



Governance Gateway

April 2004

...information about Alberta's International Governance Office

The World Comes to Calgary – April 21-23, 2004

...sharing knowledge to help other countries prosper

Summary of Mandate:

The International Governance Office coordinates requests for the Alberta government to share its expertise with countries that are undertaking government reforms.

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?

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www.iir.gov.ab.ca/iir/inter_rel/pages/governance.htm

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) will be holding its annual International Development Days Conference in Calgary this year at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference is expected to attract over 300 participants from across Canada, the United States and other countries. This year's theme is "New Approaches and Opportunities in International Development."

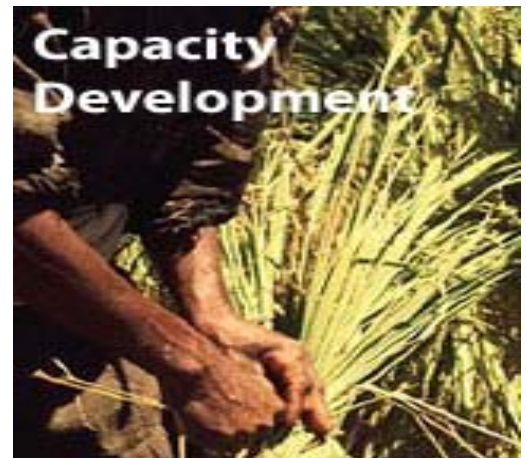
The conference in Alberta gives Albertans an opportunity to explore new markets and learn more about working internationally in this era of globalization. Representatives from the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and some of the top international development companies in Canada will be available to discuss strategies, opportunities and ways in which to become more involved overseas.

Come and find out what's new in Canada's international development program and how you can participate and benefit from the many opportunities available. Participate in private one-on-one meetings with senior representatives from CIDA and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to discuss your specific areas of expertise and opportunities for you and your organization. Find out how other Canadian organizations have successfully won international development work.

Attend informative workshops that will provide you with the most up-to-date information on how to win more work from CIDA, the IFIs and other international aid agencies.

For more information on CIDA International Development Days visit the CME website at:

<http://www.cme-mec.ca/idd/2004/English/iddpg1.htm>



IGO Update

- **April 21, 2004 – International Governance Office (IGO) Stakeholder Workshop**
The IGO has scheduled a workshop from 4:00 – 5:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to meet with Canadian stakeholders and provide an update on the role, operations and project activities of the office over the past few years. The IGO will also be seeking comments from participants on ways to create more effective partnerships in international development initiatives. Mr. Shane Jaffer, International Markets IFI Coordinator, Alberta Economic Development, will also be on hand to discuss the role of his office in relation to the private sector and development opportunities.
- **October 29, 2004 – Effective Bidding Training for Multilateral Development Banks**
Alberta Economic Development in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and others have organized a full day seminar to improve Canadian consultants' success on projects funded by multilateral development banks. The seminar will offer two training modules: Writing Successful Consulting Proposals, and Partnering for Success.

Recent IGO Project Activities

Shiraz Shariff Promotes “Good Governance” in India

Mr. Shiraz Shariff, MLA (Calgary-McCall) and Chair of the International Governance Office Advisory Committee, participated in Premier Klein’s trade mission to India in mid-January. During the mission Mr. Shariff was the guest speaker at the prestigious Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), which trains all senior central and state-level government officials, and conducts policy research on government public administration practices.



The session was attended by over 100 public servants, professors and scholars interested in learning more about the Canadian, and specifically the Alberta, model of effective public administration. Topics included the importance of transparency, accountability, public consultations in policy development, business planning, performance measures, and public expenditure management.

As a result of Mr. Shariff’s presentation, the IGO has begun discussions with India in the areas of e-government, change management methodologies, legislative committee structures and public input, and training practices for public sector profession development. A senior official from the IIPA may visit Alberta later this year to pursue further discussions on joint collaboration on good governance.

China - Taking on the World

It is no secret that over the past decade China has come a long way in becoming a major world economic player. With China’s accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the central government has made tremendous efforts to re-align its policies and programs to comply with WTO rules and guidelines and become an active participant in global affairs.

Toward this end, China has undertaken an initiative to train senior central and regional government officials in a number of sectors, including western public administration practices, central-regional intergovernmental fiscal relations, e-government, and enhanced agricultural value-added production.

We are pleased that China is increasingly looking to Canada, and particularly Alberta, for this knowledge and expertise. Over the past three years Alberta, in partnership with the University of Alberta School of Business, has been providing training to senior central and regional government officials from the China National School of Administration (the top cadre training institute for China).

Each year, 30 government officials travel to Alberta for a two-week customized training program on western public administration practices. The Alberta government provides a one-day roundtable session with senior Alberta government officials on the various policies and practices in the areas of fiscal management, business planning, performance measures, agricultural policy, and others based on the interests of the delegation members.

Some officials who have participated in the training program have moved on to become Governors of provincial governments. This program gives Alberta the opportunity to forge linkages and establish relationships with China’s up-and-coming leaders.

