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**Site Selection Names Top Territories for Infrastructure; Canada's Best Locations and 2018's Top U.S. Utilities in Economic Development**

**Atlanta, September 4, 2018:** Canada, the U.S. and Australia lead the way globally, and Texas, Louisiana and Nebraska lead the U.S. states, when it comes to the powerful blend of infrastructure project investment and corporate facility investment over the past several years. These are among the locations ranked in the inaugural **Global Groundwork Index**, published in the September 2018 issue of Site Selection magazine. (See full lists below.) The index is a blend of proprietary data from Conway Analytics’ Conway Projects Database and an equally robust database from global infrastructure advisory and events firm CG/LA.

The Global Groundwork Index identifies where billions of dollars in corporate facility activity intersect with billions of dollars in roads, bridges, airports, tunnels, pipelines, utilities, railroads and other major infrastructure projects to “lay the literal groundwork for prosperity,” says Adam Bruns, managing editor of Site Selection. The Index also features commentary from CG/LA President Norman Anderson. “Keeping a pulse on who is building the right infrastructure in the right places is critical for long-term success, and we see clear winners and losers at this stage,” he says. “Canada — a country that has made three significant moves toward the creation of a new infrastructure paradigm — is one of the clear winners.”

**Canada’s Best Locations**

In this same issue, Site Selection’s Canadian Competitiveness Award recognizes Ontario as the most competitive province in a competitive nation, followed by Québec and Alberta. And metro areas from Montréal to Mississauga to Calgary and Vancouver head Site Selection’s annual list of top Canadian economic development groups (see full lists below).

Those are the conclusions reached as Site Selection publishes its annual Canada’s Best Locations awards and rankings, based on April 2017-March 2018 corporate end-user facility investment and job creation data derived from the Conway Projects Database and the magazine’s own research. **The Canadian Competitiveness Award**, this year awarded to the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, goes to the leading province based on data derived from qualifying new corporate facilities and expansions. The **Top Canadian Groups** are local or regional economic development groups ranked based on project data, regional partnership, proactive and innovative programming, and quality data and Web tools and resources.

The Canada’s Best Locations 2018 report includes a Canadian economic development directory, and is posted at [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com/).

“The annual Canada’s Best Locations feature sheds additional light on Canada’s many location options for corporate site selectors," says Mark Arend, editor in chief of Site Selection. "We salute the provinces and communities that made this year’s rankings.”

**Top Utilities in Economic Development**

Also featured in the September issue are Site Selection's annual rankings of Top U.S. Utilities in Economic Development (see list below), based on analysis of corporate end-user project activity in 2017 in that company’s territory (from Conway Projects Database and submitted materials from utilities). In addition to examining facility investment project totals and calculating those projects’ jobs and capital investment numbers on a cumulative and per-capita basis, we also looked at website tools and data; innovative programs and incentives for business, including energy efficiency and renewable energy programs; and the utility’s own job-creating infrastructure and facility investment trends.

“Every year, the Top Utilities excel at wearing many hats, from reliable power provision to helping out with storm recovery, modernizing their grids and connecting people as well as they connect power lines,” says Managing Editor Adam Bruns of the rankings Site Selection has published since 1999.

In addition to an array of state and regional spotlights, industry reports and Investment Profiles, the new issue of Site Selection includes the magazine's annual Infrastructure Report (featuring the new Global Groundwork Index in collaboration with CG/LA); insights into transit, logistics and the eds & meds sector; the Albuquerque Intelligence Report; and a UK spotlight.

*Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 45,000 executives of fast-growing firms. The senior publication in the development field, Site Selection and its affiliated e-newsletters are also available via* [*Site Selection Online*](http://www.siteselection.com)*. Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Conway since 1954 has been a trusted advisor to corporations, government economic development and investment promotion agencies around the world. Conway owns and manages* ***Conway Events****; Berlin-based FDI consultancy* ***Conway Advisory****; and New York-based* ***Conway PR & Marketing****. Conway also manages the* ***Industrial Asset Management Council.*** *Conway also operates a Custom Publishing Division and employs over 80 people in 10 offices in seven countries.*

**Top 10 Countries, Global Groundwork Index**

1. Canada

2. United States

3. Australia

4. United Arab Emirates

5. Bahrain

6. Mexico

7. Costa Rica

8. Brazil

9. United Kingdom

10. Singapore

**Top 10 States, Global Groundwork Index**

1. Texas

2. Louisiana

3. Nebraska

4. Virginia

T5. Georgia

T5. Pennsylvania

7. Illinois

8. Iowa

9. New York

10. North Carolina

**2018 Canadian Competitiveness Rankings**

1. Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
2. Invest Québec

3. Alberta Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

**2018 Canada's Best Locations** (alphabetical order)

Calgary Economic Development

Hamilton Economic Development

London Economic Development Corporation (Ontario)

City of Mississauga Economic Development Office

Montréal International

Ontario East

Québec International

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (Ontario)

Vancouver Economic Commission

Economic Development Winnipeg

**2018 Canada's Best Locations Honorable Mention**

Invest Barrie (Ontario)

Durham Region Economic Development

Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (Alberta)

Ignite Fredericton (New Brunswick)

Invest in Guelph (Ontario)

City of Moncton (New Brunswick)

Niagara Economic Development

Sherbrooke Innopole (Quebec)

Toronto Global

Waterloo Economic Development Corporation

Windsor-Essex Economic Development

**2018 Top Utilities In Economic Development** (alphabetical order)

American Electric Power

ComEd – An Exelon Company

Duke Energy

Entergy

Georgia Power

LG&E/Kentucky Utilities (PPL)

Omaha Public Power District

PECO – An Exelon Compoany

South Carolina Power Team

Tennessee Valley Authority

**2018 Honorable Mention Utilities In Economic Development**

Alabama Power Company

CenterPoint Energy

Consumers Energy Company

Dominion Energy

FirstEnergy Corp.

Florida Power & Light Company

Hoosier Energy

Kansas City Power & Light

Portland General Electric

PowerSouth