

Media Advisory

Contact:

Matt Morrison, PNWER CEO
206-399-4026, Matt.Morrison@pnwer.org

Steve Myers, Senior Program Manager
402- 250-9222, Steve.Myers@pnwer.org

Mark Stayton, PNWER Media and Communications Coordinator
206-443-7723, Mark.Stayton@pnwer.org

Authentic Arctic Voices speak to US and Canadian Arctic Policymakers

WASHINGTON D.C. - March 3, 2015 – US Senator Lisa Murkowski, the entire Alaskan Congressional Delegation and Canadian leaders will hear from Alaska, Northwest Territories and aboriginal leaders on their arctic priorities on Thursday, March 5th at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's (PNWER) 2015 North American Arctic Leaders Forum.

The forum, hosted by PNWER's Arctic Caucus, comes just weeks before the United States assumes chairmanship of the eight-nation Arctic Council from Canada in April.

Key topics include the importance of a continued focus on economic development for people of the North and ensuring voices of Northern People are represented during federal decision-making. Minister David Ramsay of the Northwest Territories, State Sen. Lesil McGuire, AK, and State Rep. Bob Herron, AK, co-chairs of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, will kick off the forum with perspectives from their jurisdictions and the commission report.

"The arctic is the new frontier; full of challenges and opportunities that we share as Northerners. We need to work together to build a North American arctic vision," said Northwest Territories Minister David Ramsay, PNWER President.

U.S. priorities in the arctic will be shared by Fran Ulmer, Chair, US Arctic Research Commission, and special advisor on Arctic Science and Policy to the U.S. State Department. Regional stakeholders will join with the U.S. Alaska Congressional Delegation to discuss Arctic policy priorities and Denis Stevens, Deputy Head of Mission at the Canadian Embassy, will talk about Canada's successes throughout its chairmanship.

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region is a public/private nonprofit created 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. The organization'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.

The PNWER Arctic Caucus is a partnership between Alaska, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. It provides a forum through which members can discuss concerns and identify areas of collaboration.

Date: March 5

Time: 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Room 485

For more information visit: www.pnwer.org, www.akarctic.com/

Register at: www.regonline.com/ArcticRoundtable2015