Bi-National Regional Collaboration: Expanding the Relationship

CN Forum
Synergetic Transformation of the Great Lakes Region
Lansing, MI
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Why Collaboration?

- Canada and the U.S., and MI and Ontario are huge trading partners
  - More than 25% of Ontario’s Exports went to Michigan in 2012
  - Michigan represented nearly 8% of all of Ontario’s imports in 2012
  - 5 million vehicles cross the Blue Water Bridge each year
- Leverage the full range of economic assets shared by Ontario and Michigan.

Source: sse.on.gov.ca
Source: michigan.gov/mdot
Levels of Collaboration

• National

• State/Provincial

• Regional sub-state or sub-provincial level
Our Approach: Bi-National Regional Collaboration

- Binational collaboration provides an important tool for overcoming barriers to achieving greater binational regional economic prosperity.
- Opportunities exist for increased cross-border cooperation in binational corridors with land crossings.
  - Physical bridges already exist.
Bi-National Collaboration Conferences

• First Blue Water Regional Conference: Port Huron/St. Clair County, MI and Sarnia/Lambton County, ON, October 2, 2013.
  • East Michigan/I-69 International Trade Corridor and Southwest Ontario/Hwy 402/401

  • Eastern Upper Peninsula/I-75 and Sault/Algoma Trans-Canada Hwy.
Major Economic Sectors in the Blue Water Region

• St Clair County, Michigan
  • Automotive parts manufacturing
  • Health Care
  • Utility power generation (3 DTE plants)
  • Plastics manufacturing (e.g., polypropylene)

• Lambton County, Ontario
  • Oil refining and petrochemical production
  • Industrial bioproducts
  • Energy: e.g., largest solar farm in Northern hemisphere.
  • Tourism
Conference Planning Comm. Members

- Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County
- Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership
- Southwest (ON) Economic Alliance
- George Morris Centre, Guelph, ON
- University of Guelph
- Canadian Consulate, Detroit
- Middlesex County
- MSU Canadian Studies Center
- Blue Water Bridge Authority
- I-69 International Trade Corridor
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- St. Clair County Community College
- MSU Center for Community and Economic Development
Bi-National Blue Water Regional Collaboration Conference, Port Huron, October 2, 2013

• 5 panel topics
  • Bi-National Agri-Food Production
  • Green Chemistry Innovations
  • Strategic Approaches to Immigrant Attraction
  • Regional Logistics Solutions
  • Joint Marketing Roundtable
Green Chemistry Innovations Panelists

- Bioindustrial Innovations Centre, Sarnia, ON
- Ontario BioAuto Council, Guelph, ON
- Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Guelph, ON
- Michigan Molecular Institute, Midland, MI
- MBI International, East Lansing, MI
Bi-National Regional Agri-Food Production Panelists

- Michigan AgriBusiness Association, Lansing, MI
- Michigan Sugar Co., Bay City, MI
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture, ON
- MSU Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics, East Lansing, MI
- Ontario Sugarbeet Growers Association, Sarnia, ON
- MSU Center for Economic Analysis, East Lansing, MI
Strategic Approaches to Immigrant Attraction

Panelists

• Global Detroit, Detroit, MI
• University of Guelph, Guelph, ON
• City of Southfield, Michigan
• Ontario Immigrant Network, Sarnia, ON
• MEDC Talent Enhancement, Lansing, MI
Regional Logistics Solutions Panelists

- Blue Water Bridge/MDOT
- MEDC
- Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- CN Rail
- Great Lakes International Trade and Transport Hub
Joint Marketing Roundtable Organizations

- I-69 International Trade Corridor
- Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment
- Southwest (ON) Economic Alliance
- Detroit Regional Chamber
- Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce
Binational Regional Agriculture Model

• Current Collaborative Efforts in Agriculture
  • Ontario Sugar Beets supplying Michigan Sugar Co.
  • Other collaborative cases include
    • Cherries
    • Asparagus
Potential Future Steps

• Expand collaboration (Bioindustrial Innovations Centre, MBI International, MMI).

• Co-develop new applications for agricultural by-products
  • Biomass to sugars

• Focus on product commercialization

• Infrastructure investment to accommodate growing farming areas

• Develop binational strategies in key areas
  • e.g., green chem production and ag feedstocks
  • Or logistics and security (U of Windsor’s new initiative)
Thank you!

Feedback and Questions are Welcome!

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