

**The Honourable Margaret McCuaig-Boyd**  
**Mission to New York, NY**  
**April 23-26, 2017**

**Overview:**

Minister Margaret McCuaig-Boyd attended the Bloomberg New Energy Finance Future of Energy Summit in New York City on April 23-26, 2017 to promote investment opportunities within Alberta's electricity system. The Minister specifically highlighted opportunities for investment created by the Government of Alberta's electricity transition initiatives, including the Renewable Electricity Program. The Minister was accompanied by a ministerial assistant and one representative from the Department of Energy.

The trip reinforced that independent power producers and technology companies from outside of the province are interested in investment opportunities within Alberta's electricity sector. Interested companies cited the availability of the Renewable Electricity Program and the decision to introduce a capacity market as key reasons for their interests. While in New York, the Minister of Energy had the opportunity to deliver opening remarks at a panel presentation focused on electricity market reforms in Alberta.

During the mission, the Minister met with numerous companies interested in using their technologies to assist in adding renewable generation to Alberta's electricity grid. Technologies highlighted included those that could assist in the implementation of community-scale generation and could be leveraged in Alberta to reduce costs associated with electricity development.

Alberta's delegation also received advice on best practices developed in other jurisdictions that have made modifications to their electricity systems, in support of higher renewable energy penetration. Their advice and input will be leveraged when developing Alberta's capacity market framework and other policy initiatives, such as adding renewable technologies, capacity auctions, and upgrading technology infrastructure to support Alberta's new electricity market.

**Mission Objectives:**

- Deliver a panel presentation highlighting Alberta's electricity market reform to potential investors and renewable energy developers.
- Meet with executives from renewable energy companies.
- Hold follow-up meetings with investment groups in New York who met with the Premier in September 2016, in order to provide an update on our electricity policy initiatives including the Renewable Electricity Program and coal phase out.
- Meet with capacity market operators and utility scale developers in the eastern United States to better understand their experiences with capacity market implementation.

**Results:**

Outcomes of the mission included increased awareness of and interest in market opportunities in the province through Alberta's participation in the Bloomberg New Energy Finance summit and associated media interviews. Strong relationships were built with renewable energy companies and investors interested in participating in the Alberta market. Alberta also received international recognition for its climate policies in the energy sector. This mission connected companies and institutional investors with the Department of Energy's officials, to allow them to continue to dialogue throughout Alberta's electricity market transition.

The Minister provided an address to the summit attendees, including senior business and public policy leaders from various jurisdictions around the world. Along with the address, the Minister introduced a panel discussion of senior leaders from Alberta-based energy companies and a representative from the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). The panel discussion focused on Alberta's electricity system and outlined market confidence in Alberta's electricity transition initiatives, including the Renewable Electricity Program and the capacity market transition. The session was well-attended and offered significant reach for the Government of Alberta to promote opportunities for investment in the electricity sector. The Minister was also offered media opportunities to discuss recent oil sands acquisitions while at the conference.

Attending the invitation-only Bloomberg event provided several opportunities for the Alberta delegation to meet with executive stakeholders from renewable energy companies. The Minister met with senior officials from Siemens USA, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems America Inc., ISO New England, Hydro-Quebec, XCEL Energy, FirstSolar and Cycle Capital Management. These scheduled meetings were to discuss Alberta's market transition opportunities for investment, and to seek advice on several components of the provincial market reforms: including coal-to-gas conversions, energy efficiency, enabling community-scale generation, systems for capacity auctions, and hydroelectric development. Throughout the conference, the Minister was able to meet and interact with senior executives from renewable energy companies and investment firms from across the world.

Outside of the conference, the Minister hosted a roundtable with New York-based investment firms to discuss Alberta's electricity market changes, as well as the Climate Leadership Plan. This roundtable was a follow-up to Premier Notley's mission to New York in September 2016. The Minister provided an update on electricity policies announced in late 2016, including the introduction of a capacity market, developments with the phase-out of coal fired electricity generation, and the Renewable Electricity Program.

Minister McCuaig-Boyd also participated in a roundtable dinner hosted by the Honourable Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources Canada and Ms. Phyllis Yaffe, the Consul General of Canada in New York. The roundtable covered a variety of topics, including developments in the energy sector. The Minister's participation in the event helped to build relationships with Canadian and American thought-leaders from across all sectors of the economy.

Overall, the mission confirmed that there is significant interest in Alberta's power market from power producers across North America, and that stakeholders are seeking additional information about the Alberta market before making investment decisions. Alberta Energy officials will continue to maintain contact with stakeholders as the electricity market transition is implemented. Alberta Energy will continue to collaborate with the Washington Office, receiving advice on opportunities to further engage companies based in the United States with interests in Alberta's electricity sector.

**Delegation:**

- Honourable Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, Minister of Energy
- Ben Thibault, Ministerial Assistant, Office of the Minister of Energy
- David James, Assistant Deputy Minister, Electricity and Sustainable Energy Division, Alberta Energy

# International Travel Final Report

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<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)	\$3,360.97
<b>Accommodation</b> (room charges and related taxes)	\$3,451.15
<b>Meals</b> (includes restaurant bills and tips, meals on hotel bills, per diem meal claims, share of group meals or working sessions)	\$453.29
<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)	\$490.97
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$7,756.38</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)	\$0
<b>Incidental and Miscellaneous</b> (includes translation of document fees, publications, shipping charges, gifts purchased specifically for mission, Canadian Embassy/High Commission/Consulate charges for services provided to the GOA)	\$0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$7,756.38</b>