

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Economic leadership conference meets in Yellowknife Nov. 15-17

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES – Nearly 100 MLA's, state legislators and business leaders from Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest U.S. will convene at the Legislative Leadership Academy and the Economic Leadership Forum, Nov. 15-17 in Yellowknife, to discuss sustainable economic development in the North, Arctic governance, invasive species, mining, energy policy and more.

Legislators and business leaders from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories will meet at the Explorer Hotel for the events, presented by the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Legislative Leadership Academy, held Nov. 15-16, is designed to boost legislators' knowledge of the differences in U.S. and Canadian government systems and strengthen their relationships with their colleagues in neighboring jurisdictions, as well as give them a deeper understanding of the Northwest Territories' consensus government.

At the Economic Leadership Forum, held Nov. 16-17, speakers and discussions will address:

- **Aboriginal economic development;** 1:45 - 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 16; Participation and ownership models, resource-community partnerships and Aboriginal businesses' contributions to the economy
- **Energy in the North;** 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; Overview of energy resources, super-efficient buildings and microgrid strategies
- **Arctic transportation;** 9:15 - 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17; NWT Highway Corridor planning and opportunities in liquid natural gas
- **Northwest Territories and Yukon mining industries;** 1:45 - 3:15 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17; Analysis of Northern Canadian mining opportunities and challenges in the context of global commodity prices

"At the PNWER Winter Meeting, leaders in government, private industry and academia will meet to develop working solutions to major challenges to regional economic growth," said Idaho State Sen. Curt McKenzie, PNWER President. "We're excited to come to the Arctic to learn more about the unique cultures, system of government and economic opportunities within the Northwest Territories during our time in Yellowknife."

For more information, visit pnwer.org/2015wintermeeting.

Download a [media accreditation form](#). Return to mark.stayton@pnwer.org.

Contact Mark Stayton with interview inquiries.

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.

For more information, visit www.pnwer.org.

Keynote speakers include:

Colin Robertson, Vice President and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University

Brendan Bell, Chief Executive Officer, Dominion Diamond Corporation

Ken Coates, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and co-Director (Research) for the International Centre of Northern Governance and Development, University of Saskatchewan

Additional speakers include:

Rep. Deborah Boone; Oregon State House of Representatives, Co-Chair of PNWER's Energy and Environment Working Group

Hon. Stacey Hassard; Member of the Legislative Assembly, Yukon; Minister of Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation

Rep. Bob Herron; Alaska State House of Representatives, Chair of PNWER Arctic Caucus

Sen. Curt McKenzie; Idaho State Senate, PNWER President

Rep. Jeff Morris; Washington State House of Representatives

Drue Pearce; Senior policy advisor with Crowell & Moring's Environment & Natural Resources and Government Affairs groups.

Barry Penner, Q.C.; Senior Counsel and a Strategic Advisor with Penner Pacific Advisory Services.

Consul General Lynne Platt; U.S. Consulate Vancouver

Hon. David Ramsay; Minister of Justice and Industry, Tourism and Investment, Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Immediate Past President of PNWER

Don Toth; MLA, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan