

**Pacific North West Economic Region Annual Summit**  
Calgary, AB  
July 17-21, 2016

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**PNWER Pre-Departure Briefing** (Friday July 15, 2016 2:30pm)

**Participants:**

Neil Sweeney

MLA Dan Ashton

IGRS: Pierrette Maranda, Jeremy Hewitt, Judi Sigurdson

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# Pacific North West Economic Region Annual Summit

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## ***2. PNWER Calgary Summit Overview***

The upcoming PNWER Annual Summit will bring together over 500 key business leaders, legislators, academics and government leaders from PNWER's ten states, provinces, and territories, and beyond. Notably, Ambassadors Heyman and MacNaughton will be present.

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Premier Clark's designated government lead for PNWER, MLA Dan Ashton, will become PNWER President at the Summit.

**Attendees:** Registrations: 527 as of July 15

**BC:** 70 registered so far, including:

- 3 Ministers (Bennett, Thomson, Letnick)
- 3 Government MLAs (Ashton, Throness, Martin)
- 2 Opposition MLAs (Popham, Conroy)
- 10 staff (MST Chief of staff Strongitharm, FLNRO DM Sheldan; Chief Forester Nichols; ENV Matthias Herborg; MNGD ADM Piccinino; JTST Little; IGRS Sigurdson; MEM MA Denniston; Dan Greene, one staff TBD)
- Others: Consul General Lynn Platt, Mayor of Taylor, regional district, BC industry (e.g. tourism, Fortis, Teck, Assn Mineral Exploration, GLOBE & Delphi Group), Barry Penner

- None of the Federal MPs registered are from BC.

**AB:** 207 so far (3 ministers – Environment & Parks, Econ Development & Trade, Energy, Lieutenant Governor, 18 other MLAs, many govt staff including DM of Agriculture)

**SK:** 31 including Ministers of Agriculture and Government Relations & 4 MLAs, 6 staff

**NT:** 8 (2 MLAs)      **YK:** 7 (0 MLAs )      **ON:** 41 including 9 Federal MPs, 2 Senators

**MB:** 6 (including DM of International Affairs & Relations)

**ID:** 25      **OR:** 18      **WA:** 57 (includes PNWER staff)

**AK:** 5      **MT:** 16      **DC:** 18 (2 DHS, 2 State, US Forest Service)

### **Keynotes:**

- Ambassador Heyman; Ambassador MacNaughton
- Alan Bersin, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, US Homeland Security, with Hon Deron Dilous, AB Minister of Economic Development & Trade
- Gregg Saretsky, CEO Westjet
- Aris Papadopoulos, Resilience Action Fund (non profit, mission: advance awareness transparency & education for greater resilience in the built environment against natural and other hazards)
- MP David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of International Trade, Canada
- Chris Sands, Western Washington University

### **BC Government Speakers:**

- Mining (Minister Bennett co-chairs) Monday morning  
MBB attending all day Monday plus Tuesday morning
- Forestry (Chief Forester Diane Nichols speaking) Monday morning  
MST attending Monday, but not speaking  
NOTE: Discussion on history of SLA – nobody from BC speaking on that topic
- Natural Gas (ADM Ines Piccinino speaking) Monday afternoon
- Energy (Minister Bennett on legislators' panel) Tuesday morning
- Invasive Species (MLA Ashton speaking) Tuesday morning and afternoon  
Matthias Herborg (ENV) will be at session to back up.
- Tourism (JTST Andrew Little speaking) Wednesday morning

### **Other Priority Sessions:**

- Energy and environment (competitiveness in age of carbon pricing) – Monday am
- Border Issues – Monday am
- Water Policy II (cooperation on Transboundary – Sandrolini & Lemermeier) Monday pm
- Trade (including TPP) – Tuesday pm

### **3. *Communications***

- GCPE coordinating News Release with PNWER communications lead for Wednesday July 20 around noon. PNWER is making its own announcement re Dan Ashton becoming President within a larger release.
- Blair Phelps is the communications contact for MLA Ashton for the Summit. He is also contact for Minister Bill Bennett.

