



# Governance Gateway

December 2003

...information about Alberta's International Governance Office

*The International Governance Office (IGO) coordinates Alberta's public sector involvement in international development projects.*

## Summary of Mandate:

As a result of a growing demand for the Alberta government to share its expertise with other countries that are undergoing government reforms, an International Governance Office was created to coordinate these requests.

The office encourages partnerships between government and Alberta's private sector and institutions to jointly participate in international development projects. It also acts as an information resource for international financial institutions with project opportunities, as well as for the Alberta government.

## IGO Advisory Committee:

- Shiraz Shariff, MLA (Chair)
- Moe Amery, MLA
- LeRoy Johnson, MLA
- Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker, MLA
- Wayne Clifford, Assistant Deputy Minister, International Intergovernmental Relations
- Drury Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Investment and Trade, Economic Development
- Aniko Parnell, Director, IGO
- Shane Jaffer, International Markets IFI Coordinator, Economic Development
- Rockford Lang, Associate Director, IGO

Questions or comments? Contact us at:

12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Commerce Place  
10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB  
Telephone: (780) 427-6543  
Fax: (780) 427-0699

Website: [www.iir.gov.ab.ca/iir/inter\\_rel/pages/governance.htm](http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/iir/inter_rel/pages/governance.htm)

## Canada – South Africa Provincial Twinning Project

In late July Aniko Parnell, Director, International Governance Office and Mary Anne Wilkinson, Executive Director, Corporate Human Resource Strategy, Personnel Administration Office went to South Africa under the CIDA funded Canada – South Africa Twinning Project for a two-week program. In Alberta's sister province, Mpumalanga, they gave a performance management workshop to a large group of civil servants. The workshop was requested by Mpumalanga as a follow-up to Ms. Wilkinson's discussions with a delegation that visited Alberta earlier this year. It was viewed as a success by both sides and garnered a much larger crowd than was first anticipated.

Gerry Bourdeau, Deputy Minister, International and Intergovernmental Relations joined Ms. Parnell and Ms. Wilkinson in Mpumalanga the following week. Mr. Bourdeau met with the Director General of Mpumalanga, Advocate Stanley Soko to discuss the successes of the twinning and look at what future activities might be undertaken. It was a productive meeting that helped strengthen the ties between Alberta and Mpumalanga.

From Mpumalanga the delegation headed to the Western Cape for a conference on Best Practices sponsored by the Canada South Africa Twinning Project. The conference examined best practices resulting from the twinning project and included various presenters from both the South African and Canadian provinces. It highlighted the successes that have been achieved through the project and where future activities might be needed.



Mr. Bourdeau and Advocate Soko, August 2003

## IGO Update

- The International Governance Office is pleased to welcome Ms. Aimee Charest to the team to assist with the management of ongoing projects and help to enhance the office's communication links with our clients. Aimee can be reached at (780) 415-8397 or by email at: [aimee.charest@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aimee.charest@gov.ab.ca)
- Due to the overwhelming success of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) outreach programs and seminars this past summer/fall, Alberta Economic Development and the IGO will be working toward scheduling future such events in 2004, focusing on key sectors and countries of interest to Alberta's public and private sectors.
- Officials with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be holding a workshop in western Canada, in February 2004, on UNDP Procurement Procedures. The exact dates and venue for the events will be confirmed early next year. We will keep you informed.

### China Public Sector Reform Project – UPDATE (Subproject: Central-Local Relations Reform)

In May 2000, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded the China Public Sector Reform Project (PSRP) to help China increase capacity of its public service to formulate, implement and regulate new policies within the country's overall reform process.

In June 2001, the IGO became Project Leader for the Central-Local Government Reform sub-project under the PSRP initiative. Over the life of the two-year sub-project, this involved senior and mid-level central and regional government officials traveling to Canada to examine the Canadian federalism model for aspects that may be useful under China's reform agenda. The sub-project involved the Government of Canada (Western Diversification), and the governments of Manitoba (Finance), and Alberta (International and Intergovernmental Relations).

From Oct. 27, 2001 to Jan. 27, 2002, three Chinese officials were selected from the central State Committee on Public Sector Reform for a three-month Intern Program with sub-project partners. Interns completed case studies, putting forward recommendations for reforms in China based on their understanding of the Canadian model. These case studies formed the basis for the Policy Framework Document submitted to the China People's Congress for consideration.

While central-local government reforms proposed in the document will take several years to implement, the Chinese central government has already adopted some of the recommendations to re-align its relationship with regional governments. Particularly important has been the ability for regional governments to undertake their own restructuring initiatives to better meet needs of local stakeholders without approval of the central government. This first step is quite an achievement in China's decentralization process. The sub-project ended on June 30, 2002 and was considered viewed a success by central and regional Chinese partners, including the Chinese Minister of the State Commission on Public Sector Reform.

### Ukraine World Bank Delegation

From October 25 to 31, 2003, a 4-member delegation from Ukraine participated in a review of Canadian models for land titling and registration. Officials were members of the World Bank Land Titles Implementation Team, responsible for allocating the \$US190 million in World Bank funds provided to Ukraine. After a few days in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the delegation came to Edmonton, Alberta and met with public and private sector officials. Delegation members were treated to a tour of Alberta's land titles office, along with an on-line demonstration of the new SPIN2 system.



### CIDA Consultations on Russia Programme Strategy

Representatives from CIDA were in Edmonton on October 8<sup>th</sup> as part of their western Canada public consultations to develop a program strategy for Russia.

### Effective Bidding Training for Multilateral Development Banks

Alberta Economic Development in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAIT), Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and others organized a full day seminar to improve Canadian consultants' success on projects funded by multilateral development banks. The full day seminar held on October 29 in Calgary offered two training modules: Writing Successful Consulting Proposals and Partnering for Success.

### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Alberta on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Noreen Doyle, First Vice President and Scott Clark, Canadian Executive Director from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) spoke at a luncheon in Calgary on September 5<sup>th</sup> that was co-hosted by Alberta Economic Development and the Canada Eurasia Energy Industry Alliance (CEEIA)

### World Bank Oil and Gas Group Outreach to Alberta

Mr. Rashad Kaldany, Director, Oil, Gas and Chemical, World Bank and Mr. Assaad Jabre, Vice President, Investment, International Finance Corporation were in Alberta on July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with senior oil and gas officials.

### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Ms. Noreen Doyle, First Vice President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) visited Calgary on September 5<sup>th</sup> as part of an EBRD workshop on opportunities in the natural resource sector with a specific emphasis on Russia.

For more information on these above activities or other IFI related activities, please do not hesitate to contact Shane Jaffer, Manager, International Financial Institutions (IFI), Alberta Economic Development at (403) 297-6592 or by e-mail at [shane.jaffer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:shane.jaffer@gov.ab.ca)