

# International Travel Final Report

Honourable Deron Bilous

Minister of Economic Development and Trade

Mission to Tacoma, Washington

August 15-17, 2017



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## Overview:

The Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and Estefania Cortes-Vargas, MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park, travelled to Tacoma, Washington, to attend the Council of State Governments (CSG) West annual meeting.

## Mission Objectives:

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

1. Meet with the CSG West legislators and officials to generate support for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the benefits of trade and other key bilateral files.
2. Participate in the North America Summit session and the Canada Relations Committee sessions with legislators on international issues and highlight the value of the Canada-U.S. relationship to both jurisdictions.
3. Meet with CSG West leadership and other western state government officials to discuss climate leadership, and to promote the value of the Canada-U.S. trading relationship.

## Results:

The meeting was attended by approximately 500 legislators, industry representatives, and academics from across the 13 member states and three U.S. territories. It was an opportunity to network with U.S. elected officials and inform them of Alberta's priorities, such as the Alberta-U.S. trading relationship, the Climate Leadership Plan, and the province's economic development initiatives. Valuable personal relationships were developed and reinforced in an important trading region for Alberta.

Minister Bilous participated on the North America Summit VIII panel, where he highlighted the value of Alberta's trading relationship with the region and the importance of avoiding trade barriers such as "buy American" policies. Following the session, he reinforced his remarks to delegates attending the North America Summit VIII reception.

Minister Bilous and MLA Cortes-Vargas met with current and past officers of the CSG West organization and discussed the benefits of the economic partnership between Alberta and the region, and other topics of mutual interest. They discussed Alberta's membership within the organization, and the possibility of Alberta doing a presentation on issues of mutual interest during a plenary session at a future meeting.

As co-chair of the CSG West Canada Relations Committee, MLA Cortes-Vargas worked with her U.S. colleagues on common issues between Alberta and CSG West jurisdictions. She participated in the Canada Relations Committee panel where she discussed the value of the Alberta-U.S. relationship and highlighted Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan.

While in the Seattle region, Minister Bilous also conducted an investment meeting.

Minister Bilous' mission provided an opportunity to continue to build Alberta's network of relationships with the CSG West organization and work with U.S. legislators to reinforce the value of the Alberta-U.S. trading relationship.

**Delegation:**

- Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister, Economic Development and Trade
- Estefania Cortes-Vargas, MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park
- Heather Mack, Chief of Staff to Minister Bilous

**Final Itinerary for Minister Bilous**

Date	Event
August 15, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departed Alberta for Tacoma, Washington</li> </ul>
August 16, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with the business community</li> <li>• Participated in the North American Summit VIII panel</li> <li>• Attended sessions of the CSG West annual meeting</li> </ul>
August 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with CSG West Executive Officers</li> <li>• Departed Tacoma, Washington for Alberta</li> </ul>

**Significant Speeches/Presentations:**

- n/a

**News Releases/Communiqués:**

[August 14, 2017: Championing Alberta businesses in the U.S.](#)

## International Travel Final Expenses

<b>Expenditures by Participants</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Travel</b> (includes airfare, airport service fees, ground transportation costs, including taxis, car rentals, parking, trains, buses as well as mileage to/from airport or taxis to/from airport in Alberta, including any cancellation fees)	2,509.86
<b>Accommodation</b> (room charges and related taxes, including any cancellation fees)	1,112.80
<b>Meals</b> (includes restaurant bills and tips, meals on hotel bills, per diem meal claims, share of group meals or working sessions)	426.36
<b>Incidental and Miscellaneous</b> (includes cell phone rental charges, incremental costs for all electronic devices such as roaming charges for cell phones, iPads and costs associated with communications such as the costs incurred for media call-backs, conference/registration fees, including cancellation fees, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and inoculation fees, laundry and dry cleaning, baggage handling, out-of-country per diems, and other sundry expenditures)	1,462.87
<b>Sub-Total</b>	
<b>General Mission Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Receptions and Hosting</b> (receptions, luncheons, dinners, and events that are hosted by the Government of Alberta that are specific to the mission and include meeting related costs for room rental, room rental for hosted events, food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, entertainment, flowers)	764.00
<b>Incidental and Miscellaneous</b> (includes translation of documents fees, publications, shipping charges, gifts purchased specifically for mission, Canadian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate charges for services provided to the GOA)	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>6,275.89</b>