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## ***5. Dan Ashton priorities as PNWER President***

- Advance BC priorities as part of PNWER missions to DC, Ottawa and capital visits (e.g. importance of trade including Softwood Lumber, counteract protectionist sentiments, accelerate action on climate and carbon pricing, benefits of LNG, border)
- Proactively promote BC as a world leader in sustainable and environmentally-friendly resource development.
- Consider a PNWER working group to “grow” / develop on a priority issue for BC. Leading to meaningful session at the 2017 annual summit – possibilities include forestry, energy, environment, borders.
- Work with Board to modernize PNWER governance and financial management (e.g. recognize financial challenges for PNWER ahead and explore possible solutions to decrease costs and increase revenue)

## ***BC AFN Economic Strategy (Chief Shane Gottfriedson) Update***

In June 2015, the newly elected Regional Chief of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Chief Shane Gottfriedson signalled a need to focus on economic development. In the fall of 2015, BCAFN approached the Province with a proposal to develop a *First Nations Economic Strategy and Fiscal Framework*.

In December 2015, a joint strategic planning exercise between BCAFN leadership and provincial Deputy Ministers was held in Vancouver. BCAFN Regional Chief Gottfriedson presented his vision for a First Nation led economic development strategy. Deputy Ministers were supportive of the approach including BCAFN hosting five regional sessions with First Nations leaders. The Province provided funding of \$46k for the December planning meeting and \$300k for the five regional sessions (Prince George, Parksville, Enderby, Fraser Valley and North Vancouver).

Each regional session was held over two days. On day one, provincial agencies provided contextual information on: The *BC Jobs Plan*, regional labour market information, education and skills training, and non-treaty economic development initiatives. On day two, the BCAFN held an in camera session with regional leadership to explore economic opportunities.

On May 25, 2016 a meeting was held between BCAFN leadership and provincial senior officials from JTSTL and MARR in Kamloops to review progress to date. Chief Gottfriedson provided an overview of findings to date.

The five regional sessions pointed out different economic development perspectives. In northern and interior First Nation communities, the further development of natural resources coupled with business creation and resource revenue sharing were prominent. In contrast, lower mainland and island First Nation communities emphasized economic diversification, education, and land and infrastructure development.

Key lessons learned included:

- *Employment Participation*: employment readiness, training and career planning.
- *Business Participation*: operating businesses, access to capital, equity in projects.
- *Resource and Land Management*: participating in management of lands.
- *Revenues received by First Nations Governments*: improving reliability of revenues.

Chief Gottfriedson highlighted three strategic areas he would like to explore in the short-term with provincial support:

- First Nations labour market analysis, to examine statistics, data needs and gaps;
- Explore Nation-based sectoral employment plans; and,
- Develop a tool kit to support First Nation-industry partnerships.

The Province is providing BCAFN \$125k to finalize the strategy development work until September, 2016.

BCAFN will report on this work at the Cabinet and First Nations Leaders Gathering September 7-8, 2016.

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## **Background:**

- The MWCI was established on September 27, 2010. It focused on police investigations conducted between January 23, 1997, and February 5, 2002, respecting women reported missing from the downtown eastside of Vancouver.
- The Inquiry process lasted 26 months. Pre-hearing conferences were held in January 2011. Evidentiary hearings were held between October 11, 2011 and June 6, 2012.
- The cost of the Inquiry was approximately \$10 million.
- On December 17, 2012, *Forsaken – The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry (MWCI Report)* was released. The Report is approximately 1,500 pages and contains 65 recommendations (including 2 urgent measures).
- In November 2013, the BC government released a status report on activities in response to the recommendations and continued to build on that work.
- On December 4, 2014, the final update report on the recommendations of the MWCI was released. The Report details progress made on the report recommendations.
- Recommendations that support responsive action, such as expanding services, enhancing policy and practice and increasing service provider knowledge were prioritized.
- There are some recommendations that are not being pursued, for example, some recommendations for more research. There is a large amount of information already from the Inquiry and other reports and so efforts have been focused specifically on those recommendations that are action-oriented.
- Learnings from the MWCI Report have been integrated into the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy, the Province's long term strategy to prevent, respond to, and rebuild from violence against women in BC.
- The MWCI Report also significantly influenced the direction of the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, which outlines actions that will be taken over the next several years to improve public safety and guide policing reform and law enforcement in our province.

