



COMPASS

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

JANUARY 2019

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 will be an exciting year for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers. This month, we welcomed five new Governors to the Board of Directors including a new Chair, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, and Vice Chair, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. Along with the Premiers of Ontario and Québec who joined the Board in 2018, the organization is re-energized and ready to tackle new challenges.

The Governors and Premiers will gather from June 14-16 in Milwaukee for their Leadership Summit. This will be the first opportunity for many of these leaders to get together and engage with our many partners. We are planning an action-packed Summit program focused on protecting our region's waters, growing our regional economy, boosting tourism, and fostering maritime trade, among other topics.

Looking forward, we are exploring ways to better harness investment capital to create environmental impact; capitalize on new business models as part of the circular economy; and engage our region's young people more fully in our work.

We have an excellent foundation to build on, and will look to our Governors, Premiers, and partners to help us drive this exciting agenda in coming weeks and months. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration.

—David Naftzger

Executive Director, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers

GOVERNORS & PREMIERS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Wisconsin Governor and GSGP Chair Tony Evers



Ohio Governor and GSGP Vice Chair Mike DeWine

In January, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers welcomed five new member Governors to its Board of Directors. The new Governors include:

- Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio
- Tony Evers, Governor of Wisconsin
- J.B. Pritzker, Governor of Illinois
- Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota
- Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers also named its new leadership team. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers will serve as Chair and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will be Vice Chair. The two will help lead the Governors' and Premiers' regional work focused on environmental protection, job creation, and economic development.



REGIONAL BODY AND COMPACT COUNCIL APPROVE NEW RULES

On December 6, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regional Body (Regional Body) and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) adopted new rules used to review water diversion applications. These updated rules result from a thorough and transparent process incorporating input from regional partners including Tribes and First Nations and key stakeholders. The Regional Body and Compact Council will commence a second phase intended to further update the procedures in 2019.

Additionally, the Regional Body and Compact Council will work in coming months with these partners to update the regional Science Strategy. The Science Strategy is the region's road map for improving data and information and strengthening the scientific basis for decision making.

Finally, the Compact Council elected Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb as Chair of the Compact Council. He will also serve as Chair of the Regional Body.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GSGP LEADS AEROSPACE TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO

In November, leaders from eight Great Lakes companies travelled to Mexico for an aerospace trade mission. GSGP coordinated the mission in partnership with the Mexican Federation of the Aerospace Industry. More than 110 B2B meetings were arranged for participating companies. Participants also benefited from aerospace cluster networking events, sector briefings, and plant tours with Bombardier, Honeywell Aerospace, Fokker GKN, and Zodiac Aerospace.

Interested in expanding your sales to Brazil and Colombia? To learn more about GSGP's Trade Mission to South America from March 25-29, 2019 click [HERE](#).



GSGP aerospace mission participants touring Mexicana's MRO facility at Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES

The Governors & Premiers continue to take aggressive action against the 21 invasive species included on the “least wanted” list. In November, the state of Indiana banned the sale and distribution of water soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*), an invasive aquatic plant. The states and provinces have taken nearly 50 separate actions against these high-risk species in the last five years.

The Governors & Premiers also encouraged federal agencies to take action against the “least wanted” AIS. In October, the Great Lakes Governors called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take action to prohibit or restrict the interstate transfer of the “least wanted” aquatic invasive species. A full copy of the letter sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be found [HERE](#).



Water soldier hinders boating, angling, and swimming, and crowds out native plants. Image courtesy of Indiana Public Media

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS TO GATHER IN MILWAUKEE THIS JUNE

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers will gather at the historic Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 14-16. The Leadership Summit will include regional partners. The agenda will focus on protecting our region’s waters, growing the regional economy, boosting tourism, and fostering maritime trade. More information including sponsorship opportunities can be found [HERE](#).



GSGP STRENGTHENS EUROPEAN MARITIME CONNECTIONS

On October 17, GSGP Executive Director David Naftzger spoke at the Congress of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) in Mannheim, Germany. The Congress marked the 150th anniversary of the Mannheim Act, an international agreement that regulates vessel traffic on the Rhine River. The CCNR manages this work, and is regarded as a model for cross-border maritime coordination. Naftzger’s speech focused on opportunities for regional cooperation and regulatory harmonization.



GREAT LAKES USA HOLDS FIRST CHINA SALES MISSION

Great Lakes USA held its first China Sales Mission in November. Mission participants included the states of Illinois and Wisconsin; Great River Road (Illinois), Alton, Illinois; DuPage County, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; and Bloomington, Minnesota. The mission included stops in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou, and an exclusive meeting with the owner and senior staff of Trends Media Group, China’s largest media conglomerate. Trends Media Group owner Zheng Wei declared his affinity for the Great Lakes region by showing off his Harley Davidson belt buckle from Milwaukee!



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

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