

4th PNWER North American Arctic Leaders Roundtable

Speaker Bios, in order of appearance

2:00 – 2:05 p.m. Introduction of roundtable participants and welcome:

Senator Arnie Roblan, Oregon State, PNWER President

Previously Senator Roblan served 4 terms as Representative for House District 9, two terms as Co-Speaker. During his tenure as the Co-Speaker -- in a House divided between 30 Democrats and Republicans — for the 2011-12 legislative sessions, Senator Roblan became the driving force behind legislation that would help move Oregon forward on important issues. At the conclusion of the 2012 Legislative Session, he was able to complete his work on issues that benefited all Oregonians and particular those in his rural and coastal region.

2:05 – 2:15 p.m. Comments on key issues in Alaska Arctic Policy:

State Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair of the Alaska Senate Arctic Committee

Senator Giessel was elected to the State Senate in 2010 to represent the Anchorage Hillside, Stuckagain Heights and Eagle River. She was re-elected in 2012 to represent the Anchorage Hillside and the northern half of the Kenai Peninsula. Senator Giessel is an advanced nurse practitioner and has delivered healthcare in a variety of clinics in Anchorage, as well in small communities in the North Slope Borough.

State Senator Bert Stedman, Chair of the Alaska Senate Transportation Committee

A fourth-generation Alaskan, Senator Stedman was raised in Petersburg and Sitka, spending several years working in commercial fishing and construction. In 2003 Senator Stedman was appointed to the Alaska State Senate by Governor Frank Murkowski. Senator Stedman was elected to the seat in 2004 and reelected in 2008, 2012 and 2016. Previously the Senator served four years on the Sitka City & Borough Assembly and eight years on the Sitka Planning Commission.

State Representative Charisse Millett, Alaska House Minority Leader

Rep. Charisse Millett is a lifelong Alaskan who was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in November 2008. She is serving her fourth term representing Anchorage's lower Hillside area and is Majority Leader in the Alaska House.

In her capacity as Majority Leader, Rep. Millett helped to lead her caucus in an unprecedented year of budget deficits towards new efficiencies and budget cuts. She also managed the caucus' communications team and established strong relationships and increased understanding for she and her colleagues with media and press.

Creating solutions for urban and rural Alaska has been a primary focus of her public service career. She served four years as Co-chair of the House Special Committee on Energy. The centerpiece of the committee's work was the State Energy Policy. Passed in 2010, the energy policy marked the first time the State of Alaska put an energy plan into statute.

Rep. Millett also successfully pressured the federal Bureau of Land Management to clean up dozens of old, abandoned oil and gas wells drilled by the federal government in Alaska's arctic region. She sponsored a series of legislative resolutions that attracted the attention of Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski. Rep. Millett is also a tireless advocate for responsible oil and gas exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska's outer continental shelf and serves as an Executive Board Member on the Energy Council.

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Alaska Perspectives on U.S. Arctic Policy: U.S. Congressional Delegation from Alaska

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

Senator Lisa Murkowski is the first Alaskan-born Senator and only the sixth United States Senator to serve the state. The state's senior Senator, Lisa Murkowski is a third-generation Alaskan, born in Ketchikan and raised in towns across the state: Wrangell, Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Since joining the Senate in 2002, Senator Murkowski has been a strong advocate for Alaska on the important issues facing the state, including energy, health care, education, military/veterans' affairs and infrastructure development. She is the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she is the Chairman of the Interior and Environment Subcommittee. Senator Murkowski is a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee – the first Alaskan to serve on that panel – and also is a senior member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan was sworn in as Alaska's eighth United States Senator on January 6, 2015. Sullivan serves on four Senate committees vital to Alaska: the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Armed Services Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Sullivan served as Alaska's Attorney General and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. As Alaska's Attorney General, Sullivan's number one priority was protecting Alaskans, their physical safety, financial well-being, and individual rights – particularly Alaska's most vulnerable. As Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Sullivan managed one of the largest portfolios of oil, gas, minerals, renewable energy, timber, land, and water in the world. Working closely with Alaska's Governor and state legislature, Sullivan developed numerous strategies that spurred responsible resource development, energy security, and a dramatic increase in good-paying jobs across a number of critical sectors in the Alaska economy. He also developed a comprehensive plan to streamline and reform the state's regulatory and permitting system.

U.S. Representative Don Young

Congressman Don Young was re-elected to the 115th Congress in 2016 to serve his 23rd term as Alaska's only Representative to the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman Young was named Chairman Emeritus of the full House Committee on Natural Resources – a role that allows him to bring his years of experience and knowledge to all five of the panel's Subcommittees. Today, Congressman Young currently serves as the most senior Republican on both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Natural Resources Committee.

