

Sarah Leach

Subject: RE: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Endorsement

From: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network <info@nebnetwork.org>

Date: July 28, 2023 at 11:44:30 AM EDT

To: Marvin Junkin <MJunkin@pelham.ca>

Cc: Amanda Harwood <amandaharwood@plentycanada.com>, "Patrick J. Robson" <PRobson@niagaracollege.ca>, Charlen Winger-Jones <walkingwatertar@gmail.com>, Sarah Leach <SLeach@pelham.ca>

Subject: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Endorsement

July 28, 2023

Dear Mayor Marvin Junkin:

RE: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Endorsement

On behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network's (NEBN) Board of Directors, we are engaging with municipal leaders, such as yourself, Mayor Junkin along the Niagara Escarpment to build more awareness and support for our newly established organization. The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB), which has previously been attached to the Niagara Escarpment Commission, has been reconstituted to be a non-governmental organization. This is a critical shift in oversight responsibilities as the NEBN has been established to support the management of the NEB as a community-led, grassroots organization that will work to meet the criteria and standards required by United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme.

UNESCO directed a renewed NEB model as it was no longer appropriate to have management oversight connected within a government agency. In 2021, the Transition Leadership Committee and Plenty Canada (an Indigenous not-for profit organization working to share resources with Indigenous Peoples and community groups around the world in support of environmental sustainability) signed a memorandum-of-understanding to work together on developing this new co-governance structure. Work has been progressing and last Spring (2022), the NEBN became officially incorporated under provincial regulations.

The NEBN is now the official entity that is working on a renewed mandate and continued designation of the NEB. We are at a point now where we need your help. As a municipality within the Niagara Escarpment area, we need your leadership and the endorsement of your Council to re-commit to the community's support of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere. With the NEB designation currently under UNESCO review, your endorsement will be key in ensuring we maintain this important globally recognized designation.

We have drafted a proposed motion and we are asking you to put it before your Council for endorsement. If you require a member of the NEBN to attend a Council meeting to help gain your Council's support, a member of our team will be more than willing to attend. Also, we have included some additional facts about the NEBN, and you can also check out our website <http://nebnetwork.org> or email us at info@nebnetwork.org to learn more.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Walter Sendzik, NEBN Board Member and former Mayor of the City of St. Catharines

Cc: Patrick Robson, NEBN Chair
Charlene Winger, NEBN Vice-Chair
Amanda Harwood, Plenty Canada