

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel

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

Ministry	Trade and Export Development (TED)
Title of Travel	FPT Ministerial Meeting on Rural Economic Development
Location	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Date(s)	May 29 – 31, 2024
Participants	Honourable David Marit, Minister of Agriculture James Cherewyk, Chief of Staff to Minister Marit Tyler Lynch, Assistant Deputy Minister, TED
Purpose of Travel	To discuss rural economic development challenges and opportunities with provincial and territorial counterparts
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants	
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)	\$3,608.12
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)	\$488.35
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)	\$1,088.06
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)	\$128.00
Conference & Registration Fees	\$1,042.38
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$6,354.91
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)	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$6,354.91

Overview of Travel and Objectives

This event was the second annual FPT Ministerial Meeting on Rural Economic Development. The objective of the meeting is to share experiences and best practices with FPT colleagues on how to seize the potential for economic development and revitalization in rural communities across Canada.

Travel Activity

The first day of the conference featured educational tours of Niagara College, St. Catharine's Museum, and Stanpac, a local food and beverage packaging manufacturing company. Day two discussions focused on three main topics: Indigenous economic development and partnerships, workforce development and workforce retention, and nature-based approaches to climate change and emergency preparedness. Topics discussed on the third day included rural broadband access, rural tourism, and incorporating rural realities into policy design.

While at the conference, Minister Marit:

- Highlighted Saskatchewan's commitment to economic reconciliation and positive steps taken to increase Indigenous participation in major projects.
- Highlighted Saskatchewan's labour market strategy and ongoing work to address labour shortages.
- Highlighted sustainability initiatives in Saskatchewan, particularly carbon sequestration by Saskatchewan producers and the carbon footprint advantage for crops produced in Saskatchewan.
- Highlighted SaskTel's \$280 million (M) investment to expand fibre optic internet service. Raised concerns that Saskatchewan has not received its fair share of funding from the federal government's \$3.225 billion Universal Broadband Fund.
- Highlighted the recovery of Saskatchewan's tourism sector and ongoing work led by Tourism Saskatchewan.
- Highlighted Government of Saskatchewan investments to grow the provincial economy in rural (and urban) areas.
- Participated in a bi-lateral meeting with the Province of Ontario to discuss pesticide management, business risk management programming including the review of AgriRecovery, and animal disease preparedness. Informed Ontario that Saskatchewan does not support a legislative approach to implementing the Grocery Code of Conduct. Saskatchewan favours an industry-led, voluntary approach to implementation.