17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS' FORUM

JUNE 26-28, 2017 - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

MANITOBA | MINNESOTA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA

2017 International Legislators' Forum Jurisdictional Delegates

Manitoba

*MLA **Dennis Smook** (PC) - La Verendrye
*MLA **Matt Wiebe** (NDP) - Concordia
MLA **Derek Johnson** (PC) - Interlake
MLA **Andrew Smith** (PC) - Southdale
MLA **Brad Michaleski** (PC) - Dauphin
MLA **Nahanni Fontaine** (NDP) - St. Johns
MLA **Flor Marcelino** (NDP) - Logan

Minnesota

*Representative **Dan Fabian** (R) - District 01A
Representative **Jason Metsa** (DFL) - District 06B
Representative **Jeff Backer** (R) - District 12A
Representative **Ben Lien** (DFL) - District 04A
*Senator **David Tomassoni** (DFL) - District 06
Senator **Bill Weber** (R) - District 22
Senator **Carrie Ruud** (R) - District 10

North Dakota

*Representative **Lois Delmore** (D) - District 43
Representative **Jon Nelson** (R) - District 14
Representative **Dennis Johnson** (R) - District 15
Representative **David Monson** (R) - District 10
*Senator **Larry Luick** (R) - District 25
Senator **Jim Dotzenrod** (D) - District 26
Senator **Curt Kreun** (R) - District 42
Senator **Carolyn Nelson** (D) - District 21

South Dakota

*Representative **Mary Duvall** (R) - District 24
Representative **Spencer Hawley** (D) - District 7
Representative **Steve McCleerey** (D) - District 1
Representative **Thomas Holmes** (R) - District 14
*Senator **Jason Frerichs** (D) - District 01
Senator **Terri Haverly** (R) - District 35
Senator **Reynold Nesiba** (D) - District 15
Senator **John Wiik** (R) - District 04

** Identifies Members of the ILF Steering Committee*

17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS' FORUM (ILF)

Monday, June 26 – Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Twenty-five legislators representing North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba and Minnesota, along with two legislators from Saskatchewan, support staff, experts, presenters, dignitaries and sponsors, gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba from June 26 to June 28, 2017 for the 17th Annual International Legislators' Forum (ILF).

The ILF is an opportunity for legislators from the four jurisdictions to meet, learn, share information, understand problems, build relationships, and develop collaborative approaches and solutions on a wide variety of issues relevant to and affecting the participating jurisdictions. The ILF evolved, through the 2002 Memorandum of Understanding, from the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI) consultations following the 1997 Red River Basin flood.

Through the Forum the jurisdictional delegates have addressed many different issues: water - quantity and quality; aquatic invasive species; human and animal health and food safety; methamphetamines and law enforcement; rural access to health care; genetically modified organisms; outmigration and immigration; the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI); tourism; cross border trade; economic and workforce development; human trafficking and other significant public policy issues. The jurisdictional delegates' efforts have resulted in agreements that directly and indirectly impact the jurisdictions and their policies.

The ILF continues to expand the variety of the topics covered. The ILF Steering Committee selected these topics for the 2017 International Legislators' Forum:

- **Farmland Use of Drain Tile and Subsurface Water Management**;
- **Criminal Justice Reform and Reinvestment; and**
- **Alternative Energies and Energy Systems**.

Presenters and panelists shared their expertise, offered topic specific information and engaged the delegates in follow-up discussions and interactions (PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other materials specific to each presentation can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***http://agree.org/ilf17***). All presentations included facilitated discussion, allowing the delegates and experts to examine the topics in greater detail.

June 26, 2017
Monday

Pre-Forum Event – The Canadian Museum for Human Rights – Winnipeg, MB

The Forum started at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights with a guided tour of six of the Museum's ten galleries: What are Human Rights?, Canadian Journeys, Protecting Rights in Canada, Examining the Holocaust, Turning Points for Humanity, Breaking the Silence, and Rights Today. The tour was sponsored by **Missouri River Energy Services**.

Opening Social – The Canadian Museum for Human Rights – Sifton Terrace

The ILF delegates were formally welcomed to Winnipeg by **the Honourable Heather Stefanson**, **Deputy Premier**, received their welcome gifts sponsored by **Missouri River Energy Services** and enjoyed a friendly and congenial reception, courtesy of **Manitoba Hydro**.

