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**Building a stronger Alberta**

*September 17, 2007*

## **MLA Len Mitzel to represent Alberta at major trade conference in Denver**

*Edmonton...* Len Mitzel, MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat, will represent the Government of Alberta at the first-annual Great Plains International Conference, September 19-21, in Denver. The conference is aimed at promoting trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico, with a focus on the role played by transportation.

“This conference provides a forum to raise awareness about Alberta’s expanding role in North America’s economy, and transportation is a key component,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. “It is important for us to facilitate the efficient transportation of goods and services along major trade corridors such as Great Plains.”

Mitzel will deliver a presentation on the significance of Alberta’s trade with the U.S., the importance of the oil sands, and the routes and points-of-entry available to truckers traveling between the U.S. and Alberta.

“I am proud to represent Alberta at this important trade and transportation conference,” said Mitzel. “The U.S. is Alberta’s largest trading partner and this is a great opportunity for us to share ideas about how we can further benefit from trade with one another.”

The Great Plains Trade Corridor is made up of three transportation corridors that run from Mexico, through the U.S. and up to Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest: the Ports-to-Plains trade corridor, Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.

About 90 per cent of Alberta’s total exports, or more than \$75 billion in goods and services, cross the border to the U.S. annually.

More information about the Great Plains International Conference is available at:  
[www.portstoplains.com](http://www.portstoplains.com).

Participating in the conference supports Premier Ed Stelmach’s plan to build a stronger Alberta by providing and gathering input on trade with the U.S. for the benefit of the province’s road construction and engineering sector. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, improve Albertans’ quality of life, manage growth pressures and promote safe and secure communities.

The cost of travel, accommodation and meals for Mitzel is estimated at \$3,000.

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**Attachments:** Mitzel’s general itinerary

**Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Len Mitzel  
MLA Cypress-Medicine Hat

John Lear  
Infrastructure and Transportation

(403) 528-2191

Communications  
(780) 427-2731

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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## MLA Len Mitzel's General Itinerary\* Denver, Colorado - September 19-21

Wednesday September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Depart Medicine Hat for Denver, Colorado</li><li>• Conference registration/reception</li></ul>
Thursday September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Great Plains International Conference</li><li>• MLA Mitzel's presentation: "Alberta's Expanding Economic and Strategic Role in the North American Economy"</li></ul>
Friday September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Return to Alberta</li></ul>

*\* This itinerary is tentative and subject to change*

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