

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MAJOR ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN CALGARY JULY 18-20

CALGARY – More than 450 leaders in government, business and academia from Western Canada and the northwest United States will gather at the 26th Annual Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Summit, July 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Calgary, Alberta. Delegates will discuss shared economic and environmental challenges and work together to address them through coordination, policy recommendations and ongoing action items.

Keynote speaker schedule:

7:30 - 9 a.m., Monday July 18

- Ambassador David MacNaughton, Canada's Ambassador to the United States
- Ambassador Bruce Heyman, United States Ambassador to Canada

12:15 - 2:15 p.m., Monday, July 18

- Alan Bersin, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Chief Diplomatic Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Policy
- Hon. Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade and the Deputy Government House Leader, Government of Alberta

7:30 - 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 19

- Gregg Saretsky, president and chief executive officer, WestJet

12:30 - 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 19

- Aris Papadopoulos, founder and chair of the Resilience Action Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing greater disaster resilience in the built environment

7:30 - 9 a.m., Wednesday, July 20

- David Lametti, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of International Trade and Member of Parliament for LeSalle-Émard-Verdun
- Dr. Michael Mahon, president and vice chancellor, University of Lethbridge

12:30 - 2:15 p.m., Wednesday, July 20

- Chris Sands, director of the Center for Canadian Studies, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
- Laura Dawson, director of the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center

Other notable attendees and topics include: Hon. Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, Alberta Minister of Energy, giving a regional and national perspective on energy; Hon. Rob Merrifield, senior counsel at Canadian Strategy Group and Ambassador David Wilkins, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada, reviewing how the 2006 Softwood Lumber Agreement was reached; Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, chief veterinary officer for Canada, addressing livestock health; Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines for British Columbia, speaking on the importance of collaborative decision making in mining; and Michael McSweeney, president and CEO of the Cement Association of Canada, addressing trends in climate policy and carbon pricing and the importance of infrastructure in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while building resilient communities.

The Invasive Species I session, taking place 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, will feature an overview of the threat of invasive quagga and zebra mussels in the region, a review of response initiatives from PNWER and our partners and a legislative response panel for updates on funding and policy in regional jurisdictions.

The economies of Pacific Northwest states and Western Canada are closely linked; member jurisdictions represent a regional combined GDP of more than \$1.29 trillion (USD) and roughly \$2 billion (USD) in goods and services crosses the Canada-United States border every day. The PNWER Summit fosters regional and international cooperation to improve trade, build a sustainable economy and protect our environment and the quality of life in our communities.

"The Calgary Summit will highlight best practices in Alberta and the region in a wide variety of fields and will give legislative, civic and industry leaders from Canada and the U.S. an opportunity to develop action plans to address many of our common challenges," said Matt Morrison, Executive Director of PNWER.

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. Summit participants meet to develop action items on policy issues in working groups focused on: agriculture, the Arctic, border issues, cross-border livestock health, disaster resilience, energy, environment, forestry, invasive species, infrastructure, mining, natural gas, municipal and economic development, transportation, trade and regulatory cooperation, tourism, workforce development and water policy.

More information about the PNWER Summit is available at www.pnwer.org/2016-summit

[See the detailed agenda](#)

Download a [Media Accreditation Form](#). Return to Mark.Stayton@pnwer.org or present at registration.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. Monday, July 18 through Wednesday July 20. Bring media credentials to registration desk in the Grand Foyer of the Calgary Hyatt Regency, Third Floor.

ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a statutory non-profit public/private partnership chartered by the states and provinces in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.