

NEWS RELEASE - APRIL 15, 2009

PROVINCE HIRES NEW LAW FIRM TO RAISE AWARENESS IN WASHINGTON

The Government of Saskatchewan has retained the firm Nelson Mullins to raise awareness in Washington, D.C. and tell the Saskatchewan story in the United States.

One of the partners in this firm is former U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins.

"I have developed a close working relationship with David Wilkins," Premier Brad Wall said. "He is a good friend of Saskatchewan and he's familiar with our issues. I have every confidence that he will be an effective advocate for us."

Nelson Mullins is well suited to provide Saskatchewan with the legal analysis and strategic advice on issues that could have an impact on the province's interests.

In addition to Wilkins, the firm has partners with solid contacts in the Democratic and Republican parties, including a former Ambassador in the Clinton administration, a former Clinton Secretary of Education and a 20-year veteran of Congress. These contacts will enable the firm to provide Saskatchewan access to key legislators and influential organizations throughout the U.S.

The new contract calls for a quarterly payment of \$100,000 U.S. for a period of one year. In the past, different ministries engaged separate firms for government relations and legal advice on an ad hoc basis. Under this new model, Executive Council and a number of other ministries will be utilizing the services of Nelson Mullins on an ongoing basis.

Wall said the cost of these services is reasonable, especially compared to what other provinces are paying for similar services.

"The United States is our biggest trading partner, and it is important for us to be well represented," Wall said. "Based on my recent visits to Chicago, Houston and Washington, D.C., I believe it is crucially important to keep telling the Saskatchewan story.

"There is an increased awareness about Saskatchewan in the United States, but there is certainly a lot more to be done in this regard," Wall said.

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For more information, contact:

Kathy Young
Executive Council
Regina
Phone: 306-787-0425
Email: kathy.young@gov.sk.ca
Cell: 306-526-8927

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