

2011 International Community Congress

Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities that Neighbor Public Lands

October 24-27, 2011

Thunder Bay, Ontario / Grand Portage, Minnesota

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

The Gateway Communities Initiative is a multi-day forum and training event that will bring together community teams, public land managers, and other interested parties from both sides of the international border with the purpose of **learning how to best take advantage of the incredible natural resources of this area and to develop workable plans to improve the sustainability of their individual economies** and the broader Heart of the Continent region as a whole. The workshop will **enhance the capacity for active citizenship and leadership in local communities** by providing a structured environment for citizens to gather and create just and equitable opportunities for their community, and to connect socially, economically and environmentally with their neighboring public lands.



GOALS

The goal of the Gateway Communities Initiative is to **build stronger economic, social and environmental connections between communities and their neighboring public lands for mutual benefit**. The initiative will build:

- **Vibrant, sustainable community economies with a stronger community connection to public lands**
- **Regional awareness of the public lands throughout the Heart of the Continent Region**
- **Enhanced interest in public lands**

END RESULTS

- **Each community team launches a new economic initiative** that connects them with their public lands
- Different constituencies **develop increased understanding** amongst one another
- **Communities connect** with neighboring communities throughout the cross border region

WHO'S INVOLVED

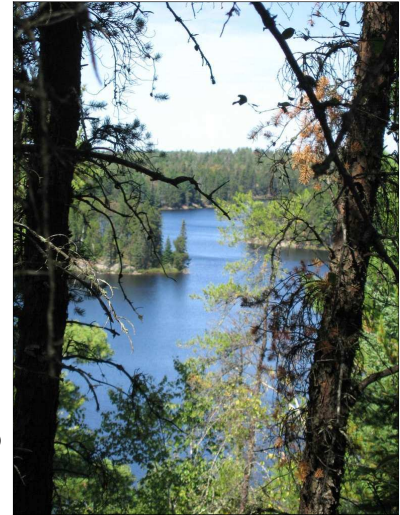
- **Community Leaders**
- **Elected Officials**
- **Business Leaders**
- **Tourism Partners**
- **Public Land Managers**
- **Nonprofit Leaders**



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CROSS-BORDER WORKSHOP PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Tourism Thunder Bay, Quetico Foundation, Grand Portage National Monument, Boreal Forest and Community Resilience Project (University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment), Fort William Historic Park, Minnesota Power, Grand Portage Band, Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park Association, Cook County Board of Commissioners, Parks Canada, Conservation Leadership Network, Ontario Parks, Kakabeka Falls, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, Superior National Forest, Rivers Trails Conservation Assistant Program, National Park Service, Arrowhead Conservation for Multiple Use, Voyageurs National Park, Quetico Provincial Park, Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, University of Minnesota Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership, Iron Range Resources, Blandin Foundation, Quetico Superior Foundation



HEART OF THE CONTINENT PARTNERSHIP

The 2011 International Community Congress is a project of the Heart of the Continent Partnership. The HOCPP seeks to sustain and celebrate the health, beauty, diversity and productivity of the natural and cultural resources of the border lakes region through collaboration to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Heart of the Continent region spans the international border between northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario. Stretching between Rainy Lake and the western shores of Lake Superior, the Heart of the Continent region includes a vast and rich mosaic of publicly managed natural and cultural areas in the heart of North America: more than 5.5 million acres (2.2 million hectares) of



working forest, rugged scenery, pristine watersheds, abundant wildlife and outstanding biodiversity. *The Heart of the Continent Partnership is a non-partisan organization that provides a neutral forum where groups can meet and seek new ways to work together.*

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Fort William Historic Park, Thunder Bay, Ontario
Grand Portage Lodge, Grand Portage, Minnesota

If you are interested in participating, contact co-leads:

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