



COMPASS

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

APRIL 2018

CHAIR'S LETTER

RICK SNYDER

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers recently elected Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker as Vice-Chair. We welcome him to our leadership team and look forward to our next regional Leadership Summit that will take place in June 2019 in Milwaukee.

We continue to work aggressively on our shared agenda—United for Growth. For example, GSGP staff recently completed a very successful trade mission to Mexico. Representatives of more than 20 small and medium sized companies from our region met with potential partners in one of our most important foreign markets. The trade team looks to build on this success during their upcoming mission to South Africa and Tanzania in June.

Our tourism marketing partnership, Great Lakes USA, recently welcomed four new partners from Illinois. Great Lakes USA representatives have been busy globetrotting to showcase all our region has to offer to foreign tourists.

Separately, we continue our work to protect and restore the Great Lakes. We are improving procedures for the Great Lakes Compact, and we are putting in place new protections against aquatic invasive species. In this important work, we appreciate your ongoing collaboration and support.



—Rick Snyder
Chair, Great Lakes St. Lawrence
Governors & Premiers
Governor, State of Michigan

REGIONAL COMPANIES CAPITALIZE ON OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO



GSGP Mexico trade mission participants.

In March, GSGP led a delegation representing 21 companies and State development agencies on a trade mission to Mexico. The GSGP trade office in Mexico City arranged more than 200 business appointments for the delegation that included 34 participants from Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania

Jill Reshke of Challenger Communications, a Michigan-based manufacturer of satellite antenna systems said, “Challenger has benefited greatly from the opportunity of the GSGP Trade Mission Program. These missions help us to promote the Challenger brand and products to international prospects, as well as follow up with existing customers in those countries.”

From November 11-15, GSGP will lead an aerospace sector trade mission to help Great Lakes-St. Lawrence companies grow their sales in Mexico. For more information click [HERE](#).



STATES AND PROVINCES BOLSTER PROTECTIONS AGAINST AIS

At last year's Leadership Summit, the Governors and Premiers bolstered regional protections against aquatic invasive species. A resolution calls for the States and Provinces to strengthen the Basin-wide approach to AIS prevention and enforcement:

- Since October, Indiana and Pennsylvania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to improve coordination on cross-border investigations; Illinois and Wisconsin are preparing to sign. The four States will join Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Environment and Climate Change Canada as signatories to the MOU.
- The Governors' and Premiers' AIS Task Force is working with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Law Enforcement Committee to develop consistent approaches to AIS enforcement and prevention.

- The AIS Task Force is considering potential additions to the "least wanted" AIS list. Since 2013, this list has resulted in more than 40 State and Provincial actions to stop the movement of high-risk species into the region.



A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources official inspects a recreation boat for invasive species.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS TO MEET IN MILWAUKEE IN JUNE 2019

Save the Date: The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers will gather at the historic Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 14-16, 2019. "United for Growth" will be the theme for next year's Summit. More information including sponsorship opportunities can be found [HERE](#).



Photo courtesy of the City of Milwaukee

REGIONAL BODY & COMPACT COUNCIL TO HOLD JUNE MEETINGS IN DULUTH

The **Great Lakes St. Lawrence** River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) will meet on June 21 in Duluth, Minnesota. These meetings will be open to the public. Additional information will be made available prior to the meetings.

Since September 2017, a team of officials representing the States and Provinces, Tribes and First Nations, and regional stakeholders have been working to update the review procedures for future diversion proposals. As part of that work, this team recently met in Toronto to discuss potential improvements to these procedures. Proposed updates will be provided for public review and comment in advance of the Regional Body and Compact Council's June meetings.

TOURISM

GREAT LAKES USA ADDS FOUR NEW PREFERRED PARTNERS



Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois.
Photo courtesy of Chicago's North Shore CVB



Rockford, Illinois.
Photo courtesy of Rockford Area CVB

Great Lakes USA added four new preferred partners: Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau, DuPage County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Also, in March, Great Lakes USA exhibited at ITB, the world's largest tourism trade fair, in Berlin, Germany. The group held more than 50 business meeting with travel trade and media organizations. Booth partners included Cleveland, Detroit, Mall of America, Pure Michigan, and JW Marriott at Mall of America.



GREAT LAKES
ST. LAWRENCE
GOVERNORS
& PREMIERS

MEMBERS

Rick Snyder,
Chair, Governor of Michigan

Scott Walker,
Vice-Chair, Governor of Wisconsin

Philippe Couillard,
Premier of Québec

Andrew Cuomo,
Governor of New York

Mark Dayton,
Governor of Minnesota

Eric Holcomb,
Governor of Indiana

John Kasich,
Governor of Ohio

Bruce Rauner,
Governor of Illinois

Tom Wolf,
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