This partnership has been so successful with the China National School of Administration that they are planning to expand the program to add program specific modules. Plans are underway for officials from China’s Hebei province to come to Alberta for training on Alberta’s agricultural policies, programs and practices. Hebei province (near Beijing) is a major agricultural producing region in China and offers numerous opportunities for Alberta’s agricultural practices and value-added technologies.



Alberta - Heilongjiang Renegotiate Public Administration Program

In the fall of 2001, Premier Klein and then Heilongjiang Governor Song agreed that Alberta would assist in the training of senior government officials in public administration management. To date, three Heilongjiang delegations (comprised of 30 officials each), have participated in short-term training programs, ranging from three to six months in duration. Participants were selected from various Heilongjiang provincial ministries, state enterprises, and municipal and county administrations.

In March 2004, officials from the University of Alberta’s School of Business and the IGO, traveled to Harbin, Heilongjiang to meet with senior officials in the Heilongjiang Personnel Administration Bureau, and design a more focused and effective public administration training program to better meet the goals and objectives of the Heilongjiang government.

The discussions in Harbin resulted in a future commitment to focus the 2005 program on agriculture, particularly livestock management and processing, Heilongjiang’s number one priority for 2005.

State Enterprise Privatization In Russia

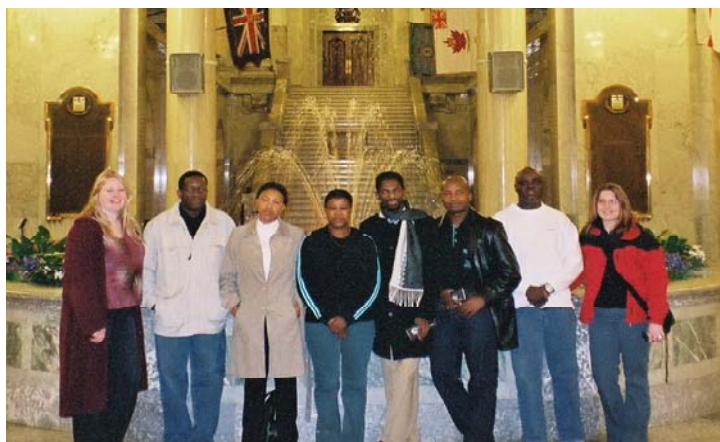
In 2003, the five year CIDA-funded Governance Advisory and Exchange Program (GAEP) was contracted to Universalia (a private sector consulting company). The program aims to provide Russian public and private sector decision makers with fast and flexible access to Canadian expertise and experience in support of their reform process.



The first group of senior Russian officials travelled to Canada in November 2003 to examine the rules and regulations governing state owned property and government's privatization process. The delegates met with representatives of Industry Canada, PetroCan, Telus, EPCOR, Alberta Government Services, and Public Works Canada to learn more about the Canadian model. The delegates were able to take a number of examples from our system back for their own property management and privatization reforms.

Alberta's Service Delivery Model In South Africa

In February 2004, six delegates from Mpumalanga Province, South Africa visited Edmonton to get insight into Alberta's approach to service delivery as part of the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project. Delegates were particularly interested in multi-purpose community centers, as Mpumalanga is striving to integrate public access to federal, provincial and municipal services provided in their province. During the program the delegation received presentations about Alberta's SuperNet, Service Alberta, the Government of Alberta Enterprise Architecture, Registry Services, and Contact Centres. They also met with officials from the City of Edmonton, the Town of Edson, the County of Yellowhead, the



Canada-Alberta Service Centre, and the Business Link to learn about their roles and methods in service delivery. The group was introduced into the Legislature and visited Jasper.

In follow-up discussions with the delegation, they indicated that they were very satisfied with the meetings and found them very informative and productive. Upon their return to South Africa, members of the delegation will play important roles in the implementation of multi-purpose community centres in the province of Mpumalanga.

Alberta Education Model Implemented Overseas

The Basic Education Project in West China

Alberta Learning is one of the partners in the Basic Education Project in West China. Other joint partners in this CIDA-funded project are Athabasca University, University of Calgary and Agriteam Canada consulting. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the teacher training system for basic education in selected areas in western China. The project focuses on in-service training of teachers, primarily women belonging to China's ethnic minorities. As the teachers live and work in remote areas, distance education is used to deliver the professional development programs. These programs provide teachers with the skills to adopt a more learner-centered approach in their teaching practice.

Alberta Learning contributes expertise to the project in key areas including distance education policies and technologies, curriculum development, and teacher education. Participation in the project provides a concrete demonstration of Alberta's leadership in education.

The South Africa Teacher Development Project

The South African Teacher Development Project, which started in 2000, is funded by CIDA and managed by Alberta Learning in partnership with the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. The project's goal is to develop professional development programs for practicing teachers in Free State, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa. South African and Canadian educators jointly plan activities, along with a Canadian Field Manager based in Pretoria. South African educators have participated in a study tour to Alberta to gain first hand experience with teacher professional development initiatives here. Canadian educators have provided technical assistance with the teacher professional development activities that have been planned for South Africa.

