



# Governance Gateway

... up-to-date information about Alberta's International Governance Office

Fall 2001

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

## Summary of Mandate:

With a growing demand for the Alberta government to share its expertise with other countries 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.

## Advisory Committee:

Shiraz Shariff, MLA (Chair)

Moe Amery, MLA

LeRoy Johnson, MLA

Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker, MLA

Wayne Clifford, Assist Deputy Minister

Nithi Govindasamy, Director

Shane Jaffer, Manager, International Financial Institutions, Economic Development

Rockford Lang, Manager

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*If you have any questions or comments in regard to this newsletter, please contact us at (780) 427-6543.*

## Workshop with Partners – Calgary and Edmonton

On June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the International Governance Office hosted over 110 partners in Calgary and Edmonton to discuss stakeholder needs and to seek input on ways to foster cooperation between the International Governance Office and its partners. The forum also provided an opportunity to present information on our role and activities since starting in May 2000.

Workshop participants strongly supported the International Governance Office and agreed that governance has become a major focus of international financial institutions' funded projects. Stemming from the recommendations made in the workshop, we plan to continue our active role in the area of international projects focused on governance. We also plan to undertake the following:

- Initiate a regular newsletter "The Governance Gateway" which will allow all of us to share our experiences and to pass on Alberta success stories in the area of international development
- Provide more information about pipeline projects and activities of international financial institutions. We recently established a list-serve to distribute weekly news and project updates. To subscribe to this service, simply send an email to [intlgovoffice-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:intlgovoffice-subscribe@yahoo.com)
- Coordinate and facilitate teams to bid on selected projects funded by international financial institutions
- Work closely with public sector representatives to keep them advised of international activities and opportunities

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the workshop and we look forward to continued cooperation with you in the future.

*For more information on the IGO Workshop with Partners, please contact Renee Vaugeois at (780) 415-8397 or email at [renee.vaugeois@gov.ab.ca](mailto:renee.vaugeois@gov.ab.ca)*

## Upcoming Events

- September 11, 2001 – CIDA Consultations on Strengthening Aid Effectiveness, Calgary
- September 19, 2001 – Mission from the African Development Bank, Calgary
- September 27-28, 2001 – Mpumalanga (South Africa) Investment Initiative Delegation, Calgary
- October, 2001 – Incoming Heilongjiang, China Tax Delegation
- October 22, 2001 – Incoming India Municipal Financing Delegation
- October 27-31, 2001 – Potential incoming mission lead by Mr. Mahlangu, Premier of Mpumalanga Province, South Africa
- November 14 -16, 2001 – CIDA International Development Days, Winnipeg, Manitoba

*For more information on any of these events or any other issues, please contact the IGO at (780) 427-6543.*

***We want to send a special thanks to the following groups for their assistance with recent activities:***

Finance, Municipal Affairs, Alberta Treasury Branches, Western Economic Diversification, Future Development Corporation, Town of Hinton, Justice, Public Affairs Bureau, International and Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Northern Alberta Development Council, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Government Services, Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, Farm Credit Corporation, Personnel Administration Office, and the Auditor General's Office

## Recent IGO Project Activities

### Alberta-Mpumalanga Provincial Twinning Project

In early May 2001, we hosted the first group of delegates of this twinning relationship under the larger \$3.2 million CIDA-funded project, the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project. The delegation was led by the Director General, Advocate Stanley Soko. The visit focused on meetings with key government officials in order to further develop the work plan for the future of the project.

From July 23 –27, 2001, Alberta also hosted two Mpumalanga government delegates responsible for their government communications. These delegates worked closely with the Public Affairs Bureau to examine the methods and strategies of communications in the Government of Alberta.

### China Public Sector Reform Project – Subproject: Central Local Relations

In June 2001, 17 Chinese government representatives traveled to Alberta and Manitoba to examine federal-provincial fiscal relationships and regional economic development initiatives. We manage this sub-project under the larger \$3.6 million CIDA-funded Public Sector Reform Project executed by Agriteam Canada Inc.

