

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADDENDUM

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

7:10 P.M.

RDN Board Chambers

This meeting will be recorded

Pages

5. DELEGATIONS

5.2 Monica Shore, Dr. Pam Shaw and Dr. David Witty, Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere
Region & Vancouver Island University, Re Memorandum of Understanding between
RDN & VIU for MABR Roundtable

*5.2.1 Delegation Supplementary Background Information

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ABOUT THE MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE REGION (MABR)

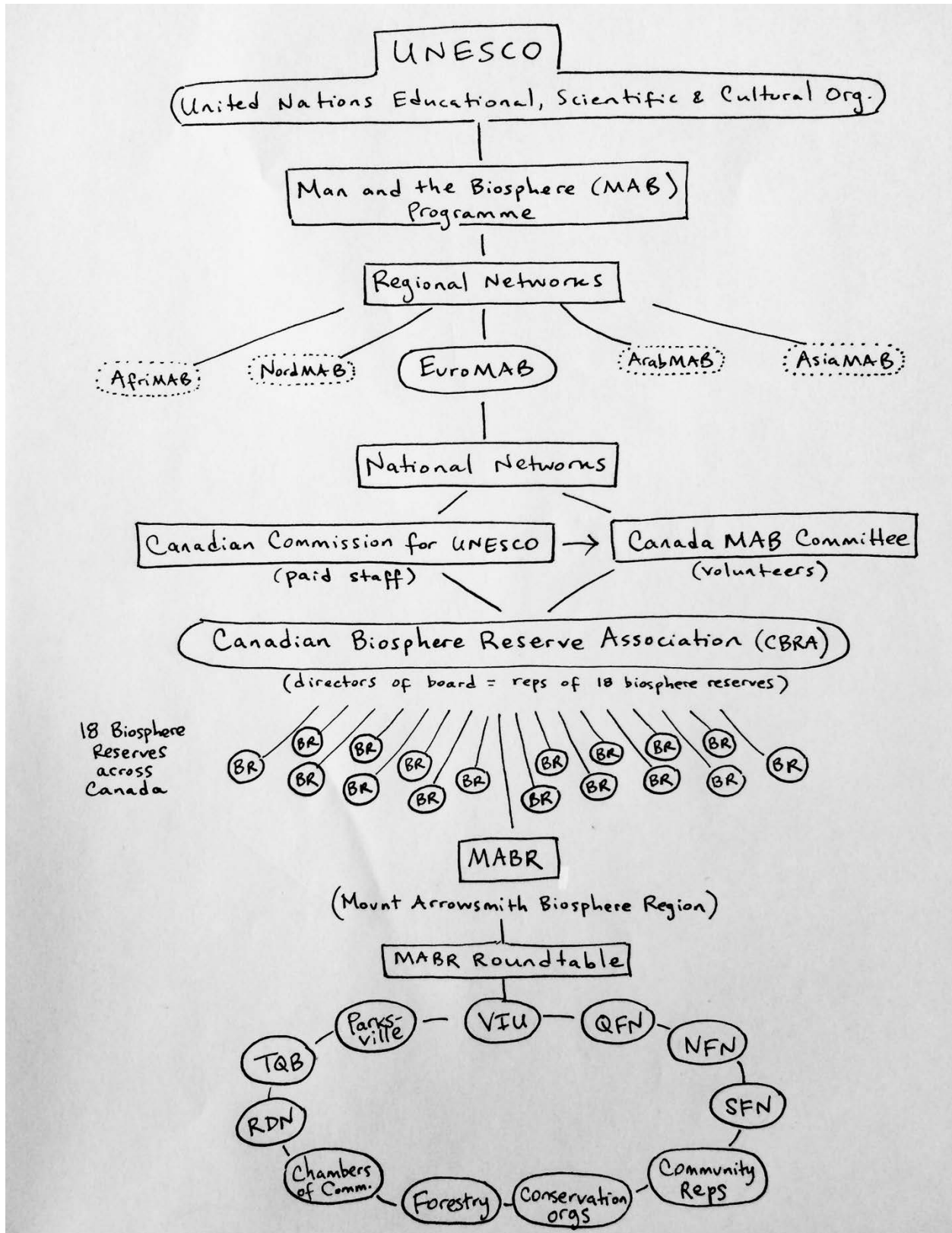
The MABR was designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in the year 2000. In 2014, Vancouver Island University (VIU) and the City of Parksville took over management of the MABR and have since rebuilt a strong and unique governance model that involves First Nations, local and senior levels of government (including the RDN), private industry, conservation groups, community representatives, and VIU. The governance model is called the MABR Roundtable, of which several RDN Board Directors are members and can attest to its success. Communities within the MABR boundary include Nanoose Bay, Parksville, French Creek, Qualicum Beach, Dashwood, Hilliers, Coombs, and Errington. The MABR is situated within the traditional territories of Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum, Snuneymuxw, K'ómoks, Dididaht, Hupacasath, and Tseshaht First Nations.

