

*January 26, 2011*

## **Liepert to promote Alberta's energy sector in Europe**

### ***Will also share province's clean energy story in the United States***

*Edmonton...* Energy Minister Ron Liepert will promote Alberta as a leading source of secure energy in the United Kingdom and Belgium, January 28 to February 5.

"Alberta continues to be a leader in responsible energy development and it is important to get an accurate oil sands story out to an international audience," Liepert said. "This is an opportunity to share our expertise and learn from other countries pursuing clean energy solutions."

Liepert will address the Pan European Oil Sands Team Meeting in London. He will also meet with representatives from industry, the investment community and government to discuss shared energy challenges and encourage investment in Alberta's energy sector. Projected investment in the oil sands in 2010 was around \$15 billion and approximately \$59 billion has been committed for projects underway or set to begin in 2012.

While in Brussels, Liepert will give a presentation to parliamentarians of the European Union. He was invited to visit after a 12-member delegation from the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark and Romania toured Alberta's oil sands last fall.

"The European Union is not currently a major market for Alberta's oil sands products, but any legislation or tariffs adopted by the union's government can serve as a model for individual nations around the world. We want to continue to share our story with the legislators so they have the facts about our clean energy strategies," said Liepert.

The Minister will then head to the United States, February 6-9, where he will meet up with a delegation including Jeff Johnson, MLA for Athabasca-Redwater and Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board, and Diana McQueen, MLA for Drayton Valley-Calmar and Parliamentary Assistant, Energy.

"Our trade relationship with the United States is one of the most dynamic in the world," said Liepert. "As we move forward in discussing the use and source of energy products, it's vital that we tell legislators and decision makers that Alberta is a safe and secure supplier of energy."

In Minneapolis, the entire delegation will meet with the Canadian Consul General and Minnesota state officials. The Minister then heads to Peoria, Illinois while the Parliamentary

Assistants go to Chicago to attend meetings.

Canada exports approximately 1.4 million barrels of oil a day to the United States, much of it from the Alberta oil sands. "Our customers want to know about the technological advancements that are making oil sands extraction increasingly efficient and sustainable and that we are producing this resource responsibly," Liepert added.

The estimated cost for the mission to Europe for Liepert and his executive assistant is \$29,500. The estimated cost for the mission to the United States for Liepert, his executive assistant and the parliamentary assistants is \$11,000.

-30-

**Backgrounder:** European and U.S. mission itineraries

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Jay O'Neill

Communications

Alberta Energy

780-422-3667

[jay.o'neill@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jay.o'neill@gov.ab.ca)

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

*January 26, 2011*

## **European itinerary\***

**Friday, January 28 & Saturday, January 29**

Travel to London, England

**Sunday, January 30**

- No scheduled programs

**Monday, January 31**

- Meet with the Canadian High Commissioner to the U.K.
- Meet with the U.K. Carbon Capture and Storage Association
- Luncheon with Government of Canada and Government of Alberta delegations
- Meet with U.K. Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs

**Tuesday, February 1**

- Speak at the Pan European Oil Sands Team Meeting
- Meet with Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers

**Wednesday, February 2**

- Travel to Brussels

**Thursday, February 3**

- Roundtable meeting with members of European Parliament
- Lunch with the Bellona Foundation to discuss Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
- Meet with the chair of the Environment Committee and the

Commissioner for Energy for the EU Parliament

- Dinner hosted by the Canadian Ambassador to the European Union

**Friday, February 4**

- Meet with oil and gas industry representatives
- Meet with Government of Belgium counterparts

**Saturday, February 5**

- Depart Brussels for New York

**U.S. itinerary\***

**Sunday, February 6**

- Travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Monday, February 7**

- Meeting with the Canadian Consul General in Minnesota

- Participation at the Consul General's Maple Leaf Monday - Welcome to the Legislature event
- Meetings with Minnesota state officials
- Meetings and tours of refineries
- Meetings with industry

## **Tuesday, February 8**

- Minister travel to Peoria, Illinois (Parliamentary Assistants to Chicago)

## **Wednesday, February 9**

- Meetings with the Canadian Consul General in Chicago
- Meeting with Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria
- Illinois state officials meetings
- Meetings and tours of refineries
- Depart for Alberta

*\*These itineraries are tentative and subject to change.*

-30-

## **Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Jay O'Neill  
Communications  
Alberta Energy  
780-422-3667

[jay.o'neill@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jay.o'neill@gov.ab.ca)

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Energy Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

---

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2011 Government of Alberta

