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February 2017

PNWER forms new NAFTA Modernization Taskforce

The US - Canada trading relationship is the largest in the history of the world. Keeping our integrated supply chains flowing is a critical issue across our bi-national region. PNWER has formed a NAFTA Modernization Task Force to develop key recommendations for any changes or renegotiations of the treaty.

The organization of the task force is the result of an action item approved at PNWER's latest Boise Economic Leadership forum.

The task force is seeking suggestions from each of the Pacific Northwest states and Western Canadian provinces and territories, as well as private sector businesses and industry associations.

PNWER will also be reaching out to our many bipartisan, cross-border Working Groups before the end of February to request their input on ways NAFTA and U.S.-Canada trade could be modernized to benefit their industries and issues. This input will be reviewed and folded into a set of recommendation to the new U.S. administration, and Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

To submit suggestions or for more information, please contact Brandon Hardenbrook, PNWER Deputy Director at Brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org.

News:

[What will Trump want from Canada on NAFTA? A U.S. document may offer clues](#)

- CBC News

Priorities:

[Wish List for NAFTA Modernization](#)

- Canadian American Business Council

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About PNWER

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Thank you to our Sponsors

Registration Opens for 2017 Annual Summit in Portland



Register at regonline.com/pnwer2017summit

When: July 23-27

Where: Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, Portland, Oregon

Visit: www.pnwer.org/2017summit.html

[See the agenda](#)

Join more than 550 legislators, business leaders, academics and local government representatives at the PNWER Annual Summit in Portland, Oregon to produce collaborative solutions to key regional issues.

The PNWER Annual Summit addresses challenges to growth, trade and environmental stewardship across 10 jurisdictions in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Western Canada. Network with leaders from the Northwest states, provinces and territories and explore the beauty and innovative practices of Oregon on guided policy tours.

Make a lasting impact in your area of focus and drive policy solutions year-round with key leaders in the field by joining one of PNWER's Working Groups.

Email info@pnwer.org, call 206-443-7723 or visit pnwer.org to learn more or get involved.

Capital visits to Helena, Salem, Olympia and Juneau key on invasive species, natural resources & resilience

Helena

Jan. 9-10

Delegation:

Dan Ashton, MLA, BC, PNWER President

Rep. Mike Cuffe, MT, PNWER Vice President

David Kettles, Alberta Economic Development and Trade

Chris Radojewski, Alberta Economic Development and Trade

Matt Morrison, PNWER Executive Director

Understanding and supporting Montana's emergency response to findings of invasive mussels in that state was a main focus of a capital visit to Helena in early January. Meetings with House

and Senate majority and minority leadership, the Montana Secretary of State and key executive-branch staff also provided an opportunity to discuss regional trade and PNWER programs.

More information on the Montana response is available at <http://musselresponse.mt.gov/>.

The delegation received an update on the state's efforts to contain invasive quagga and zebra mussels from Tim Baker, policy advisor for natural resources to Gov. Steve Bullock. The PNWER delegation briefed the Senate Natural Resources Committee on the status of federal support for state watercraft inspection stations and met with commanders of the Montana Mussel Response team. The delegation also toured the Aquatic Invasive Species Command Center. The possibility of holding a regional tabletop exercise was discussed, which could help other jurisdictions understand what they may face if they find a mussel infestation.

In meetings with House and Senate leadership, the PNWER delegation remarked on the urgency of containing aquatic invasive species and how important Montana's role will be in keeping a mussel infestation from entering the Columbia River drainage - which could affect Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia. Agriculture, forestry, and cross-border livestock policies were also subjects of discussion and Robyn Luff, MLA in Alberta, spoke on Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan via video call.

Salem

Jan. 10-11



From left: Matt Morrison, Shawna Argue, Colin Smith, Rep. Jeff Reardon, Sen. Arnie Roblan, Gov. Kate Brown, Rosie Shatkin, Dan Ashton, MLA, David Kettles and Chris Radojewski meet in Salem despite the biggest snowstorm in the last 20 years.

Delegation:

Dan Ashton, MLA, BC, PNWER President

Sen. Arnie Roblan, OR, PNWER Vice President

Colin Smith, APEGBC, PNWER Private Sector Lead

Shawna Argue, Director, Education and Compliance, APEGS

David Kettles, Director, Provincial and State Engagement, Alberta Economic Development and Trade

Chris Radojewski, Senior Intergovernmental Officer, Provincial and State Engagement, Alberta Economic Development and Trade

Matt Morrison, PNWER

A PNWER delegation including members from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Oregon visited Salem Jan. 10-11 to discuss the upcoming Summit in Portland with executive leadership and legislative staff.