June 27, 2017
Tuesday

Opening – Inn at the Forks: Ballroom

Manitoba Legislative Assembly Members (MLA) **Dennis Smook** and **Matt Wiebe**, (host jurisdiction's ILF Steering Committee representatives) welcomed the 2017 ILF delegates and observers to the first day of plenary sessions. They thanked the Consensus Council for the work undertaken to convene the International Legislators Forum. The Forum's history and purpose were reviewed. Dignitaries, sponsors, work group members, and presenters were recognized and thanked for their time and talent. A special welcome was extended to the observers from Saskatchewan, MLAs **Dan D'Autremont** and **Warren Kaeding**.

The jurisdictional delegates completed a round of self-introductions including how long they have served in office, who/where they represent, and how long they have attended the ILF. The meeting process and rules, the agenda and meeting materials were reviewed. (Note: This is the fourth year the Forum's meeting materials and handouts were fully electronic/digital. The materials were provided to meeting participants on a flash drive and are accessible directly on the Consensus Council's website - ***http://agree.org/ilf17***).

Plenary Sessions: Day One

Farmland Use of Drain Tile and Subsurface Water Management

Farmland Use of Drain Tile and Subsurface Water Management Work Group participants who informed the development of these presentations included **Sid Vander Veen** – Drainage Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs; **Bruce Shewfelt** – President, PBS Water Engineering Ltd.; **Hans Kandel** – Professor and Extension Agronomist Broadleaf Crop Production, NDSU; **Mitchell Timmerman** – Agri-ecosystems Specialist, Manitoba Ministry of Agriculture; **Sheri Grift** – Land Use Specialist, Government of Manitoba; **Chris Unrau** – President and CEO, Precision Land Solutions; **Gary Sands** – Professor and Extension Engineer, University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering; **Lance Yohe and Jeff Lewis** – Current and Former Executive Directors, Red River Basin Commission, **Naeem Kalwar** – Extension Area Specialist/Soil Health and NDSU-Langdon Research Extension Center; **Tom Scherer** – Associate Professor Agricultural Engineering, NDSU; and **David Lobb** – Professor Soil Science, Senior Research Chair for the Watershed Systems Research Program, University of Manitoba. (Presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***http://agree.org/ilf17***).

Session #1 – Drain Tile 101 – The presenters provided an explanation of Drain Tile, demonstrating how drain tile only removes the water that exceeds a soil type's field capacity, the maximum amount of water the soil can hold. They also explained how drain tile impacts watersheds and other types of drainages because of nutrient, mineral, and chemical flow. Presenters were:

- **Hans Kandel**, PhD Plant Sciences, Professor and Extension Agronomist, North Dakota State University
- **Thomas F. Scherer**, PhD Agricultural Engineering, Associate Professor, North Dakota State University

Question & Answer Session:

The presenters were asked whether there have been comparisons between surface runoff and flow from tile drainage. It was indicated that it is difficult to get direct comparisons since each field is different, but generally, in North Dakota where research has been done, surface runoff has elevated phosphorus but decreased nitrates in comparison to tiled fields.

The delegates asked about the negative effects of concentrated areas of sulfates and salts on water quality. The presenters indicated that it is impossible to know for sure because the amount of drain tile being used in areas that have high sulfates and salts is low and while that does raise the salt levels in the drain tile flow, there aren't enough data to determine the impact.

The delegates asked for more information about the drain tile pipes themselves, such as how big they are, what they are made of, and how they are maintained. The presenters indicated that most drain pipes are 3-4 inches in diameter and made of corrugated, polyethylene pipe with small holes to accept the water in the soil. It was also indicated that maintenance is almost impossible, because the pipes are buried, but in high sand areas sometimes a filter sock is used to keep the sand out of the holes in the pipe.

It was asked how long it takes to make the tiling worthwhile, financially. The presenters indicated that they had never spoken to anyone who indicated regret installing tile

drainage. But, they also indicated that the length of time it takes the tile to pay for itself in increased production depends on the field, the cost of installing the tile, and many other factors.

The delegates asked what drain tile's impact is on flooding specifically in the Red River Valley. The presenters indicated that there is little impact. When the majority of the flooding occurs in the Red River Valley the ground is frozen, which means the tile is not having any water flow through it. Tile might cause a small reduction of flooding because the soil will go into winter at a higher capacity than without tile.

