

**Final Mission Report
Travel to Washington, D.C
March 10-13, 2005**

Executive Summary:

Mel Knight, MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky, traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend an Energy Council conference on March 10-13, 2005.

Knight is one of two representatives on The Energy Council, which is a legislative organization of ten energy-producing states ranging from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. Four Canadian provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia), along with the nation of Venezuela, are international affiliates.

Key topics for The Energy Council conference included addressing an energy supply strategy, zero emissions and pipeline and storage infrastructure for the North American market.

Mission Objectives:

- Advance Alberta's energy interests with key United States energy representatives and promote Alberta as a secure energy supplier.
- Highlight the energy opportunities that exist in Alberta and further strengthen the relationship between the world's largest oil and gas consumer, the U.S., and their biggest supplier, Canada, with vast majority of that oil and gas coming from Alberta.
- To meet with a number of U.S. Senators and senior congressional staff.

Accomplishments

The Energy Council and Canadian Embassy meetings were productive and informative. All Canadian affiliates were well represented with Canadian participants making up nearly 25 percent of the attendance.

March 10, 2005

MLA, Mel Knight, took part in a roundtable discussion with the Department of State, hosted by Mr. Paul Simons, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Energy Sanctions and Commodities.

March 11, 2005

Several presentations were given to conference attendees including one given by Ms. Nancy Hughes Anthony, President – Canadian Chamber of Commerce regarding *Canada's Contribution to a Secure North American Energy Future*. During the presentation Ms. Hughes Anthony pointed out that Canada has proven itself to be a reliable, fair and secure source of energy for the United States and this will continue. She did note however that both countries face challenges to continued investment, streamline and coordinate regulation, improve energy delivery infrastructure and deal with environmental challenges.

A luncheon address by Secretary Gale Norton - U.S. Department of Interior, focused on how the U.S. administration has developed an energy policy that helps address America's growing energy consumption and reliance on foreign sources of energy.

March 12, 2005

Mel Knight sat in on several presentations given by various dignitaries.

Alberta's representative in Washington, D.C., Murray Smith led a breakfast panel on *Working Towards Hemispheric Energy Independence*. Smith pointed out that Canada is the largest crude supplier to the U.S., and Alberta's 174.5 billion barrels of oilsands provide a secure, certain and friendly source of energy supply.

Donald Santa, President – Interstate Natural Gas Association of America discussed *Pipeline Storage Infrastructure for the North American Market* and focused on the natural gas transmission pipeline, storage, and LNG terminal capacity needs through 2020.

Water use by the energy industry is an issue being widely debated. Dr. Peter Scholle, New Mexico State Geologist – New Mexico Institute of Mining, held a roundtable discussion on *Water and Energy Interdependence*. An emphasis was placed on improving efficiencies of energy production and a shift to alternative energy technologies such as wind and solar power.

March 13, 2005

Mel Knight gave a presentation on EnergyINet, which is an initiative involving the Alberta Energy Research Institute (AERI). EnergyINet is a catalyst to bring groups together to:

- link and leverage existing research and innovation efforts
- unlock the next generation of ideas and technology
- provide a long-term abundant supply of environmentally responsible energy
- create lasting economic prosperity and social well-being.

Official Delegation

Mel Knight, MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky

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[News Release](http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200503/176805653A78D-9B94-4635-9614E5CBA6C7471F.html) (http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200503/176805653A78D-9B94-4635-9614E5CBA6C7471F.html)