



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

2017-2018 Accomplishments

PNWER brings together key business and government leaders from the Pacific Northwest and Western Canadian provinces and territories to address the important issues of our bi-national regional economy. The group includes Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and Northwest Territories.

PNWER has consistently been recognized as a leader in the region, bringing together the public and private sectors to tackle our common challenges and share innovative best practices for growing our regional economy. More information on PNWER can be found at www.pnwer.org.

THE COMING YEAR

2019 Annual Summit

July 21 - 25 | Saskatoon, SK



Join more than 550 legislators, business leaders, academics and local government representatives in Saskatoon for four days of in-depth work sessions, high-level networking and enlightening keynote speeches.

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

Visit pnwer.org/2019-summit for more

This past year our NAFTA modernization task force pushed for 10 recommendations, most of which made it into the final USMC Agreement, and we have also pushed to end the steel and aluminum tariffs between the US and Canada, which is an ongoing challenge today. We also focused on the Columbia River Treaty, transportation infrastructure, invasive species, and other high priority issues facing the region. In 2018 we have led a number of initiatives focused on advancing the regional economy including:

2018 ANNUAL SUMMIT

Over 600 regional legislators, business leaders, academics, and policy makers gathered in Spokane, WA on July 22-26. With 27 working group sessions, 6 keynote plenary sessions, and 7 policy tours, attendees had the opportunity to engage in dialogue, strengthen regional relationships, and address the various challenges that affect the region. Videos, media reports, and the work plan to guide PNWER over the next year are available at www.pnwer.org/2018summit.

TRADE

PNWER encouraged the U.S. and Canadian Federal Governments to strive towards a modernized NAFTA that builds upon its current success to further enhance trade and investment in North America. PNWER has communicated with the White House, Department of Commerce, and United States Trade Representative, and presented to the Canadian Parliament on the importance of a tri-lateral NAFTA agreement, Canadian exemption for steel and aluminum tariffs, and the repeal of the tariff on Canadian newsprint. Communications with the White House, the NAFTA Resolution, and Modernization Task Force materials are available at <http://www.pnwer.org/nafta-modernization.html>.

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Another key priority for PNWER this year has been the Columbia River Treaty. One highlight of the Annual Summit included the first and only joint session with stakeholders with both Lead negotiators from the US and Canada; Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs, Global Affairs Canada and Jim Smail, Columbia River Treaty Negotiator, U.S. Department of State. Stakeholders shared the benefits and impacts of the treaty focusing on areas including ecosystems, tribal concerns, power generation, tourism, agriculture, irrigation, recreation, transportation and more. PNWER also organized a two-day trip to interior B.C. for 50 leaders to learn from Canadian officials and communities about the impacts of the treaty in Canada, as well as an additional tour to Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State.

CAPITOLS COMPETING FOR CAPITAL

25 state legislators and executive branch officials spent two days in Silicon Valley examining the latest technologies, their application, and policy implications of 5G telecom infrastructure. The small, hands-on, intensive program provided policymakers a greater understanding of where the industry is going, and how policies may affect infrastructure investments in our region.

INFRASTRUCTURE

PNWER continues to showcase Canadian expertise in public-private partnerships and is working with the Administration and the U.S. Congress to develop a regional accelerator promote public/private partnerships for regional infrastructure.

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

PNWER hosted the 6th annual North American Arctic Leaders Roundtable held in the US Capital, led by US Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and Rep. Don Young. Representatives from the U.S., Canada and Greenland, as well as many experts in the Arctic region discussed collaboration on a North American Arctic strategy.

ENERGY

The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, PNWER's annual 60-hour certificate program in energy policy, has graduated over 240 state legislators, and Canadian MLAs to date. 40 legislators, including MLAs from BC and Saskatchewan, participated in the Institute in Richland, Washington, and will meet in Washington DC in November for the second 3-day intensive course. The Annual Summit featured 5 energy sessions covering grid reliability, battery storage, infrastructure resiliency, and permit reform.

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

PNWER hosted an Exercise on post-earthquake disaster recovery efforts in in Seattle. 125 + energy, transportation, healthcare, education and other sector leaders attended to discuss planning for the post response - long term recovery process.

WILDFIRES

PNWER supported recent federal action to increase wildfire funding. In the past, PNWER has worked with our Congressional leaders, and organized working group sessions focused on healthy forest management policies.

INVASIVE SPECIES

PNWER was instrumental in securing \$21 million in federal funds for the fight against invasive species for Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana over the past 4 years. These mussels would have a devastating impact on the agriculture and hydropower sectors. PNWER has pushed Canadian federal agencies to support provincial efforts and is collaborating with the provinces on an Invasive Mussel Prevention Framework for Western Canada.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS)

PNWER won a national competition and was awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security to develop new technologies to utilize drones to quickly assess earthquake damage to critical infrastructure, including roads and bridges following an earthquake. The project is a joint effort between PNWER and Northeastern University in Boston.

TRANSPORTATION

PNWER has long worked with our partners to establish Harbour to Harbor floatplane service between Seattle and Vancouver, BC and helped develop a pilot program with CBSA and CBP for bi-national clearance. The one-hour flight is a major boost to tourism and business travelers and the pilot program began in Spring 2018.

CYBERSECURITY

PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience procured independent funding from DHS to develop a cyber resilience assessment tool and also a cyber response planning guide for businesses and local governments in the region. If you are interested in these products, please contact the PNWER office, we would be happy to share them with you.

MINING

Binational legislators were educated on innovative and sustainable mining practices at the Spokane Annual Summit. Mining will be a significant focus at the 2019 Annual Summit in Saskatoon.