Break: Sponsored by the ND Soybean Growers Association

Session #2 – Drain Tile Laws and Regulations Among the Jurisdictions

This session considered the various laws and regulations impacting tile drainage among the jurisdictions. The session allowed for discussion with the ILF delegates regarding the complexities of regulating drain tile within and between the jurisdictions. The presenters were:

- **Sid Vander Veen**, Drainage Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- **Larry Luick**, North Dakota State Senator, Chair of Senate Agriculture Committee
- **Mitchell Timmerman**, Agri-ecosystems Specialist, Manitoba Ministry of Agriculture

Question & Answer Session

Much of the discussion following the presentations involved the impact of tiling and current regulation on the Red River Valley, specifically in regard to the impact of tiling on wetland areas. It was indicated that tiling is allowed in Ontario and Manitoba in a wetland area if farmers can prove historical production on the wetland. These determinations have been made at the provincial level in Canada and at the federal level, through the Environmental Protection Agency, in the United States.

Luncheon: Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Clarence and Barb Nepanik, Pine Creek First Nation Members, welcomed the International Legislators' Forum delegates, presenters, and sponsors to Winnipeg and identified the Forks as a long-standing meeting place of different peoples to trade and discuss. The luncheon was followed by a Walking Tour of the Forks provided by **Clarence Nepanik** who discussed the impacts of the Residential School System on him and others First Nations members and the importance of the Forks area to the First Nations people in the Northern Great Plains and beyond as a location to meet and trade.

Criminal Justice Reform and Reinvestment

Criminal Justice Reform and Reinvestment Work Group participants who assisted in the development of these presentations included **Lynne Kohm** – Crown Attorney, Crown Law Analysis and Development Branch, Crown Law Division, Manitoba Justice; **Tom Roy** – Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections; **David Greening** – Executive Director, Policy Development and Analysis, Department of Justice, Government of Manitoba; **Jeromy Pankratz** – Director of Tobacco Litigation, South Dakota Office of the Attorney General; **Dave Mann** – Supervising Senior Crown Attorney, Intensive Case Assessment Process (ICAP) Unit, Manitoba Prosecutions Service; **Leann Bertsch** – Director, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; **Greg Sattizahn** – State Court Administrator, South Dakota Unified Judicial System; and **Laurie Feiler** – Deputy Secretary, South Dakota Corrections Department. (Presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***http://agree.org/ilf17***).

Session #1: Issues Impacting Criminal Justice Systems

The session covered the various problems and issues the jurisdictions face in processing, containing, and transitioning criminals into and out of their criminal justice systems. The issues presented were the increasing number of incarcerated, the difficulty in transitioning incarcerated individuals back into the public, high recidivism rates, the lack of necessary services when individuals are released, the impact of increased funding of prison systems on other systems within the jurisdictions, and, specific to Manitoba, the need to reduce the pre-trial remand period because of a 2016 Canadian Supreme Court decision. The presenters were:

- **Tom Roy**, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections
- **Karianne Jackson**, Director of Correctional Practices, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- **Greg Sattizahn**, State Court Administrator, South Dakota Unified Judicial System
- **Lynne Kohm**, Crown Attorney, Crown Law Analysis and Development Branch, Crown Law Division

Question & Answer Session

The presenters were asked why the number of incarcerated individuals has increased. While the presenters did not have a specific answer, they were able to show that the largest increase is coming from males between 18-24 years old, which might indicate poor decision making because the human brain has not fully developed at that point in their lives. It was suggested that our culture's drive to have immediate access to everything has increased impulsivity and decreased the ability to postpone gratification. The presenters also indicated that drug abuse and behavioral health issues contribute to the increase in incarceration rates.

The presenters were asked why the pre-trial remand has increased in Manitoba. The primary reason, indicated by the presenters, was the breach of conditions of release.

