

April 23, 2008

## **Washington mission aims to build on Alberta-U.S. relations**

### ***Stevens to stress environmental stewardship in oil sands production***

*Edmonton...* Strengthening Alberta-U.S. relations and reinforcing Alberta's commitment to environmentally sustainable development of the oil sands are the main areas of focus for Ron Stevens, Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, as he travels to Washington, D.C., April 26-30.

"Alberta remains committed to building on the foundations of its strong relations with the United States," said Stevens. "We are at a critical stage where we need to demonstrate to the world that we are a global leader in responsible resource development and in technology and innovation."

Stevens stated that Alberta will continue to find new and innovative solutions to expand energy production in an environmentally responsible manner, despite opposition from groups whose goal is an oil-free world. He stressed that Alberta has already demonstrated a commitment to find solutions.

Examples include:

- innovative work being undertaken by the Alberta Energy Research Institute and the Alberta Research Council on clean carbon/coal production, renewable energy, CO2 capture and storage, water use, improved recovery and bitumen upgrading;
- investment to date of \$148 million in carbon capture and storage research and development, a field with significant opportunities to partner with the U.S. on leading-edge technologies that will benefit Canada, the U.S. and other countries around the world in the fight against climate change, and;
- being the first jurisdiction in North America to legislate greenhouse gas reductions on large industrial facilities, such as those in the oil sands, and demonstrating an enhanced commitment to combating climate change by releasing a new plan that reduces projected emissions by 50 per cent by 2050.

"My goal is to make it clear that partnering with Alberta to develop the oil sands in an environmentally sustainable manner is far better, both in terms of energy security and environmental protection, than penalizing oil sands products and increasing imports from unstable and at times environmentally irresponsible overseas sources of crude," said Stevens.

Stevens will also explore developments in other sectors of importance to Alberta's economy, such as forestry and agriculture.

He also expects to meet with a variety of officials and organizations, including:

- Michael Wilson, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, and Canadian Embassy staff;
- public policy institutes, such as Woodrow Wilson International Center and the Hudson Institute;
- Members of Congress;
- the U.S. Department of the Interior;
- the Inter-American Development Bank.

Stevens will also meet with Gary Mar, Alberta's representative in Washington to discuss the operations of the Alberta Office in Washington, D.C.

The United States is Alberta's largest trade partner. Almost 90 per cent of all Alberta exports, worth about \$74 billion, go to the U.S. annually. Of Alberta's 25 top trading partners, 21 are U.S. states.

Total mission costs for Minister Stevens, including travel, accommodation and meals are estimated to be \$6,500.

-30-

**Attachment: Mission itinerary**

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Mark Cooper

International and Intergovernmental Relations Communications

780-422-2465

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

April 23, 2008

## Alberta mission to Washington, D.C.

### *Minister Ron Stevens general itinerary\**

Saturday April 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depart Alberta for Washington, D.C.</li><li>• Arrive Washington, D.C.</li><li>• White House Correspondents' Dinner</li></ul>
Sunday April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum tour and briefing</li><li>• Private program</li></ul>
Monday April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings with:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Center for Unconventional Fuels, regarding section 526 of the U.S. <i>Energy Independence and Security Act</i></li><li>• Land and Minerals officials with the Department of Interior</li><li>• Hudson Institute and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars re: Canada-U.S. relations</li><li>• Inter-American Development Bank (the IDB provides financing for economic, social and institutional development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean)</li><li>• Canadian Embassy</li></ul></li></ul>
Tuesday April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings with<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ambassador Michael Wilson and Canadian Embassy officials</li><li>• U.S. Federal Coordinator of Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects</li><li>• Canadian American Business Council</li><li>• House Committee on Natural Resources</li><li>• Alberta Washington Office</li></ul></li></ul>
Wednesday April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depart Washington, D.C.</li></ul>

*\*This itinerary is tentative and subject to change*

-30-

[Alberta Government](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [International and Intergovernmental Relations Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2008 Government of Alberta

