



Conferencia Nacional
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North American Leaders Meet for First-Ever Summit

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—Governors from the United States and Mexico and a representative of Canada's premiers gathered today for the first-ever Summit of North American Governors and Premiers. The summit is jointly hosted by the U.S. National Governors Association (NGA), the Mexican National Conference of Governors of Mexico (CONAGO) and the Canadian Council of the Federation (COF).

The summit will promote and advance cooperation by state, provincial and territorial leaders of North America, a continent that generates a combined gross domestic product of nearly \$20 trillion USD per year, with a population of more than 475 million.

NGA Chair **Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert** and Host **Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper**, as well as CONAGO Chair **Mexico Gov. Eruviel Ávila** and COF Vice-Chair **Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski**, addressed attendees and the media at the opening news conference Saturday afternoon.

"As governors and premiers, we know what has to be done each and every day," **Gov. Herbert** said. "That is one reason maintaining and strengthening the economic and cultural relationship between the United States and our North American partners is an important priority for the future growth of all three nations."

"Direct interaction with other governors and premiers is important," **Gov. Hickenlooper** added. "The opportunity to hear from one another and exchange ideas is critical to increased economic and job growth."

"We are living at an historic juncture, where local governments are becoming key transformation agents and the source of international cooperation efforts. The origin of this summit represents a big step toward the building of a North American community," said **Gov. Ávila**. "We are committed to making progress in the coordination of policies and processes, and by setting the framework for us to be more effective in the joint development of the most competitive and dynamic region in the world."

"Enhancing North American competitiveness is a goal that our three countries share. As leaders of subnational governments, we face similar challenges to grow our economies and our trading relationships, and to promote investment," said **Premier Pasloski**. "By sharing our best practices and experiences, we are better positioned to face the challenges ahead."

Saturday morning, the leaders met for an opening session, followed by two consecutive sessions on innovative infrastructure investment and North American economic innovation. This afternoon, they will reconvene for a session on jobs and investment in North America, followed by a closing session. The day also includes opportunities for governors and premiers to meet privately to discuss issues.

For up-to-date information, including photos and video from the meeting, visit <http://www.nga.org/cms/meetings>.

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The National Governors Association (NGA), founded in 1908, is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the states, territories and commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

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The National Conference of Governors (CONAGO) of Mexico, founded in 2002, is a permanent forum for the promotion of constructive dialogue, consultation and exchange between the 31 Governors of the States, and the Mayor of Mexico City with other actors, in order to strengthen institutional opportunities, and privilege agreements that affect the development and welfare of all Mexicans.

www.conago.org.mx

The Council of the Federation (COF) comprises all 13 provincial and territorial Premiers. It enables Premiers to work collaboratively, form closer ties, foster constructive relationships between governments, and show leadership on important issues that matter to Canadians.

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