

# WEEDS ACROSS BORDERS: CONTINENTAL SCALE COLLABORATION

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Co-Chair

Canadian Council on Invasive Species

# Hosted by



Works collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries.  
Reduce impacts of invasives species across Canada



- ▣ Formed 2013
- ▣ Invasive Councils from across Canada
- ▣ Adding Provincial Gov't representation
  
- ▣ Co-chairs
  - Gail Wallin (ISCBC)
  - Barry Gibbs (AISC)
- ▣ Treasurer
  - Chet Neufeld (SISC)
- ▣ Secretary
  - Rose Mary Curley (PEI)

# Weeds Across Borders (WAB)

- ▣ Biennial Conference
  - 75 – 125 attendees
- ▣ Started in 2002
  - Cancun Mexico 2012
  - Ottawa Canada 2014
  - U.S.A. location 2016
- ▣ Host organization for each conference
  - AIPC for 2008 Banff WAB
  - CCIS for 2014 Ottawa WAB

# WAB

- ▣ Continental scope; Mexico, Canada & US
- ▣ For Organizations and professionals
- ▣ Sharing information & improving invasive species management.
- ▣ Forum for education, sharing and disseminating information on
  - invasive species management
  - regulatory issues
  - concern about spread across jurisdictions

# WAB 2014 Ottawa

- ▣ Pre-conference Workshop;
  - Moving from Awareness to Action; New approaches for communications programs
- ▣ Changing Behavior (Ken Donnelly)
- ▣ Country overviews on invasives
- ▣ Policies, Prevention,
- ▣ National/International collaboration, partnerships
- ▣ Indigenous peoples (Keynote: Kelly Church)
- ▣ Emerging issues,
- ▣ Communications & awareness
- ▣ Field Tours

# WAB 2014 Outcomes

## 1) To create a high level North American Invasive Species Framework

- Strategically address issues across international borders
- Focus on prevention & detection, rapid response, pathways and communications.
- To expand coordination, collaboration & action across North America
- Input from government (federal, state/provincial), aboriginal, industry & NGOs.

# WAB 2014 Outcomes

## 2) Establish a North American Invasive Species Directory

- National/international organizations, governments & industries
- Would create links between various stakeholders



## 3) Change name: **North American Invasive Species Forum**

- Invasive species, including plants.

Call for  
2016 US  
Host

# Canadian Council on Invasive Species Outcomes

- ▣ Nurturing N.A. Framework, building contacts
- ▣ Facilitated session with Canadian Council of Forest Ministers on invasive species.
- ▣ Attended conference of Canadian Environment Ministers
- ▣ Sustainable Forestry Initiative
  - Board member & Resources Committee
  - 250 million acres of forests





# Observation

- ▣ Collaboration and Partnerships at all levels critically important!!!
  - International, national, provincial, local
- ▣ Why?
  - Builds awareness of invasive species
  - It enables action
- ▣ Means nothing unless it translates into “action on the ground”