Break: sponsored by the South Dakota Rural Electric Association SDREA

Session #2: Promising Practices in Criminal Justice Reform – Presenters shared current programs within the jurisdictions that have reduced, or attempt to reduce, the impacts of some of the issues discussed in the previous session. Some of the practices being used or investigated include diversion programs to place people accused of a crime into non-judicial or at least non-trial systems, community support hearings bringing the offender's community in to assist those who enter diversion programs, and increasing access of service providers to incarcerated individuals to better enable connections when released. Some other practices comprise work with communities to help provide a support system for those released – such as gap services and peer services that receive payment based on the outcome not just the service, use of prisons for individuals of whom the public are truly afraid, increase incentives to do well in prison and not reoffend when released, increase outcome tracking for service programs, reduce probation periods since the majority of people are most likely to reoffend in the first 12 months, and finally to be more realistic in what qualifies as a felony rather than lesser crimes. The presenters were:

- **Dave Mann**, Supervising Senior Crown Attorney, Intensive Case Assessment Process (ICAP) Unit, Manitoba Prosecution Service
- **Karianne Jackson**, Director of Correctional Practices, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- **Tom Roy**, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections
- **Greg Sattizahn**, State Court Administrator, South Dakota Unified Judicial System

Question & Answer Session

The discussion after the presentation dealt primarily with the importance of the need to identify offenders with behavioral health issues early to provide services inside and outside the penal system and the general lack of services for people with behavioral health issues across the jurisdictions.

Reception and Dinner – Convocation Hall, University of Winnipeg

A reception and dinner, graciously sponsored by the **Consul General of Canada, Minneapolis, Minnesota**, highlighted Tuesday evening, provided the delegates the opportunity to network with colleagues and peers, and enjoy comments from United States **Consul Christopher Gunning**, Canadian **Consul Paul Connors**, and **Sherman Kreiner**, Managing Director of the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation.

Consul Christopher Gunning thanked the International Legislators' Forum for allowing him to take part in the event over his tenure in Winnipeg. He stated that he is a big believer in the ILF and appreciates the gift of the delegates' time and effort to participate in a forum that is all too rare internationally, but especially between Canada and the United States. He sees the ILF as an example of how the involved jurisdictions are not taking our collective relationships for granted.

He stressed the importance of our conversations. The ILF brings a level of Prairie Common Sense to the political debate that doesn't exist elsewhere. He finished by thanking Winnipeg for being such a great host to him as his time ends as US Consul in the city.

Consul Paul Connors introduced himself to the International Legislators' Forum. He has served at the Consulate General in Minneapolis for a year, serving North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. He thanked his fellow colleagues in Manitoba. He stated that there is no stronger partnership between any two countries than that between Canada and the United States. The International Legislators' Forum and the shared work to arrive at consensus on important issues is evidence of the importance of this partnership to all parties. He expressed concern over statements made in the United States regarding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He stated that NAFTA has benefited both countries and has increased trade levels that allowed the Gross Domestic Product of Canada and the United States to double. He stated that NAFTA cannot be improved if pure equity is demanded by all partners, that is just not how economics works. He also indicated that in the trade between the United States and Canada the US currently is $12 Billion ahead. He indicated that the relationship between the two countries is far more than NAFTA, we have joint special forces working in Iraq and we have one of the safest borders in the world because we work together. He finished with a call to "…keep making the greatest relationship in the world even better!"

Sherman Kreiner, the Managing Director of the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (CRC), closed the comments and presentations at the International Legislators' Forum banquet. The CRC is unique in Canada as a special purpose corporation. It was created to deal with the lack of student housing for the 4,000-student increase in the student body. It was realized early on that University Board appointees were not great at urban development so the CRC was created. As the CRC has moved forward to increase the amount of housing available to their students they also realized, through involvement of developers, architects, and economic developers that the CRC needed to work with the community. To do this the CRC integrated the community into the corporation's decision-making. Through this relationship with the community the corporation has been able to build mixed-use housing that includes low-income, student, and high-income units. It has also started working with churches, with aging congregations, that are experiencing structural issues, to take action in the corporation's social responsibility portfolio. Diversity Foods, which provides the food for the University and the student body was established through this type of relationship, also provides employment and training for New Canadians and people of low-income. Diversity Foods has become the #1 most sustainable university food system in Canada and #2 in North America by sourcing food within 100 miles of Winnipeg, allowing for washable remnants and composting. The corporation has also worked to create living spaces that allow for integration of indigenous religious ceremonies. Managing Director Kreiner closed by reinforcing the fact that the University is able to do things with and/or for the government by leveraging private dollars so the government doesn't have to assume all of the cost.

The banquet closed with a thanks to the speakers and a group photo of the delegates on the front steps of Wesley Hall.

June 28, 2017
Wednesday

Breakfast - Legislators (only) Breakfast

The "Legislators (only) Breakfast" is a quasi-facilitated event for candid delegate discussion in preparation for the From the Floor session.