A meeting with Gov. Kate Brown allowed the delegation to discuss preparations for the Summit and central topics for the meeting; disaster resilience, oil train safety and workforce education, among others. The delegation also met with Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson to

discuss cross-border trade and commerce and State Veterinarian Brad LeaMaster with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

In the midst of deep snow cover across Oregon, the delegation held conference calls with State Resilience Officer Mike Harryman, Ruchi Sadhir, energy policy advisor for Gov. Brown, and Karmen Fore, sustainable communities and transportation policy advisor for the governor.

Olympia

Jan. 23-24



PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison discusses the potential impact of an invasive mussel infestation to the Washington State Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee.

Delegation:

Matt Morrison, Executive Director, PNWER

Via phone: Dan Ashton, MLA, BC, PNWER President

Via phone: Rep. Mike Cuffe, MT, PNWER Vice President

Brandon Hardenbrook, Deputy Director, PNWER

Eric Holdeman, Director, Center for Regional Disaster Resilience

Mark Stayton, Media and Communications Coordinator, PNWER

Nate Weigel, Program Coordinator, PNWER

A PNWER Delegation visit to Olympia provided an overview of the threat posed by invasive mussels to the Senate Agriculture, Water, Trade and Economic Development Committee, the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee. PNWER President Dan Ashton, MLA, British Columbia, and PNWER Vice President Rep. Mike Cuffe of Montana called in to committee hearings to testify on the need for inspection stations as well. Eric Holdeman, director of PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience (CRDR), briefed the House Technology and Economic Development Committee on this year's initiatives in cybersecurity, earthquake preparation and oil train safety.

The delegation visited with Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler to discuss PNWER Forestry Working Group action items surrounding mass timber, as well as agriculture and Cross-Border Livestock Health initiatives. They also met with leadership in the House and Senate to go over the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, a PNWER energy policy program, and made requests for Washington PNWER delegates.

In meetings with Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib and Gov. Jay Inslee's Chief of Staff, delegates discussed continuing work by PNWER to advance preclearance and transportation, as well as CRDR programs.

Juneau

Jan 25-26

Delegation:

Via phone: Dan Ashton, MLA, BC, PNWER President
Matt Morrison, PNWER Executive Director
Steve Myers, PNWER Program Manager

PNWER's leadership held a Capital Visit in Juneau, Alaska, on January 25-27. Matt Morrison and Steve Myers had the opportunity to meet with Alaska legislative leadership and highlight PNWER's priorities. It was a great opportunity to hear from Alaskans about the challenges and opportunities they see with the new Administration in Washington, and to hear their priorities relating with their Canadian neighbors.

We also had the opportunity to brief Governor Walker's Chief of Staff. President Dan Ashton gave an overview of the BC LNG projects and was able to highlight the positive results of British Columbia and Alaska working together on a Transboundary water memorandum of understanding.

In one-on-one meetings with more than 20 legislators, the delegation spoke on key issues affecting Alaska and the region, the importance of the Arctic and Arctic Caucus to Alaska, and ways that we can continue working with the Alaskan legislature to showcase Alaska's Arctic policy. This is especially important because of the new US presidential administration and upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial being planned for May 8 & 9 in Fairbanks.

Read the 2016 PNWER Annual Report

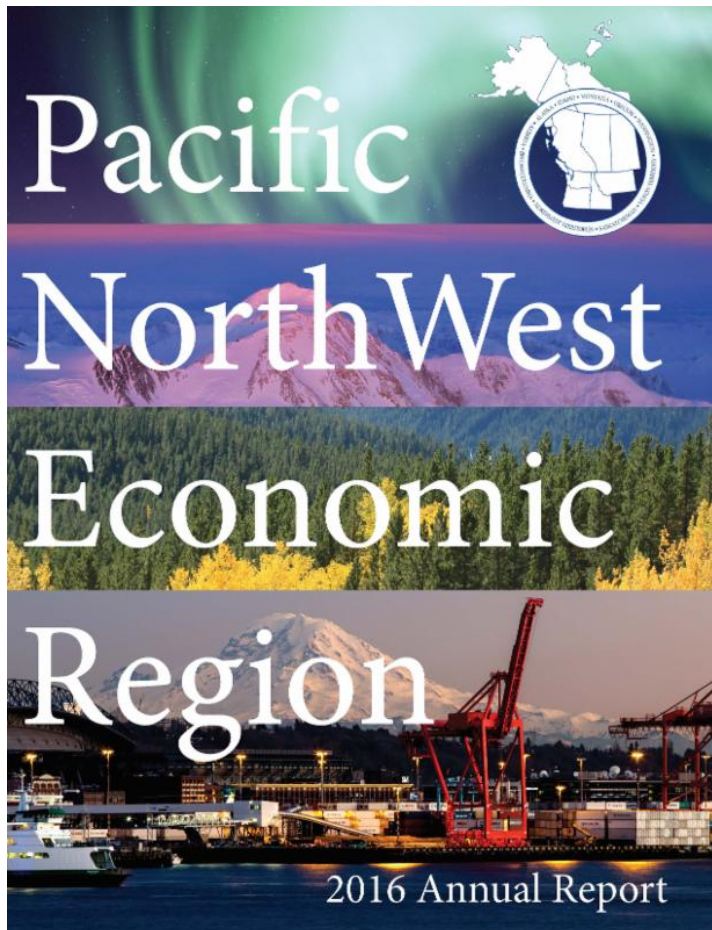
Curious about what the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region was up to last year?