The purpose of the MABR is to facilitate collaboration between diverse communities and organizations with the goal of sustaining the cultural, economic, environmental and social health of our region over the long term. Our team coordinates programs, events, community forums, and multi-media projects that connect people with nature, encourage Reconciliation and knowledge exchange between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, promote the conservation of biological diversity, foster sustainable economic development, and showcase our region to Canada and the world. Furthermore, we have an established research institute at VIU called MABRRI that has already partnered successfully with the RDN through its Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program. For more information about what we do and how the MABR and MABRRI are separate entities, please see our websites: www.mabr.ca and mabrri.viu.ca. We are also pleased to discuss this distinction in person.

Over the past two and a half years, the MABR has demonstrated tremendous community value and created meaningful benefits and outcomes for many residents and stakeholders. Examples of our successes include the Roundtable, the Amazing Places program (please see: mabr.ca/amazingplaces), our annual citizen science BioBlitz, frequent community lectures, and opportunities for the community to participate in research with VIU faculty, students, and community knowledge holders. Our accomplishments are documented in our Annual Reports, available at mabr.ca/resources and we have received frequent mention for our exemplary work by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at national and international levels. In particular, at the UNESCO 4th World Congress on Biospheres, Mount Arrowsmith was recognized at the final plenary session before 1,000 delegates. Finally, a rigorous periodic review process, which takes place every 10 years (next one in 2020) ensures that our work meets the quality and mandate of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

<http://www.mabr.ca/>

MABR ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MABR ORGANIZATIONAL CHART DESCRIPTION

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

- Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/>
- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) includes 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries

Regional Networks

- Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/networks/euromab/>
- There are 9 regional networks that create opportunities for similar cultural and linguistic groups to share information: Africa (AfriMAB), Latin America and the Caribbean (IberoMAB), Europe and North America (EuroMAB), Asia and the Pacific (EABRN, PacMAB, SACAM, and SeaBRnet), Arab States (ArabMAB), and Inter-regional (REDBIOS)
- The EuroMAB Regional Network includes 302 biosphere reserves in 36 countries, including Canada and the United States

National Commissions, Committees and Networks

- Any country with designated biosphere reserves has a UNESCO commission and a national committee that oversees the work of each site, providing guidance, support, and a direct link to UNESCO.
- In Canada, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (www.unesco.ca) has a dedicated staff person whose portfolio includes biosphere reserves. This person coordinates the Canada Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee, which conducts periodic reviews of each biosphere reserve every 10 years, and whose members are content experts. Canada MAB Committee members are elected or reelected every two years and are volunteers. They ensure that Canada's biosphere reserves are meeting their international mandate.
- The Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA) is a registered not-for-profit society whose Board of Directors includes one representative per biosphere reserve. There are 18 biosphere reserves in Canada, and therefore 18 directors on CBRA's Board.
- The purpose of CBRA is to ensure that Canada's biosphere reserves function as a cohesive network and have communication tools and programs in place to support each site in meeting their common UNESCO mandate.
- CBRA's Board of Directors meets quarterly by teleconference and annually in person in one of Canada's cities.
- CBRA's Executive Committee meets monthly or as needed by teleconference and takes responsibility for meeting most of the network's goals, such as applying for federal grants, planning national events such as a Day on the Hill in Ottawa planned for May 29 2017, and ensuring that the national website is current (biospherecanada.ca).

- The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region’s Coordinator, Monica Shore, is an elected member of CBRA’s Executive Committee and holds the role of 2nd Vice-Chair. She is planning CBRA’s Day on the Hill and is manages the website.

Governance of Canada’s Individual Biosphere Reserves

- Every biosphere reserve has a unique governance model. Most biosphere reserves in Canada have established a not-for-profit society or foundation with a board of directors to oversee and/or conduct the work to meet their UNESCO mandate.
- Many biosphere reserves have no paid staff and rely solely on volunteers.
- The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) was initially governed by the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation (MABF) but this registered not-for-profit society was dissolved in 2014 following a negative periodic review in 2010. The MABF was unable to resolve certain internal disputes and was replaced, in 2014, by the establishment of the MABR Roundtable.

MABR Roundtable

- The MABR Roundtable is the governance body of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR). Members of the Roundtable include representatives from local First Nations (Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum, and Snuneymuxw), local and senior levels of government, Vancouver Island University, conservation organizations, the business sector and forestry industry, as well as two elected community representatives.
- The Roundtable is not a registered not-for-profit society; rather, it is a formalized gathering of regional leaders and representatives who have agreed to make the time and space to come together on a quarterly basis to develop and help to implement a collective vision for the sustainability of the MABR in the short, medium, and long term.
- Members of the Roundtable help to identify and provide funding for the daily operations and projects of the MABR and its associated research institute, MABRRI, at Vancouver Island University (VIU).
- Established in 2014 but formally launched in 2015, the Roundtable is recognized by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO as an innovative model of governance for Canada’s biosphere reserves and has been shared internationally as an example of Reconciliation in Action. In February of 2017, a 3-minute video was produced to share the Roundtable model with the World Network of Biosphere Reserves: <https://youtu.be/uSlgXnyxb1A>.

MABR Legal Structure

- The Roundtable model is innovative in that it provides a new way of working together as a region, and while it is a formalized structure, it is not a legal entity.
- The MABR’s legal structure is mainly provided by VIU, and the financials of certain projects are sometimes managed through partnering organizations, as is the case of the Amazing Places project, whose cash budget was handled by the Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association (PQBTA) and whose in-kind budget was provided by VIU.
- In July of 2014, when the management of the MABR officially transferred over from the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation to an initial partnership between VIU and the

City of Parksville through a Memorandum of Understanding (the beginning of the Roundtable structure), VIU committed to hiring a coordinator for the MABR—a VIU project worker employee—for a 5-year period (2014-2019).

- In August of 2014, VIU also established a research institute for the MABR that was formally approved by VIU Senate in the spring of 2015, giving it formal status within the university. This entity is known as the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) and its website is mabrri.viu.ca. MABRRI works collaboratively with Roundtable and other regional partners (including the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program), community members, VIU faculty, and VIU students to conduct research within the boundary of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region. All research focuses on environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability. A list and description of current projects conducted by MABRRI is provided later in the Appendices section.
- The next page provides a diagram illustrating the people involved in the day-to-day operations and project management of the MABR and MABRRI, its affiliated research institute at VIU. VIU covers the cost of a full-time research coordinator and supports the employment of VIU students involved in project coordination and implementation.

MABRRI & MABR 2017 STAFF CHART

Dr. Pamela Shaw
MABRRI Research Director

Dr. David Witty
MABR Director

Graham Sakaki
MABRRI Research

Monica Shore
MABR Coordinator

Ashley Van Acken
MABRRI Assistant Research

Michelle Harnett
Amazing Places Coordinator

Ryan Frederickson
MABRRI Research Assistant

Kayla Harris
MABRRI Research Assistant

Kidston Short
MABRRI Research Assistant

Sarah Holden
MABRRI Research Assistant

Taylor Alexander
MABRRI Graduate TA/RA

Rushi Gadoya
MABRRI Graduate TA/RA

Stacey Cayetano
MABRRI GIS Specialist

Larissa Thelin
MABRRI Work-Op Student

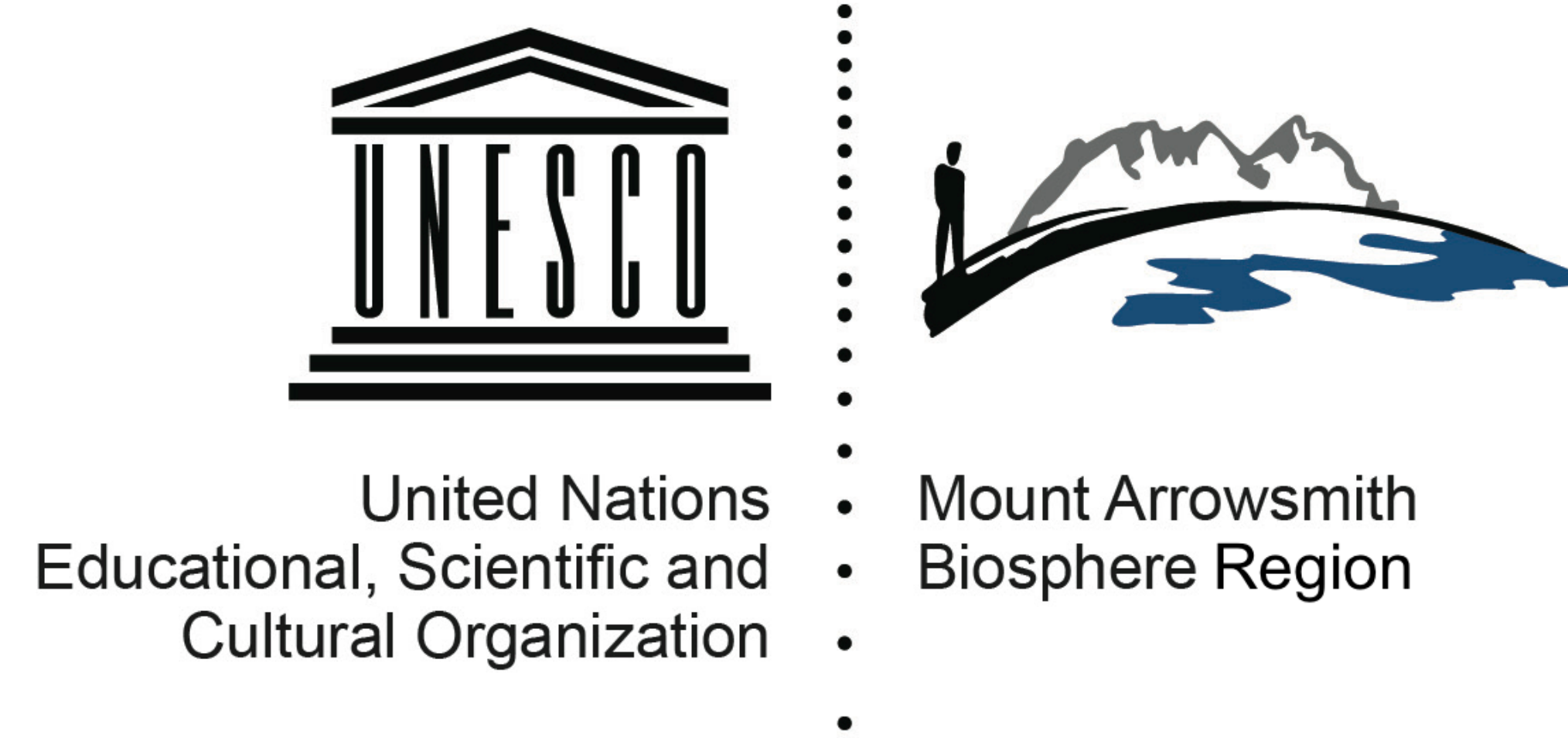
Curtis Rispin
MABRRI Work-Op Student

Carson Anderson
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Christos Doukakis
MABRRI Work-Op Student

Kyle Boyd
App Developer Student

Adriaan Mulder
App Developer Student



Collaboration with *First Nations*

First Nations have lived on the lands that encompass the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) since time immemorial. The First Nations of the Salish Sea have a unique relationship with the lands and waters that transcends time. It is a relationship rooted in a deep, rich cultural connection to nature; a connection and relationship that has informed their way of life.

Through its Man and Biosphere Programme, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recognized the MABR for the outstanding qualities of the traditional territories of the First Nations.

MABR's institutional partners, initiated by a collaboration between Vancouver Island University and the City of Parksville, want to work with First Nations in a respectful and supportive relationship that recognizes the special association that each Nation has with its traditional territory, including the MABR. As a UNESCO biosphere region, MABR should complement the interests of the First Nations; not compete with them. To that end, all institutional partners will be directed by the following Guiding Principles in their MABR-related work.

Guiding Principles

The MABR's work will be premised upon processes, procedures and protocols that reflect a collaborative, comprehensive and collegial course of action with First Nations that is rooted in Guiding Principles that:

1. Honour the deep, rich, cultural connection to the land and the sea; a connection and relationship that informs First Nations way of life;
2. Honour the fact that First Nations have lived from time immemorial in their traditional territories and, through that special relationship as stewards of the land, have a unique association with the MABR;
