

Those of you who are familiar with Jasper will realize that it is one of the most beautiful places on earth at any time of year. Our talks in Jasper will complement the current round of dialogue talks in Jakarta. They will help Canadians understand matters of strategic concern to ASEAN member nations and will strengthen Canada's links with ASEAN as it develops into the next decade.

Preceding these talks we will be holding a number of related events in Calgary with the emphasis on exploring new business relationships. We will have a major business forum on ASEAN, an academic seminar on Canada's relationships with ASEAN, and a range of integrated events designed to increase awareness within Canada about ASEAN realities, as well as to expose my ASEAN guests to some typical western Canadian hospitality. These events will bring together ASEAN Foreign Ministers, federal, provincial and municipal leaders, the business community, academics and journalists. It will indeed be ASEAN week in Alberta, and I am grateful for any suggestions you may want to make to the Ambassador about improving the impact upon our ASEAN visitors.