

Final Report

**Minister Iris Evans' Mission to Washington
Bellingham and Seattle, Washington
April 27-29, 2011**

Overview:

The Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, led a mission to Bellingham and Seattle, Washington, April 27-29, 2011.

Mission Objectives:

The mission was successful in meeting a number of objectives:

1. Profiled to Washington elected officials and organizations that Alberta is a resourceful, responsible energy producer and a strong supporter of greater economic co-operation with the U.S.
2. Established a working relationship with the Western States Petroleum Association to ensure that Low Carbon Fuel Standard policies in western states do not discriminate against oil sands-derived fuels.
3. Established contact with City of Bellingham elected officials briefing them on Alberta energy development and opening the door for continued dialogue.
4. Promoted Alberta-U.S. ties in a broad range of interests.

Results:

The mission provided an opportunity to carry out a number of advocacy objectives.

In a meeting with Canada's Consul General in Seattle, Minister Evans discussed potential areas where the Consulate General office and the province can work together on joint advocacy efforts in the Pacific Northwest to increase the profile and image of Alberta as a resourceful, responsible energy producer and a strong partner for trade and investment with the U.S.

The Minister travelled to the Port of Anacortes, in the Puget Sound, to meet with Western States Petroleum Association officials for an overview of their activities in working with western U.S. states to develop strategies and programs to successfully meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. While in Anacortes the Minister received an overview of Tesoro's refinery and oil tanker port facilities as well as an overview of the refining capabilities of the Puget Sound region. The four refineries in the northern Puget Sound area receive a significant and growing percentage of oil feedstock, much of it from the oil sands, for their operations which, once processed, are shipped to the U.S. west coast region as well as other countries for consumption.

Minister Evans also had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor and two Council Members of the City of Bellingham, and two Council Members from the Whatcom County, to discuss oil sands development and energy development in general. Minister Evans reinforced Alberta's commitment to environmentally responsible development and to encourage continued dialogue with them on future policy issues in their jurisdictions concerning energy.

The mission provided an opportunity to network with U.S. elected officials and organizations and to assure them of Alberta's continued commitment and capacity to serve as a secure, reliable, environmentally responsible supplier of energy to the U.S.

Delegation:

Honourable Iris Evans
Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

Marika Giesen
Executive Assistant to the Minister