

Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region is a statutory, unelected, regional governing structure that is subsuming our elected representative state governments.

On the history page¹, there is a slide show giving a snapshot history of the PNWER. Since most of the slides are pictures of our collective legislators on taxpayer funded junkets to beautiful places, the significant information on the slides was pulled out and put into this timeline. The first entry in the timeline below was from a different timeline report titled *The Emerging North American Union (NAU)* by Debra K. Niwa², published in 2007. Niwa's timeline provides the context from which to view everything written about the PNWER and the proposal for Greater Idaho and the interstate compact to transfer governing authority over rural Oregon counties to Idaho.



Working Groups (Committees)

Agriculture	Invasive Species	Water Policy	Infrastructure
Economic Development	Transportation	Cross Border Livestock	Tourism
Innovation	Border Issues	Health	
Trade	Energy and Environment	Forestry	
Arctic Caucas	Legislative Energy	Mining	
Energy	Horizon Institute	Workforce Development	

PNWER Timeline

Jan. 2, 1988: Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan officially sign the **Canada –United States Free Trade Agreement (CUSFTA)**. • **Jan. 9, 1988:** *The Economist* says that around the year 2018, people should pencil in the phoenix . . . and welcome it when it comes . . . There would be no such thing . . . as a national monetary policy. . . The world phoenix [international monetary unit or coin] supply would be fixed by a new central bank, descended perhaps from the IMF. The world inflation rate--and hence, within narrow margins, each national inflation rate -- would be in its charge . . . This means a big loss of economic sovereignty.

1988

The Pacific NorthWest Legislative Forum (PNLLF) was formed as the precursor of PNWER, to study possible structures for an ongoing bi-national economic organization, formed by WA Senator Alan Bluechel along with Hon. Jim Horsman, Deputy Premier of Alberta.

1992-1993

The **Environment Technology working group** hosted a conference and **business networking session for the northwest businesses** at Globe 92 in Vancouver, BC. Hosted 200 environmental technology businesses from the northwest states and provinces at Globe 94. • **Governors**

and Premiers added to PNWER governance structure.

- **Transportation Working Group established.**

1994-1995

PNWER was the recipient of the Council of State Governments' "Innovations in Government" award for its Washington Marketplace (now PNWER CATALIST) project. • **PNWER won the Ford Foundation "Innovations in American Government" finalist award.** • PNWER received a "Certificate of Appreciation" by the US Department of Commerce for developing a public/private partnership in US Export Strategy. • The PNWER Executive

Board voted to have **Canada's Yukon Territory join PNWER.**

1998

PNWER receives grant from the Council of State Governments State Environmental Initiative Program to provide Environmental Managements Services to the Philippines. • **PNWER receives Recycling Technical Assistance Partnership³ grant from US EPA to help private sector companies develop new technologies** for utilizing recycled materials.

1999-2000

PNWER develops plan for a Clean Cities Center with the Philippine League of Cities – implemented training program in February, 2000 for 22 cities. • **Launched the PNWER-Cascadia Inland Corridors Project with the Cascadia Project of the Discovery Institute and the B.C. Washington Corridor Task Force, to coordinate ten cross-border regions on highways 97, 95, & 395 from B.C. to California.** The initiative coordinated priorities for **intermodal transportation** on these major North-South corridors.

2001-2002

PNWER holds Annual Summit with CSG-West in Whistler, BC under President Max Black. 900 people attend, as well as 250 demonstrators! • **One month after 9-11, PNWER launched the Partnership for Regional Infrastructure Security and the PNWER Disaster Resilience and Homeland Security Program.** Its goal: improve the ability of the Pacific Northwest to protect its **critical infrastructures** and withstand and recover from **all-hazards disasters.**

2003-2004

The PNWER Pacific NorthWest Bi-National Energy Planning Council held

a PNW / Western Canada Energy Forum in Portland, OR Nov 21-22 and **created Legislative Energy Chair Task Force** chaired by Rep. Eskridge. • Under President Barry Penner, PNWER launched an initiative with the NW Cruise Ship Association to promote northwest wines at SeaTrade in Miami, and to bring cruise ship buyers for the first time to the Northwest. • **Idaho and Oregon established the Invasive Species Task Force** to share best practices between jurisdictions, and encourage **the coordination of a regional invasive species council.**

2005-2006

PNWER took our first leadership trip to Ottawa, and met with Opposition Leader Stephen Harper, as well as 6 federal Ministers. • **US Department of Energy funds PNWER Bi-National Energy Planning Initiative to assist with priority energy corridors in the west.** • The **US Economic Development Administration funded PNWER to develop the PNW Innovation Network, or PNWIN, a regional 'R & D Exchange'** to assist the best and brightest minds in our region to collaborate on the innovative ideas. • **PNWER is referenced as the model for bringing the public and private sector together to address infrastructure security issues in the US Dept. of Homeland Security's National Infrastructure Protection Plan and the National Governor's Guide to Homeland Security.**

2006



US Sec. Of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and Minister of Public Safety

Stockwell Day at the 2006 PNWER Summit in Edmonton.



