



International Legislators' Forum Annual Highlights

Over the past two decades, the International Legislators' Forum has focused on the following regional issues:

MB 2001—Sponsorship of 2Nation Tours, a travel and tourism program among the four jurisdictions.

MN 2002—Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among legislative leaders in the four jurisdictions to meet annually and provide substantial support for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (and analogous programs in Canada) in order to address flooding, drought, and water quality issues.

SD 2003—Established a regional renewable fuels working group, Powering the Plains (PTP), and began efforts toward cooperation and coordination among emergency management officials from the four jurisdictions.

ND 2004—Launched study of methamphetamine and pharmaceutical issues across borders in order to address addiction and incarceration alternatives.

MB 2005—Building on cross-border methamphetamine agreements, broadened discussion to collaboratively address interjurisdictional criminal justice issues.

MN 2006—Emphasized the importance of basing water-related public policy issues on sound science. Supported efforts of the four jurisdictions' attorneys general and justice minister to address methamphetamine and criminal justice issues, and the signing of an interjurisdictional Amber Alert MOU to enhance mobilization in child abduction cases.

SD 2007—Provided broad support for the Regional Energy Roadmap developed by PTP participants, supported the enhancement of broadband technology in rural areas, and expressed significant concerns to the US Department of Homeland Security and relevant Canadian entities about the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

ND 2008—Highlighted issues related to rural community development, health, and infrastructure issues, including the need for further enhancement of broadband technology in the region, and continued discussions of water (LIDAR mapping), energy, and cross-border identification issues.

MB 2009—While specifically focusing on Lake Winnipeg, delegates developed agreements to address regional water quality and quantity issues, regional energy issues, and cross-border security, identification, and tourism.

MN 2010—Discussed water issues in the Red River Basin, including recommendations from the Red River Basin Commission regarding management, impoundment, retention, and diversion. Additional highlights included energy, commerce, border security, and the media.

SD 2011—Updates on developments in the Red River Basin; explored research and development efforts within the four jurisdictions and existing and potential opportunities for collaboration.

ND 2012—Focus on energy (integrated regulations), water (basin-wide collaboration), and trade (coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies).

MB 2013—Surveyed existing regional economic relationships and explored options to leverage cross-border relationships to strengthen the economic future of all jurisdictions. Outlined a set of general principles regarding energy development and related policies.

MN 2014—Focus on agriculture: historical aspects, current industry role regionally and nationally, existing and developing technologies, and increasing food supply demands for the world's growing population.

SD 2015—Addressed infrastructure and highway and railway regulation, current and future workforce needs, and updates, regulations, and initiatives in the Missouri River Basin.

ND 2016—Explored differences in Canadian and US regulatory models concerning genetically modified organisms; aquatic invasive species regulation and management within and between jurisdictions; and Canadian and US federal laws and jurisdictional steps to decrease human trafficking.

MB 2017—Discussed farmland use of drain tile, criminal justice reform and reinvestments, and alternative energy and energy systems. Toured the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

MN 2018—Focus on international trade impacting the northern plains and environmental permitting and review. Toured Soudan Underground Mine State Park and US Steel Corporation's Minntac Mine in Mountain Iron.

SD 2019—Examined local efforts to improve Big Sioux River water quality, regional impacts of marijuana legalization, and the opioid crisis in the northern plains.