



COMPASS

A REPORT FROM THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS & PREMIERS

JULY 2019

CHAIR'S LETTER

I was honored to host the 2019 Leadership Summit of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers in Milwaukee. It was my privilege to welcome our Vice Chair, Governor DeWine of Ohio; Governor Whitmer of Michigan; Governor Walz of Minnesota, and senior representatives of all our region's Governors and Premiers.

During our time together, we discussed ways to collaboratively address our region's challenges. We adopted important resolutions to tackle drinking water contaminants like lead and PFAS. We announced enhancements to our region's aquatic invasive species laws and our ability to prosecute violators.

We took steps to boost our maritime sector including an action plan to double international trade with Europe and an initiative to grow regional cruising. We united in support of funding for the Soo locks and we showcased cutting-edge technologies through an autonomous ship demonstration.

Thank you to our many partners who helped make this summit a success. We are grateful for your continued work with us on our shared agenda to protect our lakes and grow our economy.



—Tony Evers
Chair, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers
Governor, State of Wisconsin

GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS MEET IN MILWAUKEE



State and Provincial leaders gathered for the 2019 Leadership Summit.

In June, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers gathered for their 2019 Leadership Summit. The Governors and Premiers announced a series of actions on water, transportation, impact investing, and tourism.

The Governors and Premiers announced a series of ambitious actions to grow the region's \$6 trillion economy and protect the world's greatest freshwater system:

- Working with one another and with federal partners to address drinking water contaminants like lead and PFAS
- Launching "Cruise the Great Lakes," a new marketing initiative that will boost the regional cruising industry
- Calling on the US Congress to fully fund construction of a new Soo Lock, the linchpin of the maritime system. A new lock will ensure the viability of essential industries and protect the region's economic prosperity

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GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS ANNOUNCE STEPS TO PROTECT REGION'S WATERS AND GROW THE ECONOMY

- Developing an international action plan designed to double maritime trade with Europe
- Unveiling the Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform to help harness private sector capital for regional environmental improvements
- Showcasing cutting-edge maritime technologies through an autonomous research ship demonstration

"The waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River unite our states and provinces," said Wisconsin Governor and GSGP Chair Tony Evers. "Today we are gathering to protect this natural asset that is the source of our continuing prosperity."

"We share the commitment of protecting and promoting the Great Lakes, this incredible natural resource," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, GSGP Vice Chair. "In Ohio, we border Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes

and one especially susceptible to threats like invasive species and harmful algal blooms. I have made protecting Lake Erie a priority of my administration."



Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer remotely controls an autonomous research vessel during the Leadership Summit.

CRUISING

CRUISE THE GREAT LAKES SETS SAIL

Cruise the Great Lakes officially launched at the Governors' and Premiers' Leadership Summit in June. The region's new cruising brand is targeted towards current and potential passengers, with the overall goal of growing Great Lakes cruising. Eight cruise ships are operating in the region in 2019, accounting for approximately 100,000 port visits by passengers. Three new ships are slated to begin operations in the next three years. More information is available at www.cruisethegreatlakes.com.

In May, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Michael Tibollo joined representatives of Cruise the Great Lakes, PortsToronto and Victory Cruise Lines at the Port of Toronto to highlight the emerging regional cruise industry. Nearly 100 regional travel and tourism professionals attended the event, which took place aboard the 200-passenger Victory 1 luxury cruise ship.

Dave Lorenz, chair of Cruise the Great Lakes, joined Ontario Minister Tibollo and representatives of PortsToronto and Victory Cruise Lines in Toronto.



GSGP TO LEAD TRADE MISSIONS TO AUSTRALIA AND ASIA

In the next year, GSGP will lead trade missions to several promising markets:

Australia—November 11-17, 2019

Vietnam & Philippines—March 16-20, 2020

Japan—Late spring, 2020

Trade missions are an excellent way for companies to visit international markets. Each trade mission participant receives a customized, pre-qualified schedule of one-on-one business appointments, logistical support, assistance with drivers/interpreters, networking events, and country briefings. GSGP missions attract significant visibility and ensure high-level meetings with government officials, business associations and potential business partners. Participating companies can apply for grant funding in many of the GSGP's member States. For more information please click [HERE](#).



TOURISM

GREAT LAKES USA ATTENDS IPW IN ANAHEIM

Great Lakes USA was well represented at IPW, the leading international inbound travel trade show. The member States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin all participated. IPW is a national showcase of America, where US travel exhibitors connect with travel buyers and media from more than 70 countries, ultimately driving \$5.5 billion in future travel to the United States.



Minnesota's and Wisconsin's exhibits at IPW.



GREAT LAKES
ST. LAWRENCE
GOVERNORS
& PREMIERS

MEMBERS

Tony Evers,
Chair, Governor of
Wisconsin

Mike DeWine,
Vice Chair, Governor of Ohio

Andrew Cuomo,
Governor of New York

Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario

Eric Holcomb,
Governor of Indiana

François Legault,
Premier of Québec

J.B. Pritzker,
Governor of Illinois

Tim Walz,
Governor of Minnesota

Gretchen Whitmer,
Governor of Michigan

Tom Wolf,
Governor of Pennsylvania

STAFF

David Naftzger,
Executive Director

Peter Johnson,
Deputy Director

Toby McCarrick,
Executive Director,
Great Lakes USA

Zoë Munro,
Program Director

Mike Piskur,
Program Manager