## **Progress on the Recommendations:**

*Progress from December 2012 – December 2014*

- Between the release of the MWCI Report in December 2012 and release of the Province's final update report on the recommendations of the MWCI in December 2014, the following work is underway or completed:
  - Establishment of a compensation fund by the Province, the Government of Canada and the City of Vancouver, which offers \$50,000 in compensation to each of the living, biological children of the women identified in the MWCI Report.
  - Annual funding of \$750K to WISH Drop-in Centre Society and an annual increase of almost \$400,000 to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, for services to vulnerable women who work in the sex trade, as well as a total of \$450,000 in one-time funding to other key organizations that provide services to individuals involved in the survival sex trade (e.g., PACE, Warm Zone, New Hope Society, PEERS Victoria).
  - \$400,000 in funding to the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW) for the Giving Voice Initiative, which allows Aboriginal communities access to grant funding to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women and girls locally.
  - Training for frontline victim service workers, including Indigenous cultural safety training to support culturally sensitive service delivery as well as training to enhance front-line service providers' knowledge around grief and trauma to enhance supports to family members of missing and murdered persons.
  - *Police Act* amendments to allow the director of police services to establish standards to promote unbiased policing, as well as to require an external audit of an 'inactive' major case investigation, if it is determined that provincial standards have not been met.
  - \$100,000 in civil forfeiture grant funding to build upon and enhance Community Safety Training Workshops held in communities across Highway 16 including addressing the safety needs of vulnerable Aboriginal women residing in these communities and discussions about safe transportation options
  - \$180,000 in federal funding to support families of missing and murdered women. This included a community consultation on service and support needs, training for first responders in trauma cases, and a cultural healing camp in Fort St. John for families of missing and murdered persons.
  - \$210,000 in grant funding to a number of Aboriginal and Aboriginal-serving organizations to support projects/activities that address the safety needs of vulnerable Aboriginal women residing in communities along Highway 16, as well as those supporting safer transitions from rural to urban communities.

- \$100,000 in grant funding provided to the Living in Community (LIC) Steering Committee to work with and support interested municipalities in Northern BC and the Lower Mainland to adopt the LIC collaborative community engagement model. This work included delivery of LIC's Curriculum for Change sex work awareness and education workshops to key front-line service providers and community members.

*Progress since release of Final Update Report (December 2014)*

- Since the release of the final update report in December 2014, the following work is underway or completed:
  - The Missing Persons Act came into force on June 9, 2015. This is legislation provides police with tools to help locate a missing person sooner.
  - Enhancing services for vulnerable women including funding for organizations delivering drop-in and outreach programs that serve vulnerable populations through one-time civil forfeiture grants including \$80,000 in March 2015 and \$532,233 in March 2016.
  - Implementation of a Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses policy (VUL 1) for Crown Counsel. This policy is expressly aimed at ensuring that “all victims and witnesses, regardless of vulnerabilities, have an equal opportunity to participate in the criminal justice process.”
  - Completion of the SisterWatch evaluation and distribution of the Evaluation Report, including best practices for meaningful police-community partnerships, to police forces across the province through the BC Association of Chiefs of Police.
  - Development of provincial policing standards on missing persons' investigations. These new standards will take effect September 2016.
  - Establishment of the Real Time Intelligence Centre (implemented January 2015), which provides 24/7 analytical support to police investigating crimes that pose a threat to public safety including missing persons.
  - Developing justice-specific Indigenous cultural safety training, integrating cultural competency core values throughout training curricula for police, and developing a long-term plan for addressing other training recommendations related to bias-free policing and the treatment of vulnerable persons.
  - Recent announcement of a \$5 million five-point action plan for transportation along Highway 16 including:

- \$2.4 million over two years for transit expansion;
  - \$800,000 over three years for a community transportation grant program to purchase and operate vehicles;
  - \$300,000 over three years for a First Nations driver education program;
  - \$1,500,000 over two years for highway infrastructure safety improvements including webcams and transit shelters; and
  - Collaboration to increase interconnectivity of services with BC Transit, Northern Health and others.
- Enactment of the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights in July 2015, which now forms an integral part of the policy and service delivery framework for all Crown Counsel and administrative support staff in BC. Among other things, the new Bill of Rights recognizes that:
    - victims of crime deserve to be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect, including respect for their dignity;
    - victims' rights must be considered throughout the criminal justice system;
    - victims of crime have rights that are guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and,
    - consideration of the rights of victims of crime is in the interest of the proper administration of justice.
  - Supporting the development of Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines for BC, with input from police and key community stakeholders in partnership with the BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) Missing Women Commission of Inquiry Advisory Committee.
  - Developing provincial policing standards on major case management and multi-jurisdictional major case investigations.
  - Developing provincial policing standards on the promotion of unbiased policing in BC.