Plenary Session: Day Two
Alternative Energies and Energy Systems

Presentation PowerPoints, handouts, contact information and other related materials can be accessed at the Consensus Council's website: ***http://agree.org/ilf17***.

Section #1: Alternative Energies and Energy Systems

Panelists provided an overview of the development of renewable and alternative energies and how the power distribution systems need to change to better handle the increase in these types of energy sources. One of the primary foci of the presentations dealt with the need to face the reality that decreasing carbon emissions has to come from developments outside of renewables and needs to move toward reducing carbon impact. The presenters were:

- **Bill Hamlin**, Manager, Energy Policy and Resource Options, Manitoba Hydro
- **Brad Crabtree**, Vice President for Fossil Energy, Great Plains Institute
- **Steve Brick**, Senior Advisor in Technology and Policy, Clean Air Task Force

Question & Answer Session

The presenters were asked about the potential of building new power plants to increase the stability of the base-load generation. The presenters indicated that most of the focus in the energy industry is on retrofitting existing facilities rather than developing new ones.

The presenters were asked about the strength of the carbon dioxide market. They indicated that it is currently somewhat weak but it is getting better and with the development of new pipelines it is becoming more realistic to be able to retrofit a power plant to capture carbon at a greater cost efficiency.

FROM THE FLOOR

From the Floor **provides delegates the opportunity to engage in open and flexible discussion of their observations and learning moments from the Forum. Using a consensus-based decision-making process they develop conclusions, agreements, and recommendations**

FARMLAND USE OF DRAIN TILE AND SUBSURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2017 International Legislators' Forum:

- **AGREE** that Subsurface Water Management laws and regulations need to align with data driven information;
- **AGREE** that surface and subsurface water considerations need to be part of a comprehensive plan to create a functioning system;
- **AGREE** that increasing public awareness of surface and subsurface water management tools is important;
- **AGREE** that a comprehensive training program for decision-makers and the public about subsurface water management is needed; and
- **AGREE** that drain tile considerations need to address other aspects of water management, such as water quality.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2017 International Legislators' Forum:

- **RECOGNIZE** drug abuse and behavioral health as drivers of the increase in prison populations, and **SUPPORT** using evidence based practices and policies to address behavioral health issues and the causes of drug abuse; and
- **RECOGNIZE** that the local cost impacts of criminal justice systems and corrections need to be addressed by the jurisdictions.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND ENERGY SYSTEMS

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2017 International Legislators' Forum:

- **RECOGNIZE** the need for a diversified energy portfolio;
- **RECOGNIZE** that energy needs to be affordable and reliable;
- **AGREE** that the jurisdictions need to work together to address the complexities in the energy transmission system; and
- **RECOGNIZE** that alternative energies will be the driver of the energy economy in the future.

WRAP-UP

The Steering Committee members, the Manitoba host delegation, the working groups, the sponsors, the Canadian and U.S. Consuls and their staff, and the many others who assisted in planning and presenting at the 2017 International Legislators' Forum were identified and thanked. Participants were asked to complete and submit evaluation forms, including 2018 ILF topic ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

Participants were advised that:

- The 2018 International Legislators' Forum will be hosted by Minnesota.
- The Steering Committee will meet in September to begin planning the 2018 ILF.

The 2017 International Legislators' Forum adjourned with a wish to all for safe travels and an enjoyable and productive remainder of the summer.

Achievements of the International Legislators' Forum (ILF) 2001–2016

Following is an abbreviated listing of the achievements and actions identified and approved by the delegates during the past 16 International Legislators' Forums.

