveness as an investment destination.

Minister Dallas also addressed a WPC kick-off breakfast, sponsored by the Canada-Arab Business Council, and greeted Canadians and invited guests at the Canada reception, organized by the Canadian Association of the WPC.

The Minister met formally with Ministers from Algeria, India and Qatar during WPC, to address opportunities for Alberta companies with specialized products and services. During these meetings, he also promoted Alberta as an attractive destination for investment.

During the WPC, and on the exhibition floor, Minister Dallas was able to have short discussions with a number of senior international attendees. Included among these were the CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Company, the Chairman of British Petroleum, representatives of Libya's National Transitional Council, and a number of senior Chinese officials from the China National Petroleum Company and Sinopec.

These discussions focused on existing or potential investments in Alberta's energy sector and Alberta companies' expertise in heavy oil and shale gas and their ability to provide solutions for challenges around the world.

Minister Dallas participated in a tour of the Sasol-Qatar joint venture Gas to Liquids (GTL) plant. Sasol and Talisman Energy have formed a joint venture to explore the potential of establishing a GTL plant in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

The Minister took advantage of several opportunities to meet with Alberta companies, as well as representatives from the City of Edmonton and Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

He toured the Canada pavilion to speak with Alberta exhibitors and representatives from other provinces. The companies exhibiting in the pavilion were manufacturers and service providers and most would qualify as small and medium enterprises.

The Minister heard the perspectives from companies at various stages of international development and how most already work closely with departments such as Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations, Advanced Education and Technology, and Energy, and agencies such as Alberta Innovates. They discussed how the government might improve its relationship with Alberta industry, and what they require to assist them in their international efforts.

Minister Dallas toured the University of Calgary Qatar Campus for the Faculty of Nursing and was very pleased with the progress they have made since opening. They discussed the potential for, and obstacles to expansion to other faculties, or the option for other Alberta institutions to emulate their success.

The mission was an excellent way to meet with a number of Alberta exporters, as well as international counterparts who have an interest in Alberta. Minister Dallas left Doha convinced that Alberta has the potential to be one of the dominant players in the global energy industry.

Delegation:

Honourable Cal Dallas
Minister of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations

Jeff Henwood
Executive Assistant to the Minister