## Immigration s.16

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### Key Messages

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### Key Facts

#### Levels Planning

- Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, the federal government is required to table the *Annual Report to Parliament* by November 1 (or, if Parliament is not sitting, within the next 30 sitting days). The report includes an immigration levels plan for the number of permanent residents that will be admitted to Canada the following year.

- The release of the 2016 immigration levels plan was delayed until March 8, 2016 due to the federal election and change in government in October 2015 and the Syrian refugee crisis.
- For 2016, national immigration levels were increased by 7.8 percent and were set at 280,000 to 305,000 new permanent residents for the year. Humanitarian and family class immigration accounted for all of the increase in overall levels.
- The level of admissions under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) was preserved in the 2016 levels plan,

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### Immigrant Selection

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The 2016 federal budget contained spending commitments related to accelerating processing times for family sponsorship, new permanent residents and Syrian refugees.

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Under the Express Entry stream of PNPs, both levels of government are currently undertaking full assessments of applications.

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### Syrian Refugee Resettlement

- BC strongly supported the federal government's Operation Syrian Refugees and has received over 2,300 refugees in more than 45 communities across the province to date.
- BC established a \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund to enhance federal and provincial refugee programs and to provide additional resources for communities and private sponsors who are bringing refugees to BC.
- In addition, a \$1.5 million Refugee Fund has been made available through the Canada-BC Job Grant to support refugees' entry into the workforce as soon as possible.

- These funds represent BC's commitment to ensure refugees are welcomed across the province and that communities are supported to assist with settlement efforts.

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### Atlantic Growth Strategy Announcement

- On July 4, the federal government and the four Atlantic provincial governments announced the launch of an Atlantic Growth Strategy that will direct targeted actions to stimulate the region's economy, support both innovative and resource-based industries, and increase job opportunities for Atlantic Canadians.
- The strategy includes a three-year immigration pilot project to help address labour market needs in the four Atlantic provinces.

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- The program will be an employer-driven pilot project – 2,000 additional economic immigration spaces for the scope of the three-year project (not including accompanying family members), with rising numbers in the following years depending on performance. Employers will have to contribute, demonstrate and prove through metrics which have not yet been developed that they are engaged and support retention.

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**2016 SUMMER MEETING OF CANADA’S PREMIERS**

**Whitehorse, July 21-22, 2016**

**Overview**

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**Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat**

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- **Internal Trade:** The outcome of the July 8 Internal Trade Ministers' meeting will be of significant interest to the media.

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- **Pensions:** The meeting falls one week after the July 15 deadline for provinces to approve Finance Ministers' agreement on the Canada Pension Plan.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

- September 2016: Beginning of the federal budget process: consultations, etc.
- October 2016: First Ministers receive Ministers' recommendations for a Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change (followed by a First Ministers' Meeting).
- October 27, 2016: Prime Minister Trudeau signs CETA at Canada-EU summit in Brussels.
- November 1, 2016: federal government tables immigration levels plan for 2017.
- November 7-18, 2016: United Nations climate change conference (COP 22).
- November / December (tbd): FMM
- Spring 2017: federal budget.

**Political Timetable**

- Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski is expected to drop the writ for a territorial election soon after the end of the meeting – likely within days.
- This is the first CoF meeting since the election of MB Premier Brian Pallister and the re-election of SK Premier Brad Wall. It is also the first CoF meeting since the change of government in Ottawa.

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## **Session Overview:** **Premiers' Working Breakfast** **Friday, July 22, 8:00am - 8:45am**

### **Agenda Items**

This session currently includes <sup>s.13,s.16</sup>

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### **Key Messages**

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