3. Explore and promote ways and means of enhancing the role of the MABR within the region while being respectful of First Nation interests;
4. Continue to develop a trusting and respectful relationship with First Nations and support appropriate projects that First Nations would like to collaborate on, protecting the confidentiality of knowledge or culturally sensitive information of First Nations communities;
5. Establish respectful processes that value First Nation perspectives, methods of decision-making, cultural values and historical connections to the land;
6. Identify First Nation community engagement opportunities and associated research that relates to the mandate of the MABR;
7. Ensure that the interests and perspectives of First Nations frame future discussions about the MABR;
8. Work with First Nations to identify potential sources of funding to undertake MABR-related initiatives of interest to First Nations;
9. Promote the Mandate and Goals of the UNESCO designation in general and the MABR in particular while recognizing that First Nations have a special relationship with the MABR lands that transcends time and creates a special bond with the MABR.

Culture of Engagement

MABR Roundtable



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION

At the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Roundtable, we engage with one another and with the land and culture around which we gather in the following ways:

- 1) We acknowledge the Traditional Territories within which our meetings are held.
- 2) We demonstrate respect for Indigenous protocol as individuals and as a group, upholding the MABR's Guiding Principles for Collaboration with First Nations.
- 3) Our communication is open, honest, transparent and unemotional, and we are comfortable and willing to discuss potentially sensitive topics.
- 4) Before entering the gathering place, we hang bad feelings on a nail outside the door.
- 5) We work together to reach common goals for the betterment of our region.
- 6) We leave personal wants outside.
- 7) We are open to new perspectives, we seek to understand where each person is coming from, and we share information and beliefs in an environment of trust.
- 8) We listen to each other and work together to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- 9) We keep personal stories that are shared in confidence inside this room.
- 10) We arrive and depart feeling at ease, and we look forward to meeting again.