2:45 – 3:05 p.m. Panel discussion on U.S. Arctic Policy and Arctic Shipping

Adrianna Muir, Senior Arctic Official, U.S. State Department

Dr. Adrianna Muir is the Deputy Senior Arctic Official at the U.S. Department of State for the U.S. chairmanship of the Arctic Council. As part of the Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, she works with the U.S. Senior Arctic Official and other key stakeholders to formulate arctic policy and to represent U.S. interests at the Arctic Council. She has extensive experience in science, conservation and policy in the academic, non-governmental and government arenas. Prior to joining the Department of State, Dr. Muir served at the Department of the Interior in the Office of Policy Analysis and the Office of the Deputy Secretary, focusing on Alaskan energy issues and other Arctic matters. From 2010-2012, Dr. Muir was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellow. During her tenure as a AAAS Fellow, Dr. Muir worked at the Department of State on issues such as Arctic science and conservation policy and international cooperation on invasive species.

Mead Treadwell, President, PT Capital

Prior to joining Pt Capital, Mead Treadwell served as Alaska's lieutenant governor and was a candidate for U.S. Senate. Mead is recognized as one of the world's Arctic policy experts. He was appointed to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President George W. Bush, and designated as chair under President's Bush and Obama. Mead served in the cabinet of Alaska Governor Wally Hickel and led Alaska's efforts to build circumpolar cooperation through the eight nation Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. Mead has been actively involved in numerous Arctic policy focused organizations, including: Institute of the North, the Aspen Institute, the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, the Arctic Circle, and the World Economic Forum's Global Action Council on the Arctic.

As an entrepreneur and investor, Mead has served in numerous Board and executive leadership roles in Alaska resource development, telecommunications, and information technology companies that created innovative programs like "Street view"® for Google.

Michael Sfraga, Director of Wilson Center Polar Initiative

Mike Sfraga has spent most of his life exploring the frosty Alaskan landscape and has the Arctic in his blood. Trained as a geographer of the far North, he is one of the leading U.S. experts on Arctic issues and policy. Among Sfraga's numerous affiliations, he serves as Chairman of the Institute of the North; is the University of the Arctic's Head of Delegation to the Arctic Council; is a member of the Alaskan governor's Arctic Policy Committee; and served as Co-Lead Scholar for the inaugural Fulbright Arctic Initiative.

Jeremy Mathis, Director of Arctic Research Program, NOAA

Dr. Mathis has been working in the Arctic for the past 12 years and is an expert on carbon cycle processes and ocean acidification. Before joining NOAA in 2012, he served on the faculty and was the founding director of the Ocean Acidification Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Mathis has led numerous field campaigns in the Arctic and has published more than 75 peer-reviewed articles on his research. He has served as the Arctic lead for the North American Carbon Program and is co-chair of the Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Ocean Acidification subcommittee.

As Director of the Arctic Research Program, Dr Mathis will provide guidance and mission leadership of OOM's Arctic activities. He will also provide strategic leadership for OAR's Arctic research activities and contribute leadership towards NOAA's Arctic Science enterprise.

3:05 – 3:15 p.m. Perspectives on Canadian Arctic priorities:

Martin Loken, Minister of Political Affairs at the Embassy of Canada

As Minister (Political Affairs) at the Embassy of Canada since August 2017, Martin oversees programs dealing with foreign policy, national security and defence, energy, environment, public safety, border security, immigration, intelligence liaison and law enforcement.

He has served in a number of executive positions with Global Affairs Canada, including Chief Information Officer (2014-17), Director General of the Intellectual Property and Services Trade Policy Bureau and Canada's Chief Negotiator for air transport agreements (2012-2014).

From 2008 to 2012 he served as Consul General in Minneapolis, representing Canada in the US Upper Midwest. He has also served abroad at Canada's Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization in Geneva and Canada's Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic.

A "Minnesotan by marriage", Martin and his wife have two young adult children. Martin enjoys outdoor sports, particularly running, cycling and cross-country skiing. He graduated from the University of Waterloo with concurrent degrees in Systems Design Engineering and Arts.

