

Arctic Issues, Global Growth

A Unique Partnership between Alaska,
The Northwest Territories and Yukon



*Pacific North West
Economic Region*
ARCTIC CAUCUS





WHO WE ARE

Formed in 2009, the Arctic Caucus of the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) is a partnership between Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories to provide a forum to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, identify areas for collaboration between the three jurisdictions and the rest of North America, and provide Arctic-relevant input to PNWER working groups and the region at-large.

The Arctic Caucus is made up of PNWER public and private sector members from the three jurisdictions; other PNWER members are encouraged to participate and to provide their input according to their interest issues affecting the Arctic. The Caucus is chaired on an annual rotation by leadership from each of the three jurisdictions..

Since its formation, the Arctic Caucus has developed a dynamic action plan, which is the basis of the Caucus' existence. Over 20 action items have been identified as outcomes from annual meetings in Barrow, Alaska; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and Whitehorse, Yukon.

PNWER, North America's largest public-private partnership, has a role in increasing advocacy for Arctic issues; recognizing a distinct economic region, and sharing best practices across the US-Canada border.

The PNWER Arctic Caucus establishes a coordinated approach of shared solutions to address common challenges. The Arctic Caucus is the foundation of PNWER's capacity to engage a sub-national voice at the national level on Arctic issues. The objectives of the Arctic Caucus are to:

- Increase the visibility and priority of Arctic issues in PNWER activities
- Build cross-jurisdictional support to achieve mutual goals
- Identify areas of opportunity for mutual economic development in the Arctic
- Provide support to member jurisdictions to help them achieve their individual goals

The PNWER Arctic Caucus brings sub-national governments together with the private sector to promote economic development in support of the peoples of the North. The work of the Caucus highlights the strong partnership not only between two countries, but also between the respective regional governments. The Arctic Caucus brings people together to communicate community interests and to influence policy.

As the Arctic becomes increasingly busy, collaboration is not an abstract concept—what was once aspirational is now the reality, not only for those who live in the Arctic but for everyone who does, or hopes to do, business in the North. Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories can be viewed as North America's real beltway—a network of communities with interests and priorities vital to the well being of both nations. As a thousand conversations about the Arctic take place daily, the Arctic Caucus is a framework for lasting dialogue that develops a shared, cross-jurisdictional voice.

The Arctic Caucus Works To:

- Assess and articulate a strategic vision for Northern economic development—both in terms of resource and economic development opportunities within the region and as well as investment opportunities and mechanisms for long-term, patient capital
- Define a common vision and plan for capacity-building for Northern infrastructure—including energy, transportation, telecommunications, safety and research
- Share and support best practices in Arctic governance and policy development



Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly



Miles Canyon, Yukon

Arctic Caucus Leadership and Highlights



Hon. Ranj Pillai
Government of Yukon
Minister of Economic
Development



Hon. Wally Schumann
Government of
Northwest Territories
Minister of Industry, Tourism
and Investment

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed an integrated resource and infrastructure GIS map highlighting the interconnected infrastructure of the Bi-National region and the opportunities for future resource development
- Facilitated the deployment of a pilot Automated Identification System (AIS) in the Western Canadian Arctic.
- Presented to the joint session of the US Arctic Research Commission and Canadian Polar
- Commission about potential for collaborative research and ways to leverage that research back to local communities and the private sector.
- Co-hosted with the two US Senators from Alaska, an Annual US – Canada Arctic Roundtable in the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC with representatives from government, business, indigenous organizations, environmental groups and scientific research entities to discuss North American Arctic priorities.
- Produced a white paper on prospective models for an Arctic Infrastructure Development Authority.



AREAS OF INTEREST

To date, the Arctic Caucus has explored a variety of issue areas in its ongoing efforts to identify and complete action items. At the heart of all discussions is the common theme of addressing the issues with special attention to the scale and unique challenges of living in the North.

Common projects and information sharing support a range of topic areas including:

- Infrastructure: Development, Siting, and Financing
- Transportation
- The Knowledge Sector: Research and Education
- Tourism
- Telecommunications
- Energy
- Mining
- Security
- The Arctic Council

PARTICIPANTS AT ARCTIC CAUCUS MEETINGS HAVE INCLUDED:

Air North, Alaska Industrial Development Authority, Alaska NORAD, Buffalo Air,
Canadian American Business Council, Canadian International Centre for the Arctic Region,
Canadian Polar Commission, Crowley, Government of Yukon,
Government of Northwest Territories, Institute of the North, Joint Task Force North,
Marine Exchange of Alaska, Marsh Creek LLC, National Energy Board,
National Science Foundation, NorthwesTel, Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Shell Alaska,
State of Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks, US Arctic Research Commission,
US State Department, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Board, Yukon Research Centre



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