

Key Accomplishments for Saskatchewan

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) has been working hard to build partnerships to address challenges faced by Saskatchewan and bring the voice of the province and Pacific Northwest region to Washington, D.C. and Ottawa.

In 2024, PNWER continued working to enhance economic development for member jurisdictions, open pathways for communication and coordination across borders, and develop a better understanding of the interdependent economy across the region. Some of the recent successes for Saskatchewan include:

Border and Trade

In 2023, Saskatchewan exported \$19.4 billion worth of goods to the U.S. and imported \$9.1 billion from the U.S. 45% of these exports were oil and gas. Excluding oil and gas, SK exported roughly \$10.67 billion to the U.S. This bilateral trade arrangement benefits both economies—SK energy and minerals fuel U.S. manufacturing at a lower cost while generating wealth for both Canadians and Americans. **Now more than ever, engagement with PNWER is necessary to preserve this vital trade relationship. PNWER provides an unmatched forum for Canadian and American legislators to engage with one another and advocate to leaders in D.C. and Ottawa the importance of this bi-national relationship.**

Critical Minerals

PNWER is working closely with partners in Saskatchewan on critical minerals like potash, uranium, and rare earth elements. These resources are essential for energy security, food production, and advanced technologies. PNWER has previously highlighted the groundbreaking work of the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) in advancing the processing of rare earth elements to strengthen North America's domestic supply chains, reduce reliance on foreign sources, and drive innovation. PNWER applied for a U.S. State Department grant to fund a conference in Saskatoon at the SRC to develop a strategy for rare earth minerals.

Saskatchewan is a key regional partner, and its mineral products benefit all PNWER member jurisdictions. PNWER continues to engage with our Congressional delegation to support the recognition of Canadian critical minerals as a domestic source for U.S. production. Potash supports global agriculture, uranium provides clean energy, and rare earth elements power the electronics and defense systems we rely on every day. Investing in responsible extraction and processing is essential to building a stable, sustainable future for all industries.



Energy

Saskatchewan uranium exports – the second largest in the world – powers 1 in 17 homes in the U.S. PNWER is a founding member of the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI), which is designed to educate state and provincial legislators, governors advisors, and policymakers on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system. Over the past ten years, more than 500 legislators from across the U.S. and Canada have graduated from this important course focused on North American energy infrastructure and delivery systems. 23 MLAs from Saskatchewan have graduated from LEHI.



2024 LEHI Graduating Cohort at the Embassy of Canada to the U.S. in D.C.



PNWER Vice President Minister Travis Keisig with Former SK MLA Hugh Nerlien at the 2022 LEHI Graduation

Tourism

PNWER established a Regional Tourism Council (RTC) in 2023 to promote bilateral coordination between the U.S. and Canada and to facilitate timely industry and government dialogue and collaboration. The goal is to convene a group of regional leaders to provide expertise and stability which will be invaluable to the success of our region as a leader of responsible, sustainable, and resilient tourism. The Regional Tourism Council is composed of an elected official and an industry representative from each of our ten PNWER jurisdictions. Minister Laura Ross and Amy McInnis from Tourism Saskatchewan represent Saskatchewan on the RTC.

Agriculture

In July 2024, PNWER held a Cross-Border Livestock Health Foreign Animal Disease Tabletop Exercise. Dr. Stephanie Smith, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Saskatchewan, attended the 2024 exercise. The group identified specific recommendations to plan for a cross border disease outbreak. Key recommendations identified included:

- Identify mechanisms beyond current MOUs and agreements for intra- and international resource sharing prior to an animal disease event.
- Explore the feasibility of accessing veterinary stockpiles across international borders with CFIA and USDA.
- Compile an inventory of available resources once intra- and international resource-sharing details are resolved.
- Conduct a cross-border mapping project.



2023 ELF Ag Panel L-R: Murad Alkatib, AGT; Kassandra Quayle, Protein Industries Canada; Erin Trapp, Emmertech; MLA Ken Francis



SK Premier Scott Moe welcoming the 2023 Economic Leadership Forum attendees to Regina, SK

2025 PNWER Annual Summit

This year's PNWER Annual Summit will be in **Bellevue, WA from July 20 - 24**. The PNWER Annual Summit provides the opportunity to **collaborate** and establish partnerships with Canadian & U.S. public & private sector leaders, **learn** about key economic issues facing the region, **strengthen** regional networks and cooperation, and **advocate** for regional policies and cross-jurisdictional initiatives. Visit www.pnwer.org/2025-summit to learn more.



**2025 PNWER
Annual Summit Info**

Current PNWER Canada Funded Projects

- **Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Analysis**

PNWER is conducting a first-of-its-kind study exploring cross-border opportunities and linkages for building out the regional hydrogen economy. PNWER secured a cost share agreement with British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions and Washington State Department of Commerce to expand the analysis, and contracted Deloitte to conduct the study. Government of Alberta contracted with PNWER Canada to join into the study to upgrade the Alberta Hydrogen Roadmap.

- **Cross-Border Livestock Health Foreign Animal Disease Exercise**

WA Department of Agriculture and PNWER Canada provided funding for a tabletop exercise for animal health leaders to develop and enhance cross-border foreign animal disease response planning.

- **Regional Tourism and Travel Resilience**

PNWER created a Regional Tourism Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for regional tourism cooperation ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup and beyond. In late 2024, PNWER Canada was awarded a grant from PacifiCan to develop a destination management strategy to improve cross-border travel for marquee events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Proposed PNWER Projects

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Saskatchewan Proposal**

The proposal seeks to enhance response strategies, coordination efforts and leadership awareness across the Northwest. PNWER is proposing an AIS session in Saskatchewan to discuss best practices from throughout the region in prevention, early detection, and response to quagga and zebra mussels. The focus of this work is to bring partners together across PNWER to improve collaboration and develop a Workshop focused on educating leadership, including legislators and government officials, on invasive species threats and improve awareness of the ongoing prevention and response coordination work happening through the Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan and other transboundary working groups.