

# Final Report

Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan's Mission to Washington, DC  
June 28-30, 2006



## Overview:

In the summer of 2006, for the first time in its 40-year history, the prestigious Smithsonian Folklife Festival featured a Canadian jurisdiction – Alberta. The Folklife Festival is an annual event that attracts one million visitors to the National Mall in the heart of Washington. It covers a ten square block area between the Capitol Building and the Washington Monument, just blocks from the White House. From June 30 to July 11, more than 150 participants from across Alberta demonstrated our province's performing arts, cuisine, aboriginal culture, and technology at the festival.

Leading up to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Shirley McClellan, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier of Alberta, participated in a delegation of Alberta Cabinet Ministers, led by Premier Ralph Klein, on a mission to Washington for *Alberta Week in Washington*. The Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier of Alberta came to Washington immediately following a federal/provincial meeting of Finance Ministers and a meeting of ministers responsible for securities regulation. Both meetings were in Ontario.

Building upon Alberta's \$71 billion per year trading relationship with the United States and the Alberta focus of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the goal of *Alberta Week in Washington* was to provide U.S. policy-makers with an understanding of Alberta's perspective on important issues in areas such as energy and agriculture, and to help Albertans expand their network of contacts in the U.S. capital. Highlights included meetings and events with key Congressional and Administration officials and economic forums that provided an opportunity to showcase Alberta's energy, information communications technology, agriculture industries, and Canada-U.S. relations. About 650 guests, including U.S. elected officials and Capitol Hill staffers, also attended an Alberta Gala at the National Building Museum that honoured the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

The mission was successful in meeting its objectives as outlined below.

## Mission Objectives:

- 1) Support and enhance the profile of *Alberta Week in Washington* (June 26-July 1) and the Alberta exhibit at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (June 30-July 11).
- 2) Use the profile Alberta will have in Washington to reinforce our key messages in the U.S.
- 3) Take advantage of Alberta's presence in Washington, D.C. to expand the number and quality of contacts with key U.S. decision-makers.
- 4) Promote a well-rounded view of Alberta, one that accurately portrays the richness and diversity of our geography, culture and economy.

**Results:**

**June 28**

Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan was among the Alberta representatives at the Alberta Gala that honoured the Smithsonian Board of Regents, attended by approximately 650 people, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The evening Gala and a reception before the event provided an opportunity to network and provide information about Alberta to U.S. elected officials, staffers and business leaders.

**June 29**

Deputy Premier McClellan participated in the *Cross Border Forum on Agricultural Interdependence: Challenges and Opportunities* at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She and Chuck Conner, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, opened the morning panel. Discussions centered on the interdependence and common interests of the agricultural sectors in Canada and the U.S. and underlined the value of cooperation in addressing agricultural challenges. Following the forum, the Deputy Premier joined the Alberta delegation at a luncheon for the 120 forum participants. Representative Bob Goodlatte, Chair of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and Premier Ralph Klein were featured speakers.

Deputy Premier McClellan was part of the Alberta delegation attending the *Partnerships Across Borders* event hosted by Alberta post-secondary institutions at the Kennedy Center. A \$300,000 internship program was announced for 50 Alberta students to participate in learning opportunities at Smithsonian institutions.

**June 30**

Deputy Premier McClellan was among the Alberta delegation at the official opening ceremonies of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. More than 500 people attended the event, which also included representatives from the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Congress, and the festival's other featured exhibitors.

Following the ceremonies, the Deputy Premier toured the Alberta displays and met with Albertans participating in the festival.

Thereafter, she hosted the Alberta government's *Alberta at the Smithsonian* kick off luncheon. The event was sponsored by Encana and included the Alberta sponsors, ministers and officials who had contributed to the success of *Alberta Week in Washington*.

**Delegation:**

Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan  
Maureen Osadchuk, Executive Assistant

*Attachment:*

*Full report on Alberta Week in Washington activities.*