

December 31, 2008

Evans' mission to Europe to focus on financial best practices

Edmonton... Exploring best practices in financial management, economic development, and savings in volatile economic times will highlight Finance and Enterprise Minister Iris Evans' mission to Norway, the Netherlands, and Ireland from January 5 to 16.

Minister Evans will be meeting with the finance communities in all three countries to look at best practices in sovereign and pension fund management, and to discuss recent events in world financial markets and their potential impact on Alberta's growth.

"As we work to strengthen Alberta's fiscal position, it is to our benefit to learn from others," said Evans. "Norway and the Netherlands have experience in managing mature, resource-based economies."

Minister Evans will also be promoting key elements of Alberta's energy strategy in Norway and the Netherlands, and will be meeting with banking officials in Ireland to discuss factors that have facilitated the growth of their financial services sector.

Total estimated cost of the mission for Minister Evans and one staff member is \$35,000.

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Attachment: Minister Evans' itinerary

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Robyn Cochrane
Alberta Finance and Enterprise
780-427-5364

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Minister Evans' mission to Europe January 5-16, 2009

Date	Event
Monday, January 5	Depart Edmonton (evening)
Tuesday, January 6	Arrive Oslo
Wednesday, January 7	Meeting with energy company Dinner meeting to discuss Norwegian pension funds
Thursday, January 8	Meeting with banking firm Meeting with chemical company Meeting with risk management firm
Friday, January 9	Meeting with Norwegian Ministry of Finance Meeting with Council on Ethics Meeting with Norges Bank Investment Management Meeting with Folketrygdfondet (Norwegian Domestic Fund)
Saturday, January 10	Personal Time
Sunday, January 11	Depart Oslo for Amsterdam
Monday, January 12	Meeting with APG - Dutch Civil Service Pension Fund Meeting with Ministry of Economy Meeting with energy company Meeting with Canadian Embassy
Tuesday, January 13	Meeting with banking firm Depart Amsterdam for Dublin Meeting with Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland
Wednesday, January 14	Meeting with Enterprise Ireland Meeting with Industrial Development Authority Meeting with asset management firm Meeting with banking firms
Thursday, January 15	Personal Time
Friday, January 16	Depart Dublin for Edmonton

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