Check out our [2016 Annual Report](#)!

Inside, you'll find:

- Information on the organization and our public & private-sector leadership
- Recaps of our 2016 Summit in Calgary and Economic Leadership Forum in Boise
- Working Group action items, accomplishments and co-chairs
- Major programs
- Financial Information
- Sponsor and partner recognition

We are proud of what we were able to accomplish in 2016 thanks to the support of our 10 member jurisdictions, our delegates, sponsors, stakeholders and guests.



Call 206-443-7723, visit www.pnwer.org or email info@pnwer.org to learn more about our current projects and get involved.

News in the Region

Aquatic Invasive Species

[Washington considers strengthening measures to protect waters from aquatic invasive species](#)
- The Spokesman-Review

[Montana Mussel Response Team enters new phase](#)

- KQTV.com, Billings, Montana

New U.S. Administration

[Let's look north during Trump's tenure to act on shared economic, environmental goals](#)

- Op-ed in the Bellingham Herald by Don Alper, emeritus professor of political science and former director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University

[What does 'America First' mean for the U.S.-Canada bond over the Arctic?](#)

- John Higgenbotham for Open Canada

Energy

[Could rerailling pipeline projects cut oil trains in Washington?](#)

- Glenn Farley, KING 5 News

[Why an Oregon wave energy device is being tested in Colorado](#)

- Portland Business Network

Partner Events

The Changing Environment & The Columbia River Treaty

When: February 22-23, 2017

Where: Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, Washington

Full event information is available at <https://wp.wvu.edu/crt/>

This 2 day symposium is co-hosted by Northwest Indian College and Western Washington University and brings together Tribal and First Nations leaders, government representatives, non-government organizations, academics, and private industry to address the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty.

Specifically, this symposium will inform CRT negotiators from the United States and representatives of Canada on issues related to hydrology, electric energy, flood risk/management, and environmental and ecosystem services.

Underscored by the goal of moving the negotiations forward, panels are centered on the overarching theme of 'how is the future going to be unlike the past.'

Mass Timber Conference

When: March 28-30

Where: Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon

Full event information is available at <http://www.masstimberconference.com/>

The Mass Timber Conference explores the entire supply chain for cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam panels, laminated veneer lumber, and other mass timber; and the opportunities and obstacles for mass timber building in global construction. Benefit from 80 speakers, 4 focused educational tracks, 60 exhibits (and poster presentations) in the exhibit hall, multiple networking receptions, and one of the largest gatherings of CLT and mass timber experts in the world.

PNWER Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region offers a wide range of sponsorship opportunities to public and private sector organizations interested in leading the Pacific Northwest forward.

These opportunities range from a simple membership to premier sponsorships of our highly-visible Annual Summit, and many areas in-between.

Act now to receive maximum benefit for your investment, including recognition at our Annual Summit in Portland, July 23-27.

Learn more about [PNWER sponsorship](#).

An investment in PNWER provides:

- Representation within one of 19 industry working groups focused on advocacy and policy solutions
- The reach of a cross-border, region wide network of private sector and government officials
- A strong voice for business and government across five states, three provinces, and two territories and to the federal government in Washington D.C. and Ottawa
- A private sector council, which helps businesses develop new relationships with partners, vendors, and suppliers on both sides of the border

"After all these years, I still think PNWER is one of the best, if not the best, conference in the U.S. and Canada ... We love you guys. We're very proud to be an enthusiastic sponsor of PNWER every year."

- Ambassador David Wilkins, former US Ambassador to Canada, partner at Nelson Mullins

Contact Sponsorship Manager Jennifer Grosman at 206-443-7723 or email Jennifer.Grosman@pnwer.org to discuss opportunities for your organization.

Connect with PNWER on social media!

Keep up to date on the latest PNWER activities and news from the region.



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Like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/pnwer



Follow us and see PNWER photos on [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pnwer/)

ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) was created in 1991 by the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

It is a statutory public/private non-profit dedicated to increasing the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment.

Our overarching goals are to:

- Coordinate provincial and state policies throughout the region
- Identify and promote "models of success"
- Serve as a conduit to exchange information.
- Promote greater regional collaboration
- Enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets
- Leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington D.C.
- Achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural environment

PNWER's 19 working groups develop yearly action items at our Summits to continually advance policy initiatives with public and private stakeholders.

Learn more at [PNWER.org](https://www.pnwer.org).

Thank you to our Sponsors



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