



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

MLC MIDWEST-CANADA RELATIONS COMMITTEE

August 29-Sept. 2, 2026

InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront | St. Paul, Minnesota

Committee Agenda & Related Sessions

MPP Ernie Hardeman, Ontario, Co- Chair | Rep. David Monson, North Dakota, Co-Chair
Rep. David Armstrong, Wisconsin, Co-Vice Chair | MLA David Pankratz, Manitoba, Co-Vice Chair

SATURDAY, AUG. 29 | MIDWEST-CANADA DINNER

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Midwest-Canada Dinner (*invitation only*)**
A cocktail reception and dinner hosted by the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis in honor of the Committee. A cocktail reception will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30 | COMMITTEE MEETING | Great River II & III, First Level

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Trends in Cross-Border Trade and Tourism**
The cross-border movement of goods between Canada and the U.S. often gets the most attention. But also essential to the binational relationship is the movement of people, whether it be for business and leisure. This session will delve in to recent trends in cross-border economic activity, including how and why states are trying to attract or retain Canadian tourists.

Speakers:

Lauren Beth McGinty, Executive Director, Explore Minnesota

Laura Dawson, Executive Director, Future Borders Coalition

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Committee Roundtable Discussion**
Committee members will discuss any proposed policy resolutions, and all attendees will engage in a round-table discussion of recent policy developments in their states or provinces.

MONDAY, AUG. 31 | POLICY SESSION | Great River I & IV, First Level

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Whither U.S-Canada Trade?**
A year-and-a-half into a tumultuous period in U.S-Canada relations, where does the state of cross-border trade lie (especially in the Midwest) and where is it going? Christopher Sands, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Canadian Studies, will lead a discussion on the current trade relationship and the future of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Speaker:

Christopher Sands, Director, Hopkins Center for Canadian Studies, Johns Hopkins University