WEEDS ACROSS BORDERS: CONTINENTAL SCALE COLLABORATION

Barry Gibbs P.Ag.
Co-Chair
Canadian Council on Invasive Species
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)

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