

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel

(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Health	
Title of Travel	Mission to the Philippines	
Location	Manila, Philippines	
Date(s)	November 25 – December 3, 2022	
Participants	Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Health David Keogan, Chief of Staff to Minister Merriman Billie-Jo Morrisette, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health	
Purpose of Travel	To advance Saskatchewan’s (SK) interests in health human resources, trade, investment and explore opportunities for increased cooperation in recruitment of Filipino healthcare workers, agriculture, energy and educational partnerships	
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants		
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)		\$19,346.03
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)		\$1,776.19
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)		\$3,537.19
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)		\$837.11
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)		\$418.04
Subtotal		\$25,914.56
General Travel Expenditures		
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)		\$2,473.32
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)		\$0.00
Subtotal		\$2,473.32
TOTAL		\$28,387.88

Overview of Travel and Objectives

The Philippines is a market of strategic importance for SK with exports valued at C\$167.4 million in 2022. Over the last five years, exports have increased by 156% and the Philippines continues to be a key buyer of SK's potash.

- In 2022, SK served as Canada's largest exporter of potash, non-durum wheat and dry peas to the Philippines. Potash exports to the Philippines has grown more than 300% in the last five years - an impressive growth rate.

This was Minister Merriman's first mission to the Philippines. Mission objectives included to:

- engage with high level government officials to reinforce the Saskatchewan-Philippines relationship and explore opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship in trade, agriculture and food security and talent attraction;
- explore trade partnerships with Philippine companies and organizations to increase the demand and export of Saskatchewan products including potash and agricultural goods;
- profile Saskatchewan and highlight employment opportunities in the province's healthcare sector;
- support the official opening of Saskatchewan's Polytechnic's Philippines office and the Memorandum of Understanding between Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the Central Philippines University; and
- engage in meetings with Philippine post-secondary institutions and regulator partners to explore opportunities to align nursing programs and to develop pathways to fast-track Filipino health sciences graduates into Saskatchewan's labour market.

Travel Activity

- While in Manila the Minister conducted meetings with:
 - The Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology;
 - Director General of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
 - The Philippines Department of Agriculture;
 - Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education;
 - The Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers;
 - Director General of Asian Development Bank;
 - The Professional Regulatory Commission;
 - Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines; and
 - Chancellor of the University of Philippines Los Banos.
- Minister Merriman attended and brought greetings at a Meet and Greet event with some of the 129 Filipino healthcare workers who received conditional offers of employment from the Saskatchewan Health Authority while in Manila.
- Minister Merriman also provided remarks at a "Friends of Saskatchewan" reception to profile the trade and investment opportunities that are available in the province.