For more information about these Alberta Learning initiatives, contact Ms. Amelia Turnbull at amelia.turnbull@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Agriculture Extension In Ukraine

Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization (FARM) Program

Alberta is partnered with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and seven Ukrainian partners, using CIDA funding to deliver an agricultural extension program in Ukraine. The program, launched in March 2003, involves \$8.5 million over 5 years (\$6 million from CIDA and \$2.5 million of in-kind resources from the partners). The executing agency is Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP). Through FARM, agricultural extension offices are being set up in

some Ukrainian oblasts. Some grant funding is also being provided in support of private and institutional initiatives with Ukraine. The management and delivery of Alberta's commitment is through Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development. The Alberta government contact is Bob Prather at bob.prather@gov.ab.ca.

FARM has been operating for just under one year. The first oblast extension office was opened in Volyn in October 2003 with new offices now operating in Sumy and Rivne. An additional office is expected in Dnipropetrovsk by mid-2004. The national Training and Coordinating Centre for Advisory Services has been funded by FARM for 8 months. It has developed a new strategic plan for extension services across Ukraine for consideration by the national government. AAFRD staff are involved in the Steering Committee and have two representatives on the technical advisory group.

Over the next several months, the fourth office will be staffed; training needs assessments will be completed for new extension staff; and baseline assessments will be completed for farmer needs in all four oblasts. A meeting of all partners was held in Kiev in late March 2004 to discuss current and future plans.

The grant element of FARM has been quite active, although interest from Alberta companies, educational institutions, and industry groups has been limited. There have been over 40 concept (idea) papers received to date of which 18 have moved to the proposal stage. Of these, only 3 were from Canada; none were from Alberta.

The FARM program has been well received on the Ukraine side with excellent interest and support from the seven Ukraine partners and others involved in developing agricultural extension services in Ukraine. Important future considerations for the program include pending legislation on extension services. The FARM program is the largest CIDA agricultural project in Ukraine at this time.

Alberta Helps Reduce World Gas Flaring

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board / World Bank 2003 Global Gas Flaring Reduction Workshop

Given the successes in reducing solution gas flaring in Alberta, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) was asked to advise the World Bank Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFRP) and its member countries on policy and technical requirements for achieving flaring reductions. In addition to acting as a technical adviser in the development of global flaring standards, the EUB was asked to host a series of training workshops to transfer its knowledge and experience to members of developing nations. The first of three annual workshops was hosted in Calgary, Alberta on October 21st to 24th, 2003. Attendees included representatives from Nigeria, Cameroon, Angola, Algeria, Indonesia, Italy, the World Bank and the United States Department of Energy.

The workshop provided attendees with an understanding of the regulatory structure in Canada and Alberta for addressing flaring, including our environmental and fiscal structures. The workshop also introduced attendees to the multi-stakeholder consensus-based decision making process of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance that has been key to the successes achieved in Alberta. Presentations were also made on specific EUB requirements for technical flaring standards, measurement and enforcement. Case

studies of successful gas conservation and a field trip to see gas conservation in operation were part of the program.

Looking For Business Opportunities ??

IFI Listings

The IGO regularly compiles a list of current international development opportunities in the area of governance from various International Financial Institutions (IFIs) for distribution to service subscribers. These institutions include CIDA, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Development Executive Group, AusAID, the Caribbean Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office. The service also includes periodic information notices regarding other international development opportunities.

To subscribe to the service, please provide your e-mail address to Aimee Charest at aimee.charest@gov.ab.ca or (780) 415-8397.

Alberta Economic Development IFI Activities

World Bank Energy Forum 2004

Energy Week, the annual gathering of World Bank energy staff, took place from March 8th to 12th, 2004 in Washington, DC. As in previous years, it provided a forum for energy staff to network with each other and with a broad spectrum of professionals from outside the institution. Central to discussions this year were issues raised by the Infrastructure Action Plan and the issues related to the implementation of this agenda.

Private Sector Liaison Network

The External Affairs Office for Canada at the World Bank is launching a Private Sector Liaison Officer (PSLO) Network for Canada in 2004. The purpose of the PSLO Network is to establish a grouping of individuals in Canada that can provide basic level training and information to Canadian firms, NGOs and consultants interested in pursuing World Bank projects. Alberta Economic Development is one of the organizations asked to participate in this initiative.

For more information on these or other IFI related activities, please contact Shane Jaffer at (403) 297-6592 or shane.jaffer@gov.ab.ca.

Tell Us Your Opinion

Tell us what you think... really!

We are interested in your feedback on this edition of the **Governance Gateway**.

Please send us an email at: aimee.charest@gov.ab.ca with your comments, and suggestions for articles and/or improvements. Let us know if there are any feature stories on projects or countries that might be of interest. Your opinion helps us deliver a better product that more effectively meets your needs.

Alberta

INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS