

Non-Advocacy Policy and Roundtable Protocols for Community Response

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification of the MABR's role as a non-advocacy organization. The MABR will not externally oppose Roundtable members in terms of political or advocacy concerns. Instead, all issues will be discussed in camera while following the MABR's *Culture of Engagement* and *Guiding Principles* documents.

SCOPE

This policy applies to MABR Roundtable members, volunteers, and employees. MABR strictly follows the advocacy guidelines as set by the governing Roundtable.

POLICY

Our purposes as a UNESCO designated biosphere region are:

1. To advance education by providing public presentations, workshops and demonstration projects about environmental stewardship and community sustainability, and;
2. To help protect the environment for the benefit of the public by conserving or restoring ecosystems and biodiversity on a long-term basis.

The MABR can be involved in political issues (e.g., climate change) for the purposes of education, conservation, research, or sustainable development, but we cannot show any partisan support or opposition to a particular party or candidate.

The MABR is not able to sign any petition to a politician as our purposes do not include advocacy or representations. Further, specific to land use matters, UNESCO biosphere regions have no authority over other jurisdictions' land use (federal, provincial, First Nations, municipal).

Being non-advocacy does not mean that the MABR is not involved in regional issues. The MABR's approach is to be inclusive, highlight best practices, encourage the sharing of knowledge, and facilitate community dialogue.