At the end of September 2001, three mid-level officials from China's central and regional governments will travel to Alberta and Manitoba to work for three months in a mentor-style relationship and will explore in greater detail the aforementioned themes. The officials will work on developing case studies to apply aspects of the Canadian model to policy reforms for intergovernmental relations in China.

### Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project

In late May 2001, an eight-member delegation led by Mr. Valery Alyoshyn, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament and Head of the Banking Committee, traveled to Alberta as part of a larger Canada-wide study tour focused on examining the mechanisms and legal frameworks for banking and credit relationships in Canada.

Later this fall, another delegation of Ukrainian senior officials will be participating in a cross-Canada study tour with the purpose of examining the federal-provincial structures and relationships within Canada, particularly in the area of fiscal relations. The IGO works in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies (executing agency) on this \$2.15 million CIDA-funded project.

### Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program

In March 2001, eight senior Russian officials traveled to Canada to examine the financial, social and logistical aspects of managing northern economies and living in the north. The visit and overall program were developed within the context of a World Bank Northern Restructuring Pilot Project. SIGMA VI, a company based in Ottawa and an arm of Universalis of Montreal, acts as executing agent for the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program which is funded from a \$20 million trust fund by CIDA.

## Who's Who:

### Nithi Govindasamy, Director

Nithi joined us in June 2000 from Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Nithi holds a Masters of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Alberta and has more than 25 years experience in the public sector within Malaysia and Canada.

### Rockford Lang, Manager

Rockford has been with the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations for the past 18 years. He has been integrally involved in Alberta's many international projects in Russia, China, Ukraine and South Africa.

## Other Activities and Successes

### Basic Education in Western China

The IGO successfully facilitated the Alberta government's involvement in a bid for the Basic Education in Western China project funded by CIDA. Alberta Learning will be working in association with Athabasca University, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and Agriteam Canada to deliver this project. It is the single largest project awarded by CIDA and is valued at \$11 million, with Agriteam Canada acting as executing agency.

### Agricultural Technical Assistance to Ukraine

Alberta will assist the International Finance Corporation, the private sector lending arm of the World Bank, to deliver technical assistance to Ukraine on a variety of agriculture issues. As part of this partnership, the Farm Business Management Branch and the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development will be delivering specific training on farm management and risk management strategies starting this fall.

### Government Assistance Project - Malawi

The IGO successfully partnered with Agriteam Canada Inc. to win the competitive bid for a \$4.8 million project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. The key objective of the project is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Ministries, local government and supporting organizations through capacity building, particularly within the National AIDS Secretariat.

### India Oil and Gas Delegation

This July, we partnered with the IFI Liaison Unit within Alberta Economic Development and the Asian Development Bank to assist the Canadian Petroleum Institute. The CPI is training Indian oil and gas executives on procurement processes and project cycles of international financial institutions. As part of this initiative, Ms. Patricia Moser, Deputy Director of the Asian Development Bank in Washington D.C., conducted part of the training program as well as had meetings with various Alberta companies and institutions on business opportunities with the Asian Development Bank.

### Opening of Federal Regional Office in Edmonton

On August 21, 2001, the Canadian International Development Agency announced the opening of a regional office in Edmonton. The CIDA Minister Maria Minna, Justice Minister Anne McClellan, Alberta's Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations Halvar Jonson and MLA Shiraz Shariff participated in the program.

The Alberta office is being re-established after a Camrose CIDA office was closed in the early 1990's during federal spending cuts. The office will open on October 1 under the direction of Ruth Shapiro and will be located at 725, Canada Place, 9700 Jasper Avenue.

The opening of this new federally-funded office will benefit Alberta companies, educational institutions and other organizations interested in working on international development projects by providing coaching and support on CIDA-funded opportunities. The office will make it easier for Alberta's businesses to get information on project opportunities and build partnerships with CIDA.

### Renee Vaugeois, Intergovernmental Officer

Renee joined us in June 2000 after working in Uganda, East Africa for six months with a non-governmental organization based in Comox, B.C.