US Sec. of Homeland Security with Canadian Minister of Public Safety at the 2006 PNWER Summit – **This meeting led to the development of the Enhanced Drivers License.**

2007

PNWER held the first ever Legislative Leadership Academy in Banff, Alberta in October 2007. • **PNWER launched a Workforce Mobility Project funded by the Government of Canada to identify barriers and specific solutions** to address the tremendous workforce challenges that all of our jurisdictions face. • **PNWER was significant in assisting the implementation of the Enhanced Driver's License – now the standard for all of North America, initiated between Washington State and British Columbia.**

2008

PNWER launched the Border Solutions Coordination Council made up of public and private stakeholders committed to reducing border costs and strengthening security. • **The PNWER Executive Board approved Saskatchewan to join PNWER.** • **The Washington Enhanced Driver's License was approved as a DHS pilot.**

Washington State⁴ “Real ID”



“In June 2005, the federal governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico published a ‘Report to Leaders’ .entitled ‘Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America’ . . .



PNWER President John van Dongen with WA Governor Chris Gregoire and Consul General Peter Lloyd during the **announcement of the enhanced driver’s license program.**

2009

Launched the PNWER-NCSL Energy Horizon Legislative Institute, with US Department of Energy support. • **PNWER Border Solutions Council held PNWER’s first ever Washington, DC symposium, in concert with the Woodrow Wilson Center.** • **The US Army Corps of Engineers hires PNWER to launch the Dam Sector Exercise**

Series in the Columbia River Basin, which brought together public and private stakeholders from throughout the Columbia River basin to develop a mitigation strategy for floods.

2010

PNWER Implemented the first PNWER Energy Horizon Legislative Institute **certificate program for 37 legislators, together with partners, including the University of Idaho and US Department of Energy.** • **Developed a regional information sharing system called the Northwest Warning, Alert and Response Network to allow critical infrastructures and emergency managers to communicate prior to and during a disaster.**

2011

Implemented the PNWER Arctic Caucus and held the first meeting in Barrow Alaska to discuss arctic issues impacting infrastructure, security and economic development in the region. • PNWER submits 65 pilot suggestions to the **Beyond the Border Perimeter Security Initiative and Regulatory Cooperation Council** project. • PNWER, together with our Transportation partner, **Cascadia Center for Regional Development,** helped lead a successful campaign to save the second Amtrak service between Vancouver/Seattle/Portland.

2012

PNWER hosted the Emerald Down Cyber Security Seminar and Exercise in September in Seattle, WA for over 100 public and private sector cyber leaders across the region. • **Idaho Governor Butch Otter signed an Executive Order creating the PNWER Idaho Council.** The purpose of the PNWER Idaho Council is to ensure the Executive Branch is represented and integrated with the Legislative branch and the

private sector to address issues impacting Idaho and the rest of the region. • PNWER hosted the first regional Energy Storage meeting in Victoria BC and formed the PNWER Storage Coalition.

2014

PNWER elects first President from the Northwest Territories, Hon. Dave Ramsay. • PNWER kicked off a year-long project to develop a framework for preventing the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels into the Region. • **The Center for Regional Disaster Resilience developed and successfully launched the Washington State Port Mutual Aid Agreement.** Eight ports have signed onto the agreement, and the Washington Public Ports have agreed to be the holder of the signed agreements to provide continuity going forward.

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¹ Pacific Northwest Economic Region, History Page as of 4/21/2021, <http://www.pnwer.org/history.html>

² The Emerging North American Union (NAU) timeline, Pg 7. Jan. 27, 2007, Debra K. Niwa; quote from *Secret Records Revealed, Dennis Laurence Cuddy, Ph.D., Hearthstone Publishing Ltd., 1999 edition, p. 198.*

http://www.channelingreality.com/NAU/NAU_timeline_Current.pdf

³ Note: on the slide, it appeared to be a mistranslation. It showed I1 which was assumed to be II but it was left off because it wasn’t clear.

⁴ The Real Purpose of Real ID, Vicky Davis, 2008, Channeling Reality website. http://www.channelingreality.com/nau/real_id.htm