

**2015 PNWER Legislative Leadership Academy Agenda**  
**November 15-17, 2015 | Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**  
*\*Preliminary schedule, may change*

**Sunday, November 15**

**1:00pm – 8:00pm Registration**

**8:00am-9:15am**

**Welcome Breakfast and Discussion**

**Presentation on the basic structural differences between the Canadian and US Government Systems**

- *Prof. Don Alper, Former Director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies, Border Policy Research Institute, Western Washington University*
- *Prof. Michael Treleaven, Associate Professor, Political Science, Gonzaga University*

**9:15am-10:30am**

**Legislative Academy Session #1 – Structural difference between the government systems**

- Discussion Questions:
  - How do bills originate?
  - How many bills do you consider in a typical legislative year?
  - How do you function in caucus?
  - Describe your committee structure, and what is the role of legislative committees?
  - Who decides who sits on committees?
  - What is the role of public consultation, interest groups, lobbyists, media, etc?
  - Differences in institutional resources?
  - How does the initiative and referendum process impact the legislature?

**10:30 Break**

**10:45am – 11:45am**

**Legislative Academy Session #2 - Facilitated roundtable discussion on the campaigns, elections, and leadership process in both the states and provinces. Moderators leading each table.**

- Discussion Questions
  - What are the nomination procedures?
  - What is role and power of party leadership in the nomination process?
  - What does a typical campaign for the legislature cost in your jurisdiction?
  - How do you fund political campaigns?
  - How do you monitor ethics and how does the process work?
  - What are the implications of all of the above to the day to day legislative process and the making of laws?
  - How does an MLA get selected to be in the cabinet and what does that mean? How do careers develop?

- Comparing the fusion of the legislative and executive authorities in Canada with the diffusion and separation of powers in the United States
- Role of committee chairman vs. department chair

### 11:45 am Break

### 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

#### ***Luncheon Plenary discussion on Provincial, Territorial and State and Federal Relations: Roundtable dialogue in small mixed table setting***

- Discussion Questions:
  - How do states interface with the US federal government?
  - Who controls tax dollars, and what is the percentage of government services controlled by Washington, DC vs. the state governments? What are the implications of this?
  - What is the role of the provinces and the federal government in the Canadian system? And what are the practical relationships between the two?
  - What is the constitutional breakdown of responsibilities between the provinces and the federal government?
  - What is the role of the territory and the federal government in the Canadian system? And what are the practical relationships between the two?
  - What is the constitutional breakdown of responsibilities between the territory and the federal government?
  - Does the Canadian Senate play a role similar to the US Senate?
  - How do regional priorities get on the national agenda? What is the difference between the process in DC and Ottawa?

### 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm

#### **Legislative Academy Session #3: “From the Speaker’s Chair” A comparative look at the role and function of the Speaker of the House and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly**

- U.S. Speaker, Canadian Speaker, Moderator
- Discussion Questions:
  - How does the Speaker exert influence over the process?
  - What is the Speaker’s role, and how do they utilize their role?
  - What is the role of the Opposition?

### 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

#### **Legislative Academy Session #4: Discussion on Provincial, Territorial and State and Federal Relations**

- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm    **Tour of the Legislative Assembly Building**
- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm    **Discussion of Northwest Territories governance system**
- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm    **Reception at Prince of Wales Heritage Museum**
- 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm    **Hospitality Suite**

**Monday, November 16**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**

**Breakfast plenary discussion on Provincial/Territorial/State - Federal Relations**

**9:15 am – 10:15 am**

**Legislative Academy Session #5 - How do we build on PNWER's past successes for future collaboration?**

- Roundtable discussion on current cross-border topics in our region:
  - Cross-Border Regional Solutions Council: Mining and the Shared Impacts to Alaska and British Columbia
  - Invasive Species Perimeter of Defense
  - US & Canada Pre-Clearance Agreement for Rail, Air, & Ferries

**Beginning of Economic Leadership Forum**