



## Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

# 2018-2019 Accomplishments

PNWER brings together key business and government leaders from the Pacific Northwest and Western Canadian provinces and territories to address the important issues of our bi-national regional economy. The group includes Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and Northwest Territories.

PNWER has consistently been recognized as a leader in the region, bringing together the public and private sectors to tackle our common challenges and share innovative best practices for growing our regional economy. More information on PNWER can be found at [www.pnwer.org](http://www.pnwer.org).

### THE COMING YEAR

#### 2020 Annual Summit

July 19 - 23 | Big Sky, MT



Join more than 550 legislators, business leaders, academics and local government representatives in Big Sky for four days of in-depth work sessions, high-level networking and enlightening keynote speeches.

The PNWER Annual Summit addresses challenges to growth, trade and environmental stewardship across 10 jurisdictions in the Pacific Northwest U.S. and Western Canada. Network with leaders from the Northwest states, provinces and territories and explore the beauty and innovative practices of Washington on guided policy tours.

Visit [pnwer.org/2020-summit](http://pnwer.org/2020-summit) for more information.

### 2019 ANNUAL SUMMIT

Over 600 regional legislators, business leaders, academics, and policy makers gathered in Saskatoon, SK on July 21-25 for the 29th PNWER Annual Summit. With 23 working group sessions, 6 keynote plenary sessions, and 7 policy tours, attendees had the opportunity to engage in dialogue, strengthen regional relationships, and address the various challenges that affect the region. Videos, media reports, and the work plan to guide PNWER over the next year are available at [www.pnwer.org/2019-summit](http://www.pnwer.org/2019-summit).

### TRADE

Advocacy of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) Trade Agreement and removal of Canadian tariffs were top priorities for PNWER in 2019. PNWER leadership issued two statements opposing steel and aluminum tariffs and a statement against tariffs on uncoated paper which was used by Congress in an ITC Hearing, ultimately resulting in the tariffs being lifted. PNWER leadership issued multiple statements in support of USMCA and continued to communicate with the region's Congressional delegation in Washington D.C. to push ratification of USMCA forward as a top priority for the region. PNWER communicated directly with the region's Congressional delegation, White House, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Trade Representative and presented to the Canadian Parliament on the importance of the USMCA.

### COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

The Columbia River Treaty negotiations remained a priority for PNWER in 2019. PNWER President Mike Cuffe (MT) and PNWER CEO Matt Morrison participated in the 6th International Columbia River Transboundary Conference in Kimberly, B.C., which was a stakeholder symposium for legislators, tribal groups, utilities, tourism, agriculture, recreation, and more. At the Economic Leadership Forum in Seattle, PNWER hosted a special session led by the Honourable Katrine Conroy, B.C.'s Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty.

### BORDER

PNWER facilitated regular calls with CBP, Public Safety Canada, other federal and local partners, and private sector carriers to work towards fully implementing preclearance in the Land, Rail, and Marine modes of transportation. PNWER co-chairs the 'Beyond Preclearance Coalition' with the Vancouver, BC (YVR) Airport. More information at <https://www.beyondpreclearance.org/>.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

PNWER supported the efforts of the Alaska to Alberta (A2A) Railroad coalition by urging President Trump to issue a Presidential Permit for the A2A rail project. The A2A seeks to connect North American goods and passengers, and its construction would provide opportunities to install fiber optic cables.

PNWER held sessions on Automated, Connected, Electric and Shared (ACES) mobility and the ways it will transform transportation infrastructure. 2019 also saw successful Congressional funding for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Program, an effort that PNWER has advocated since its inclusion in the 2015 FAST Act.

## ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod (Ret.), PNWER Vice President, joined the PNWER delegation in Juneau, AK, and met with Governor Dunleavy and AK Legislators on issues impacting the North. During the PNWER Annual Summit in Saskatoon, speakers showcased the ALCAN Highway and Alaska to Alberta (A2A) rail link. The Summit also featured discussions on Indigenous / First Nations businesses and economic development opportunities for remote communities.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

With PNWER's assistance, \$21 million U.S. federal matching funds were secured for watercraft inspection stations for the four Northwest states of ID, MT, OR, and WA, to protect the Columbia River Basin. PNWER met with the Congressional delegation, Dept of Interior, Army Corps of Engineers, and other key agencies multiple times to ensure continued funding. PNWER advocated for a regional study to explore the impacts of invasive species on the economy and local salmon populations.

## WILDFIRES

PNWER held a Forestry Working Group session during the 2019 PNWER Annual Summit that focused on the impact of wildfires on tourism, public health, and local economies as well mitigation strategies that are being employed across the region.

## UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS)

PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience (CRDR) was awarded a contract from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to work with MT, ID, OR, and WA in 2019 to develop a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to establish an access control process for each state. Based on this work, the Idaho Governor's office is planning to appoint a state-wide UAS coordinator, which will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

## MINING

PNWER's Mining Working Group session focused on the economic benefits of mining, the importance of critical mineral development within the region, and the need for collaboration between the U.S. and Canada on this issue. The session featured representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior as well Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN).

## ENERGY

The Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, PNWER's annual 60-hour certificate program in energy policy, has graduated over 240 state legislators, and Canadian MLAs to date. 40 legislators, including MLAs from BC and Saskatchewan, participated in the Institute in Richland, Washington, and will meet in Washington DC in November for the second 3-day intensive course. The Annual Summit featured energy sessions covering grid reliability, battery storage, infrastructure resiliency, and permit reform.

## INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

PNWER oversaw a Master of Applied International Studies (MAAIS) project in conjunction with the University of Washington's School of International Studies. This year's Economic Leadership Forum focused on regional innovation and highlighted innovation across various sectors in the region including sessions on the PNW's space sector, energy sector, transportation sector, and more. PNWER further promoted innovation by assisting the Cascadia Innovation Corridor in developing a multi-year action plan for the efficient movement of people and goods across the border. PNWER CEO Matt Morrison serves as co-chair of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor's Efficient People/Goods Movement Across Border working group.