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Northwest Territories Takes Over PNWER Presidency

(WHISTLER, B.C.) – The Honourable David Ramsay was sworn in as the President of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) at the 24th Annual Summit on July 23rd in Whistler, B.C.

Minister Ramsay has served as a PNWER vice-president since 2011, and as Chair of PNWER's Arctic Caucus. Ramsay currently serves as Minister of Justice and Industry, Tourism, and Investment, as well as Minister responsible for the NWT Public Utilities Board.

"I am grateful that my colleagues have chosen me as the President of PNWER. I believe there are immense opportunities before us in this region and I believe PNWER is the organization that is positioned to ensure we maximize each of these opportunities. PNWER is about bringing together every perspective: public, private, academic, and NGO's to advance our shared goals and help craft regional solutions to global challenges. I have seen this organization work across borders to achieve common goals of doing what's best for our region and its citizens."

"I have three goals in my role as President:

- 1) Increasing the profile of PNWER in our two countries.
- 2) Increasing the flow of goods and getting our resources to market, specifically Arctic resources; and
- 3) More Aboriginal participation in PNWER."

Matt Morrison, Executive Director of PNWER, said the organization was unanimous in welcoming the Minister to his new role.

"Minister Ramsay has contributed much to the organization over the past two years in his role as vice-president," Morrison said. "We look forward to a year of significant achievements under his leadership, at a time when United States – Canada issues are extremely important, especially in the Arctic, and this region is being looked to for innovative solutions."

The PNWER President heads the executive committee, which is the decision-making body of PNWER. The President also represents the organization in annual visits to Washington, D.C., Ottawa, state, provincial and territorial capitals within the region. The PNWER president and vice-president must be elected officials. These two posts alternate annually between elected legislators from the United States and Canada. Minister Ramsay succeeds Washington State Senator Kevin Ranker, who served as PNWER's President during the past year.

Formed in 1991, PNWER is a non-partisan, public-private partnership that includes Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories in Canada; and Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana in the United States. The Northwest Territories has been a charter member of PNWER since 2009.

The partnership represents a region with a combined GDP of \$1 trillion, and member states committed to regional collaboration, enhanced competitiveness, economic growth and environmental stewardship, and the reduction of trade and regulatory barriers in the region.

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ABOUT THE PNWER SUMMIT

Held in alternating member jurisdictions each year, the annual PNWER summit draws hundreds of key business leaders, legislators and community leaders from PNWER's 10 states, provinces and territories in the Pacific Northwest. At the summit, participants meet in "working groups" to develop action items on policy issues in the following categories: agriculture, Arctic caucus, cross-border livestock health, border issues, disaster resilience, energy, environment, health care, innovation, invasive species, sustainable development, trade and economic development, transportation, tourism, water policy and workforce development. For a preliminary 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.