- Secured a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from respective legislative leaders in all four jurisdictions to continue the annual meetings.
- Learned about differences in structure and process in the respective states and provinces.
- Learned that the delegates share many of the same issues and values and wish to learn more from each other about best practices for addressing them together.
- Interacted annually with the Canadian Consul General, based in Minneapolis, and the US Consul and Principal Officer in Winnipeg, both of whom have been significant supporters of the ILF efforts.
- Shared information and agreements reached at the ILF meetings with the federal governments in both countries through the respective Consuls.
- Sponsored and helped initiate what became "2Nation Tours," involving the travel and tourism agencies of all four jurisdictions.
- Supported the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), especially in the states because it is aimed at enhancing the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the US.
- Supported the establishment of a 600-mile "Greenway" from the source of the Red River and on its tributaries to its termination in Lake Winnipeg. The efforts to develop it have expanded and continue today.
- Supported the Prairie Public Television/Radio "River Watch" program, which was linked to the Greenway and other flood control and mitigation efforts throughout the region and helped to secure multiple years of funding for that program, as well as the Greenway, from the Otto Bremer Foundation.
- Discussed mutual water quality issues and the many water quality problems that are shared among the jurisdictions and agreed that it will be essential to work together to address those issues.
- Advanced the discussion about the enhancement of renewable fuels and energy transmission capacity in the region, which was responsible, in significant part, for the work done by the Great Plains Institute (GPI), Powering the Plains (PTP) process and the work of the Midwest Governors Association.
- Encouraged agricultural harmonization legislation and regulation at the national levels in both countries and contacted the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in support of the work of the Agriculture Harmonization Working Group and broadening, expediting and prioritizing that work.
- Supported pilot projects for pesticide labeling applicable across US and Canadian borders - now applied to 3 pesticides.
- Authored letters of support to appropriate agencies in the US and Canadian federal governments to encourage the adoption of a regional inter-jurisdictional action process in case of disease outbreak to ensure the containment and quick eradication of these outbreaks in the region. These included handling food safety and security in an economical and efficient manner by using inter-jurisdictional expertise and scientific technology and brought responsible agency people from all four jurisdictions together between several annual ILF meetings to begin their work together in this area.
- Supported an emergency management mutual aid agreement and emergency management experts working together across borders.
- Facilitated a meeting of the jurisdictions' three Attorneys General and Justice Minister to provide updates on inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues, progress on dealing with methamphetamine, and to sign an agreement to develop an "Amber Alert" system throughout the four jurisdictions to assure quick, coordinated service in the event of child abductions.
- Supported inter-jurisdictional sharing of best practices in "healthy living."
- Supported greater rural access to medicine to ensure access to appropriate health care for all citizens in the region.
- Encouraged the public and private sectors in this region to work together to enhance broadband technology and other infrastructure, especially in rural areas.
- Supported a regional effort to enhance rural and community development, beyond simply economic development and including support for immigration.
- Contacted and requested that the Department of Homeland Security, other relevant agencies and states' Congressional offices ensure border crossings for citizens in the US and Canada remain as seamless as possible. Emphasizing the belief that the two countries share so much in terms of history,

culture, mutual relations and issues that: "Whatever decisions are made with regard to implementation (of cross-border identification requirements), there needs to be sufficient time to develop a thorough, comprehensive and accurate cost-benefit analysis of all proposed solutions; sufficient time to implement the regulations; and sufficient time to ensure that all privacy concerns are adequately addressed. Finally, the regulations need to be affordable by states and provinces and their citizens." The delegates share a belief that their input has had a significant impact on achieving the delay and reconsideration of many border-crossing identification regulations.

- Recommended the development of mutually supportive research and development initiatives and agreements that would clarify and enhance collaborative efforts.
- Agreed that water issues relative to the Red and Missouri Rivers be considered and addressed from a "basin-wide" perspective.
- Acknowledged and supported trade and border policies that foster cooperation, coordination, collaboration and are efficient, effective and economical.
- Supported a forward-looking process to assess and address infrastructure (including digital and broadband) needs throughout the region.
- Recommended a comprehensive review of existing highway transportation regulations and needs; and supported the development of consistent, comprehensive region-wide guidelines.
- Supported collaborative efforts to identify and address the threat of invasive species in the region.
- Recommended the adoption and integration of education/training and immigration policies that support the region's workforce needs.
- Developed a set of general principles regarding energy development and related policies.
- Recognized the interconnection and logic of dealing with water issues on a basin-wide level and supported cooperative, coordinated and collaborative basin-wide and basin-to-basin efforts.
- Recognized the growing value and importance of the Missouri River, it's impact on the regional economies and supported the need for a proactive, collaborate plan for its responsible management that incorporates jurisdictional assessments, full stakeholder involvement, and a solution-orientated approach.
- Recognized the efforts and investments being made by the rail industry to maintain, expand and improve the infrastructure and enhance safety and encouraged the continuation of an aggressive program of investment and improvement.
- Acknowledged the research-based value of early childhood development programs and investments and their positive effect upon workforce development and a broad range of societal and economic factors while supporting jurisdictional autonomy in program and service development.
- Commended the thorough and coordinated presentation on aquatic invasive species and the leveraging of expertise from all of the jurisdictions.
- Recommended the coordinated harmonization of messaging, rules, symbols, and public education between jurisdictions to increase the impact of existing aquatic invasive species control programs.
- Recognized the dramatic negative economic, environmental, and social impacts of aquatic invasive species on the ILF jurisdictions.
- Urged all jurisdictional aquatic invasive species control officials to increase jurisdictional coordination and cooperation.
- Supported and Encouraged increasing youth education and outreach by agencies involved in aquatic invasive species controls within the jurisdictions, through jurisdictional education channels such as Project Learning Tree.
- Agreed that human trafficking is a heinous crime and violation of basic human rights.
- Recognized the need to address victim and service provider confidentiality within the jurisdictions.
- Recognized the importance of training for law enforcement and service providers in the recognition and identification of high risk and trafficking victims.
- Recognized the importance of communicating between jurisdictions by law enforcement and service providers about human trafficking victims and perpetrators.
- Supported the passage of inter-jurisdictional safe harbor laws similar to the Uniform Law Commission Model Legislation.
- Recognized the need for balanced education and research of genetically modified organisms.
- Agreed that genetic modification is an extremely powerful tool for agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses.

