Arctic Issues, Global Growth
A Unique Partnership between Alaska, The Northwest Territories and Yukon
The PNWER Arctic Caucus establishes a coordinated approach of shared solutions to address common challenges. The Arctic Caucus is the foundation of PNWER’s capacity to engage a sub-national voice at the national level on Arctic issues. The objectives of the Arctic Caucus are to:

- Increase the visibility and priority of Arctic issues in PNWER activities
- Build cross-jurisdictional support to achieve mutual goals
- Identify areas of opportunity for mutual economic development in the Arctic
- Provide support to member jurisdictions to help them achieve their individual goals

The PNWER Arctic Caucus brings sub-national governments together with the private sector to promote economic development in support of the peoples of the North. The work of the Caucus highlights the strong partnership not only between two countries, but also between the respective regional governments. The Arctic Caucus brings people together to communicate community interests and to influence policy.

As the Arctic becomes increasingly busy, collaboration is not an abstract concept—what was once aspirational is now the reality, not only for those who live in the Arctic but for everyone who does, or hopes to do, business in the North. Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories can be viewed as North America’s real beltway—a network of communities with interests and priorities vital to the well being of both nations. As a thousand conversations about the Arctic take place daily, the Arctic Caucus is a framework for lasting dialogue that develops a shared, cross-jurisdictional voice.

The Arctic Caucus Works To:

- Assess and articulate a strategic vision for Northern economic development—both in terms of resource and economic development opportunities within the region and as well as investment opportunities and mechanisms for long-term, patient capital
- Define a common vision and plan for capacity-building for Northern infrastructure—including energy, transportation, telecommunications, safety and research
- Share and support best practices in Arctic governance and policy development

“The Caucus is in a good position to develop and highlight best practices and innovative solutions to challenges—solutions that should also be spread throughout the northern latitudes.”

~ Representative Bob Herron, Alaska State Legislature
“The Arctic Caucus is a key mechanism for collaboration as we pursue our common goals. With the growing national and international interest in the North it is increasingly important for northern jurisdictions to engage with each another to strengthen our economies and our collective voice.”

~ Minister Stacey Hassard, Government of Yukon

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**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Developed an integrated resource and infrastructure GIS map highlighting the interconnected infrastructure of the Bi-National region and the opportunities for future resource development
- Facilitated the deployment of a pilot Automated Identification System (AIS) in the Western Canadian Arctic.
- Presented to the joint session of the US Arctic Research Commission and Canadian Polar
- Commission about potential for collaborative research and ways to leverage that research back to local communities and the private sector.
- Co-hosted with the two US Senators from Alaska, an Annual US – Canada Arctic Roundtable in the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC with representatives from government, business, indigenous organizations, environmental groups and scientific research entities to discuss North American Arctic priorities.
- Produced a white paper on prospective models for an Arctic Infrastructure Development Authority.

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**AREAS OF INTEREST**

To date, the Arctic Caucus has explored a variety of issue areas in its ongoing efforts to identify and complete action items. At the heart of all discussions is the common theme of addressing the issues with special attention to the scale and unique challenges of living in the North.

Common projects and information sharing support a range of topic areas including:

- Infrastructure: Development, Siting, and Financing
- Transportation
- The Knowledge Sector: Research and Education
- Tourism
- Telecommunications
- Energy
- Mining
- Security
- The Arctic Council
PARTICIPANTS AT ARCTIC CAUCUS MEETINGS HAVE INCLUDED:


“The world is realizing two things that we have always known to be true – the Arctic holds a key strategic place in the world – and is a vast land full of promise. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues from Alaska and the Yukon on issues of importance to northerners.”

~ Minister David Ramsay, Government of Northwest Territories