

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kelsey Larson
(206) 443-7723
Kelsey@Pnwer.org

July 22, 2014

Regional Health Alliance Presents Award to Binational Leadership Group

The winner of this year's Hot Potato award is Wayne Dauphinee, Executive Director, Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance, a cross border collaborative comprised of five U.S. states and four Canadian provinces/territories focused on public health preparedness, and represents the regional border health collaboratives as a member of the CA-U.S. Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council Secretariat.

Each year, PNWER has bestowed the "Hot Potato Award" to someone who has provided exemplary leadership in reducing tension between the U.S. and Canada in the Pacific Northwest, or played a major role in bringing greater awareness and collaboration across the border.

The award takes its name from the Pig War, also called the Potato War, a confrontation in the San Juan Islands in 1859 between America and the British Empire over boundaries. The incident was triggered after an American farmer shot a pig that was eating his potato crop. The pig belonged to an employee of the Canadian-owned Hudson's Bay Company and was the only casualty of the otherwise bloodless conflict.

Past recipients include Hon. Rob Merrifield, of Alberta; Colin Robertson, a Senior Strategic Advisor for McKenna, Long and Aldridge LLP; Don Alper; Gary Lunn; Lewis Lukens; and Liz Luce.

PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison said, "Wayne Dauphinee has worked tirelessly for the binational region for the last eight years creating a structure which has allowed state and provincial public health officials to share vital information on disease prevention that we've all benefited from.

About the Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance

The Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA) is a cross border collation of: the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington; the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan; and the Yukon Territory. The State of North Dakota and the Provinces of Manitoba have also been invited to participate. PNWBHA's primary goal is to provide leadership in the integration of health sector preparedness and response initiatives at all levels of government, including Tribal and First Nations, throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance is a member of the [CA-US Pan Border Public Health Preparedness Council](#)

Pacific North West Border Health Alliance provides the framework for collaborative work, including mutual assistance and inter-agency and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Pacific North West.

In addition, the MOU provides a solid base upon which to pursue new and/or enhanced initiatives that:

- Strengthen existing prevention, detection and response capabilities, such as, improved coordination in responding to emergencies; enhanced laboratory diagnostic capacity and security; updating stockpiles of necessary vaccines, antibiotics and antidotes; and ensuring all participating jurisdictions have trained staff ready to respond to any crisis; and

- Promote coordinated response plans, particularly between bordering jurisdictions, to avoid duplication of efforts, fill in identified gaps, and maximize the leverage of limited resources

####

ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT

Over 500 state and provincial legislators, business and civic leaders, and local government organizations are meeting this week in Whistler, BC for the 24th Annual PNWER Summit. Working Sessions will focus on topics including: LNG Exports, Energy and Environment, Invasive Species, Agriculture, Innovation, Trade and Economic Development, Mining, Tourism, Water Policy, and Workforce Development. A special session will feature the US Ambassador to Canada and the Canadian Ambassador to the US on the Canada-US Border. Another special session will bring together state, provincial, local, and federal jurisdictions from both nations to examine the Columbia River Treaty. For the detailed agenda, go to: <http://www.pnwer.org/2014summit.html>

ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.