



August 31, 2010

Alberta and Northwest Territories advance cooperation during meeting in Edmonton

Edmonton... The governments of Alberta and Northwest Territories met in Edmonton August 31 to discuss the economy, environment, tourism, transportation and energy.

Alberta Minister of Finance and Enterprise Ted Morton and Northwest Territories Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger are co-chairs of the Northwest Territories-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation and Development Steering Committee and meet on a regular basis. The MOU gives both jurisdictions the opportunity to discuss cross-boundary issues and their impacts.

The co-chairs discussed the current economic situation and growth that each jurisdiction has experienced in the last 10 months. They received presentations on several Northwest Territories (NWT) initiatives with environmental implications.

Morton noted a number of topics were discussed at the meeting including the pace of economic recovery. "Alberta is emerging from the global recession and we're seeing signs of recovery," he said. "But we're proceeding with caution as our provincial and territorial economies will continue to be directly impacted by ups and downs in global markets."

The co-chairs' discussions included Alberta's land-use framework and the Northwest Territories' interest in initiating a similar planning review for their jurisdiction. NWT's Water Stewardship Strategy is just one piece of such a framework.

"The Northwest Territories and Alberta share a common border and face many similar challenges," said Miltenberger. "Meeting on a regular basis to discuss issues of common concern will only help each jurisdiction advance its own agenda."

The next meeting of the co-chairs will be in 2011.

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