

Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Geoconservation Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

- i. UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it. The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by Indigenous, local, regional and/or national law and management authorities, in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites. The Geoconservation Committee will take a leadership role in educating the public (both local residents and visitors) in the appropriate manner to view, enjoy and learn from the many rocks, minerals and fossils found within the Geopark. In addition, this committee will identify and monitor emerging geo-conservation concerns within the Geopark and advocate for appropriate actions to address these concerns as needed.

Accountability

The Geoconservation Committee reports through the committee chair to the Geopark Manager and is ultimately accountable to the Board of Directors.

Membership

The Manager, in conjunction with the Committee Chair (if one has already been appointed), will make recommendations to the Board for membership in the committee. The Board will ratify members to the Geoconservation Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Geoconservation Committee will consist of a suggested minimum of 5 and a suggested maximum of 8 members representative of the scope of the Geopark and shall aim to include the following:

- One member of the Geopark Board (community stewardship)
- One Indigenous representative (Indigenous Archaeology, from the Confederacy)
- Geopark Geoscientist
- One representative of the Special Places Act (paleontology/archeology, Nova Scotia Museum)
- One representative of Parks and Protected Areas (wilderness conservation, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment)
- One representative of Coastal Conservation (Canadian Wildlife Service, Isle Haute)
- One representative of Coastal Erosion (Nova Scotia Geological Survey)
- One representative of Sustainable Mineral Collecting (Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Society)

The administrative assistant of the Geopark will be an ex-officio member of the committee and will provide assistance as needed including taking minutes, circulating agendas and maintaining files and records.

Term of Appointment

Committee appointments shall be for staggered terms of one, two or three years with the term to commence on the first day of April and end on the thirty-first day of March of the appropriate year. If there are vacancies on the Committee, new members may be appointed to fill those vacancies mid-term, according to the process described under “Membership” above. A committee member may serve a maximum of 2 terms on this committee without stepping aside for at least one term. This appointment process will ensure a regular turnover on the committee and the opportunity for fresh ideas to be brought forward while still retaining the historical knowledge of the work of the committee. Where appropriate and necessary, the Board may approve an extension beyond two terms.

Chair of the Committee

The Geoconservation Committee will elect a Chair of their committee for the coming year from among current members in April of each year. The Chair can serve for two terms.

Functions

The Geoconservation Committee will:

- ii. Develop a responsible Geoconservation Statement to be incorporated into our marketing, educational and scientific messaging and used on our website, mobile App and printed materials.
- iii. Monitor activities within the Geopark to ensure appropriate geo-conservation practices are in effect.
- iv. Conduct presentations at community meetings, trade shows, fairs or other events to promote geoconservation.
- v. Develop a static display that can be used at trade shows, or installed on a rotating basis at various community locations, to promote the concept of geo-conservation.
- vi. Collaborate with the Education and Marketing Committees to ensure any materials or programs developed meet the standards for geoconservation of a Geopark.
- vii. Represent the Geopark at partner meetings or other events or occasions relevant to the work of the committee.
- viii. Prepare an annual budget for the Geoconservation Committee at least a month in advance of budget deliberations by the Board of the Geopark for the coming year. Budget deliberations will usually be held in February annually, with a goal of passing the budget in March.
- ix. Review the Terms of Reference and membership requirements of the Geoconservation Committee at least annually and make recommendations for any changes or updates to the Manager.