



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION

Terms of Reference: Community Representative

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Roundtable

October 2020

INTRODUCTION

As a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the MABR works to promote the conservation of biological and cultural diversity in addition to economic and social development. In the MABR, community partners work together to find innovative ways to achieve a balance between the needs of humans and nature. Staff for the MABR and its associated research institute at Vancouver Island University (VIU) receive guidance and direction from a Roundtable of regional representatives from local First Nations, local and senior levels of government, VIU, conservation organizations, forestry industry and local business, as well as elected community representatives.

The community representative's (CR) position allows for an opportunity to create open dialogue between regional stakeholders on matters in the biosphere region. The CR provides updates on behalf of various community groups within the biosphere, as well as brings forward awareness of both community concerns and achievements.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the CR is to allow for a better connection between the MABR Roundtable and the greater community. Stemming from this connectivity to the community, the Roundtable can discuss concerns and achievements brought forward by the CR (via the MABR Coordinator) and determine how to appropriately respond to each (if necessary).

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- To provide community updates from within the biosphere. These are intended to raise awareness of both community concern and achievement.
- Create written updates to be submitted to the MABR Coordinator in advance (one month prior) of quarterly meetings.
- Liaise with the MABR Coordinator on what is actionable in advance of the meetings.
- Help to seek opportunities for collaboration and partnerships within the region to advance the mandate of the MABR.



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We strive to achieve the four strategic objectives of UNESCO biosphere reserves:
 - Conserve biodiversity, restore and enhance ecosystem services, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources.
 - Contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere.
 - Facilitate biodiversity and sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building.
 - Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other aspects of global environmental change.
- We acknowledge and value the diversity of participants and priorities within all community groups and organizations.
- We agree that collaborative relationships are key to achieve the strategic objectives.
- We work within an environment of respect.

COMMUNICATION & DELIVERABLES

- The CR will compile community updates into a report which they will submit to the MABR Coordinator prior to each quarterly meeting.
- The MABR Coordinator will be responsible for ultimately deciding which topics will be placed on the agenda for discussion amongst members.
- Some updates, which are not placed on the agenda, may be sent out to Roundtable members by the MABR Coordinator, taking the form of an internal newsletter.

DECISION-MAKING

We strive for consensus among Roundtable members in all decisions affecting directions for MABR. Each member's vote including the CRs is weighed equally.