

For Immediate Release
April 3, 2000

Alberta to be profiled at international government leaders conference on technology

Alberta Minister of Innovation and Science Lorne Taylor will be one of the keynote speakers at an international Government Leader's Conference, organized by Microsoft Corporation, in Seattle, Washington April 5.

The by-invitation-only conference, which runs from April 3 to 5, will include a wide range of presentations from government leaders around the world, who will share their solutions and strategies on "Leading in the Information Society." Government leaders and officials from over 90 countries are registered for the conference.

Taylor will be the opening keynote speaker on April 5, and will speak about the implementation of Alberta's Information and Communication Technology Strategy, its plans to build a high-speed network to all Alberta communities within three years, its work on providing electronic access to government services, and the province's commitment and investments in research and development in technology. Taylor is the only Canadian representative invited to speak at the conference.

Other speakers at the conference, which focuses on how government can use technology to "educate, empower and improve the lives of their citizens", include William Daley, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Washington Governor Gary Locke, Vice President of Peru Cesar Paredes and Bill Gates, Chairman and Chief Software Architect of Microsoft.

While in Seattle, Taylor will also meet with other government leaders and business representatives to explore other possible technology innovations and ideas that could benefit the province.

On the evening of April 5, Taylor will also be the featured speaker at a reception for Alberta expatriate working in the Pacific Northwest. The event, organized by the Alberta Government and the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, will provide about 120 former Albertans and business contacts with an update and overview of the province's technology initiatives and business sector. The event is similar to a reception Taylor spoke at in San Jose, California in October 1999.

A detailed itinerary of Taylor's two-day visit and meetings in Seattle is included with this release. Estimated travel and accommodation costs to the Government of Alberta for the Minister and two accompanying staff is \$4,100 Canadian.

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For more information, contact:

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Backgrounder

Seattle Mission Itinerary for Minister Taylor April 4 - 6, 2000

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tuesday, April 4, 2000	9:30 p.m. Depart Edmonton; Arrive Vancouver 10 p.m.; Drive to Seattle	Travel to Seattle, Washington	
Wednesday, April 5, 2000	8:45 - 9:15 a.m. Morning	Keynote speaker at the Microsoft Government Leaders Conference (April 3-5) on Alberta's approach to conference theme of <i>Leading in an Information Society</i> . Minister Taylor meeting with Patricia Hewitt, Minister for Small Business and E-Commerce, Department of Trade and Industry, United Kingdom.	Seattle Westin Hotel
	12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Mr. Orlando Ayala, Microsoft Vice-President, North and South America. Interview KPLU National Radio.	Seattle Westin Hotel
	6:00 p.m.	Presentation on Alberta technology business scene at reception, organized with the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, for Alberta expatriate and business contacts.	World Trade Centre Seattle

Thursday, April 6, 2000	9:55a.m. Depart Seattle; 12:35 p.m. Arrive Edmonton	Travel to Edmonton	
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