International Legislators' Forum (ILF) Annual Highlights/Focus

During all annual meetings of the International Legislators' Forum, water issues have been a topic of conversation in the context of flooding, drought and water quality. In addition, each year has had a specific focus and at least one highlight issue. Those issues have included:

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—Establishment of a regional renewable fuels working group called Powering the Plains (PTP) and beginning efforts to bring emergency management officials from the four jurisdictions together to enhance cooperation and coordination across borders.

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

MB 2005—Building on the agreements to address methamphetamine issues across borders, broadened the discussion to include collaboratively addressing all inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues.

MN 2006—Emphasized the importance of basing water related public policy issues on sound science. Supported the efforts of the four jurisdictions' Attorneys General to address methamphetamine and criminal justice issues and their signing of an inter-jurisdictional Amber Alert MOU to enhance mobilization in the case of child abduction.

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

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 the ongoing discussions of water (LIDAR mapping), energy and cross-border identification issues.

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

MN 2010 – Discussions centered on water issues in the Red River basin and included recommendations and requests from the Red River Basin Commission regarding management, impoundment, retention and diversion. Energy, commerce, border security and the media were also highlighted.

SD 2011 – In addition to updates and discussion on the developments in the Red River Basin, the focus of the Forum was on research and development efforts within the four jurisdictions and the existing and potential opportunities for collaborative initiatives.

ND 2012 – The Forum focused on energy (integrated regulations); water (basin-wide collaboration); and trade (coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies).

MB 2013 - Delegates addressed the existing economic relationships throughout the region and explored options to support and expand opportunities to leverage the regional and cross-border relationships to strengthen the economic future of all the jurisdictions. Additionally, the delegates outlined a set of general principles regarding energy development and related policies.

MN 2014 - Members of the delegation, guests and sponsors participated in a variety of agricultural-related presentations, demonstrations and activities that provided an overview of the historical aspects of the agricultural industry, its current role in the region and nation, the use of current and developing technologies, and the ever increasing demands to supply food for the world's growing population.

SD 2015 – Delegates addressed the issues of infrastructure and regulation of highways and railways, models and efforts to address current and future workforce needs, and updates, regulations and initiatives in the Missouri River Basin.

ND 2016 – ILF delegates received information from experts and addressed issues regarding the differences between the Canadian and US regulatory models concerning genetically modified organisms and the impacts of genetically modified organisms; aquatic invasive species types and impacts, and regulation and management within and between the jurisdictions; and the differences between Canadian and US federal laws addressing human trafficking, jurisdictional steps to decrease human trafficking, and what services are needed to support the continued decrease in human trafficking in the jurisdictions.

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Thank you!

A number of individuals, agencies, groups, businesses and organizations provided assistance, sponsorship and expertise to support the many aspects and components of the 2017 International Legislators Forum. Although it is not possible to identify everyone, the Steering Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who provided support and assistance in so many ways. They helped to make this year's Forum a reality and a success.

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A special thanks to all of our planning group partners, the presenters and their staffs, who shared so graciously and patiently of their expertise and knowledge, and who took time from their very busy schedules to assist in planning, preparing, developing and providing information and materials.

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