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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PNWER Awarded Funding from Government of Alberta for Economic Corridors Project

EDMONTON, Alberta — The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) has received funding from the Alberta Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors to lead a new program centered on strengthening economic corridors in Alberta and across Western Canada and improving transportation infrastructure that supports trade throughout the Pacific Northwest.

PNWER will establish a regional infrastructure task force, bringing together leaders from government, industry, railroads, ports, trucking and other key sectors. The task force will guide a regional strategy to identify key infrastructure investments that can improve the movement of goods, lower transportation costs and increase export capacity.

“We are honoured to have the support of the Alberta Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors as we establish this new program,” Brandon Hardenbrook, PNWER Executive Director, said. “We look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance our region’s trade and transportation infrastructure.”

Drawing on relationships with existing Western Canadian policy leaders and institutions, PNWER will leverage industry-driven input to develop recommendations for future investment. The multi-level group will include leaders from federal and regional governments and the private sector to ensure alignment on economic development priorities.

Additionally, the program will examine how Western Canadian corridors going east-west and north-south connect with U.S. states in the Pacific Northwest, such as the Alberta-to-Alaska corridor concept.

"The Pacific Northwest Economic Region is a vital partner in strengthening the trade and transportation connections that keep Alberta's economy growing. That's why our government granted $100,000 to support PNWER's work in advancing Alberta-specific initiatives that expand economic corridors, strengthen cross-border partnerships and create new opportunities for businesses,” Devin Dreeshen, Alberta’s Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, said. “By working together with our partners across Western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest, we're building the infrastructure and relationships needed to move goods more efficiently, attract investment and ensure Alberta remains a leader in North American trade."

The program will also explore developing a framework for a policy course focused on building a stronger understanding around transportation networks among Canadian elected leaders. The course will equip policymakers with a nonpartisan, systems-level understanding of how goods move across the Northwest and how legislative decisions shape those systems.

The project was announced by Dreeshen during an economic corridors session at the PNWER Annual Summit in Edmonton, Alberta, on July 20. Initial infrastructure task force meetings will take place in the coming months.

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ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit organization established in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan 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 on PNWER, visit www.pnwer.org.

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