

December Update

Transitional Leadership Committee for the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve

Background

In 2012, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proposed that the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (the Biosphere) would benefit greatly from renewed governance and stakeholder engagement.

There are two major recommendations to be fulfilled:

- 1) to be run by a non-governmental organization,
- 2) to have meaningful Indigenous engagement.

In early 2019, the Niagara Escarpment Foundation and Niagara Escarpment Commission organized consultation sessions to guide the development of this renewed model - thanks to all those who helped bring us to this point.

One key outcome was the creation of the Transitional Leadership Committee in the fall of 2019. Victoria Serda, Liette Vasseur, Norman Ragetlie and Patrick Robson were elected as members of the new committee.

Find out more about them at:
nefoundation.ca/launching-new-leadership-for-the-niagara-escarpment-biosphere-reserve

Update

We have met three times, and although we are still in the early days, we are pleased to provide the following updates.

We are:

- working on meaningful engagement with the Biosphere's rights-bearing Indigenous communities and developing a plan for moving forward together,
- engaging with a broad base of the Biosphere stakeholders, including local and regional government bodies as well as sectors such as agriculture, tourism, youth, and environment,
- starting to work on a new model, including a new governance structure, ways to build capacity, and becoming a not for profit,
- committing to get the transition right, with your involvement.

These all require thoughtful consideration and a large amount of work to build on the visioning that has already taken place.

Future

We have a new email address where you can contact us directly: nebrtlc@gmail.com. Please add us to your address book and email us an update. We would love to hear ideas on how we can all best work together.