

May 8, 2006

Alberta-Montana working group meets in Helena

Mission to promote bilateral relations, common interests

Edmonton... Alberta's relationship with its only U.S. border state will be the subject of Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council meetings May 11-12. Key discussion topics include agriculture, water, transportation and cross-border emergency services.

"As Alberta's only border state, it is important that we maintain strong and productive ties with Montana," said Gary Mar, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. Mar will be leading Alberta's delegation to Helena, the capital of Montana. "The council is a valuable forum for dialogue and serves as an early warning system to resolve potential problems."

The council, made up of Alberta and Montana legislators, was created in 1986 to pursue joint interests and enhance transboundary dialogue and cooperation. Alberta's relationship with Montana is comprehensive, covering a wide range of common interests. As Alberta's 12th-largest export market, Montana purchased an annual average of C\$1.45 billion in goods and services from Alberta in 2001-05.

Alberta's delegation includes Mar; Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Doug Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Barry McFarland, Associate Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation; MLAs George Groeneveld and Leonard Mitzel; and an executive assistant. The mission's cost is estimated at \$3,700.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

Itinerary

Date	Event
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Thu, May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depart Edmonton for Helena ● Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council reception
Fri, May 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council meeting ● Agenda topics include ● Agriculture and livestock ● Transportation ● Transboundary water ● Cross-border disaster and emergency services ● Passport travel requirement ● Depart Helena for Alberta

Note:

Engagements subject to change without notice

Note to editors:

More information about Alberta-Montana ties at
www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/alberta_us_relations.asp

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