John Higginbotham, Senior Distinguished Fellow, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University and Senior Fellow, Arctic program, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, ON

John Higginbotham is a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. John's research focuses on Arctic economic and governance development and international relations, Canada's ties with the United States and China in global context and North American Arctic marine transportation as the Arctic Ocean melts. John leads CIGI's Global Security & Politics research project on the Arctic, including organizing action-oriented round tables and publications. John's previous work with the Government of Canada, including lengthy international assignments, spanned more than 30 years. He was an assistant deputy minister in three departments, including for policy development at Global Affairs Canada, and served at Canadian embassies in Washington, Beijing and Hong Kong.

3:15 – 3:55 p.m. Roundtable Discussion

Drue Pearce, U.S. Department of Transportation

Pearce most recently served as Director of Government Affairs at Holland & Hart LLP, where she focused on energy, natural resource and manufacturing industries. For six years beginning in 2010, she was a Senior Policy Advisor at Crowell & Moring LLP. In both positions, she split her time between the D.C. and Alaska offices.

Pearce has an extensive background in federal transportation and pipeline safety. In 2006, she was named as the Federal Coordinator for Alaskan Natural Gas Transportation Projects, where she oversaw efforts to advance the nation's energy, environmental, and economic security by expediting the delivery of Alaska natural gas to North American markets.

Joe Balash, U.S. Department of Interior

Balash, a former Alaska natural resources commissioner under Gov. Sean Parnell, had previously fought for an Alaska-led plan to allow modern seismic studies in the 19 million-acre refuge where oil exploration has been off-limits for decades. Such seismic studies might [be permitted](#) under the Trump administration.

More recently, Balash, who [moved to Alaska](#) in the 1980s, served as chief of staff to Sen. Dan Sullivan. Balash hopes to work on speeding permits and allowing responsible drilling and mining on some federal lands. He said he will also work to improve recreational access to federal holdings.

Balash will oversee the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The entities play vital roles in mineral exploration and development on federal lands and waters.

Chris Sands, John Hopkins SAIS

Christopher Sands is a Senior Research Professor and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a graduate division of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Sands began his career as a policy research scholar, and is a nonresident Senior Associate of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) the Washington think tank where he was a resident specialist on Canadian affairs from 1993 until 2002. His policy research has been published by think tanks in Canada and the United States including the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, the C.D. Howe Institute, the Fraser Institute, the Institute for Research on Public Policy, the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, the Migration Policy Institute and the Woodrow Wilson Center. He is a member of the board of the Canada – United States Law Institute, a joint venture of the law schools of Case Western Reserve University and the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Sands was elected in 2017 to a two-year term as a member of the executive council of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, and he is a member of the American Political Science Association (where he served as treasurer and a member of the executive of the Canadian Politics Group from 2010 until 2017) and the International Studies Association.

Inuuteq Holm Olsen, Minister Plenipotentiary for Greenland, Royal Danish Embassy

Prior to coming to DC he was at the Danish Foreign Ministry as Senior Adviser for Greenland and Arctic affairs. He has served as Deputy Minister for the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Greenland, July 2006 – end of 2012 (Acting Deputy Minister since December 2004). He began his career at the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1996 and was Private Secretary to the Premier from 1997 through 1999. He was posted at the Danish Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen and was at the Greenland Representation in Brussels from 2000 through 2003. He thereafter returned to Nuuk to be Head of Department at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Minister Holm Olsen earned a BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1994 and a MA in International Affairs from The George Washington University in 1996.

Lynne Platt, Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Lynne Platt is the Canada Institute's North American Competitiveness Fellow for 2017-2018, focusing on themes of cross-border innovation, entrepreneurship and inclusion. A member of the Senior Career Foreign Service (with the rank of Minister Counselor), she is on detail from the U.S. Department of State.

From 2014-2017, Lynne was Consul General of the United States in Vancouver, the senior U.S. representative to British Columbia and Yukon. She worked closely with Alaska and Washington states and Canadian provincial authorities to broker agreements on long-standing issues of trans-boundary water pollution.

Lynne's career specialty was Public Affairs and media relations, and she served as Spokesperson at U.S. Embassies in London (2011-2014) and Paris (2004-2008). She served in Brussels as Press Officer/Spokesperson at the U.S. Mission to NATO from 2001-2004.

Lynne also has administered major U.S. foreign assistance programs. She was Deputy Director of the Office of Provincial Affairs (2008-2009) at U.S. Embassy Baghdad where she managed 20+ civilian-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams fanned across Iraq. In Haiti, she headed the Office of Law Enforcement and Narcotics Affairs at Embassy Port-au-Prince (2009-2011), managing a \$165 million program budget. She began her Foreign Service career in Management positions at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo (1995-1997), the U.S. Consulate in Casablanca (1997-1999), and the State Department's Near East Asia Bureau (1999-2000).