

2011 International Community Congress

Balancing Nature & Commerce in Communities that Neighbour Public Lands

on the Minnesota/Ontario Border

October 24-27, 2011

Fort William Historical Park

Thunder Bay, Ontario

&

Grand Portage Lodge

Grand Portage, Minnesota

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

The International Community Congress 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 neighbouring public lands.



GOALS

The goal of the International Community Congress 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**



Who's Involved:

Community Leaders

Elected Officials

Business Leaders

Tourism Partners

Nonprofit Leaders

-Chamber of Commerce

-Multi-Use

-Conservation

-University

Public Land Managers

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October 24-27, 2011 * Thunder Bay, Ontario & Grand Portage, Minnesota

Heart of the Continent Partnership's Sustainable Gateway Communities Initiative

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 Historical Park, Minnesota Power, Grand Portage Band, Friends of Boundary Waters Wilderness, Lakehead University, 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 and Conservation Assistant Program, National Park Service, Arrow-head 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

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Quetico Superior Foundation

University of Minnesota's Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership

Blandin Foundation

United States Forest Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

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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



HEART OF THE CONTINENT PARTNERSHIP

The *2011 International Community Congress* is a project of the Heart of the Continent Partnership. HOCP 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 north-western 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-policy organization that provides a neutral forum where groups can meet and seek new ways to work together. The International Community Congress is the 2011 centerpiece of HOCP's long-term effort, the Sustainable Gateway Communities Initiative.

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www.heartofthecontinent.org

Heart of the Continent Partnership

Working together to sustain and celebrate the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario-Minnesota border