



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
School of Environment  
and Sustainability  
USASK.CA/SENS

## ■ Learning together

### ■ Outcomes of networked learning in Canadian Biosphere Reserves

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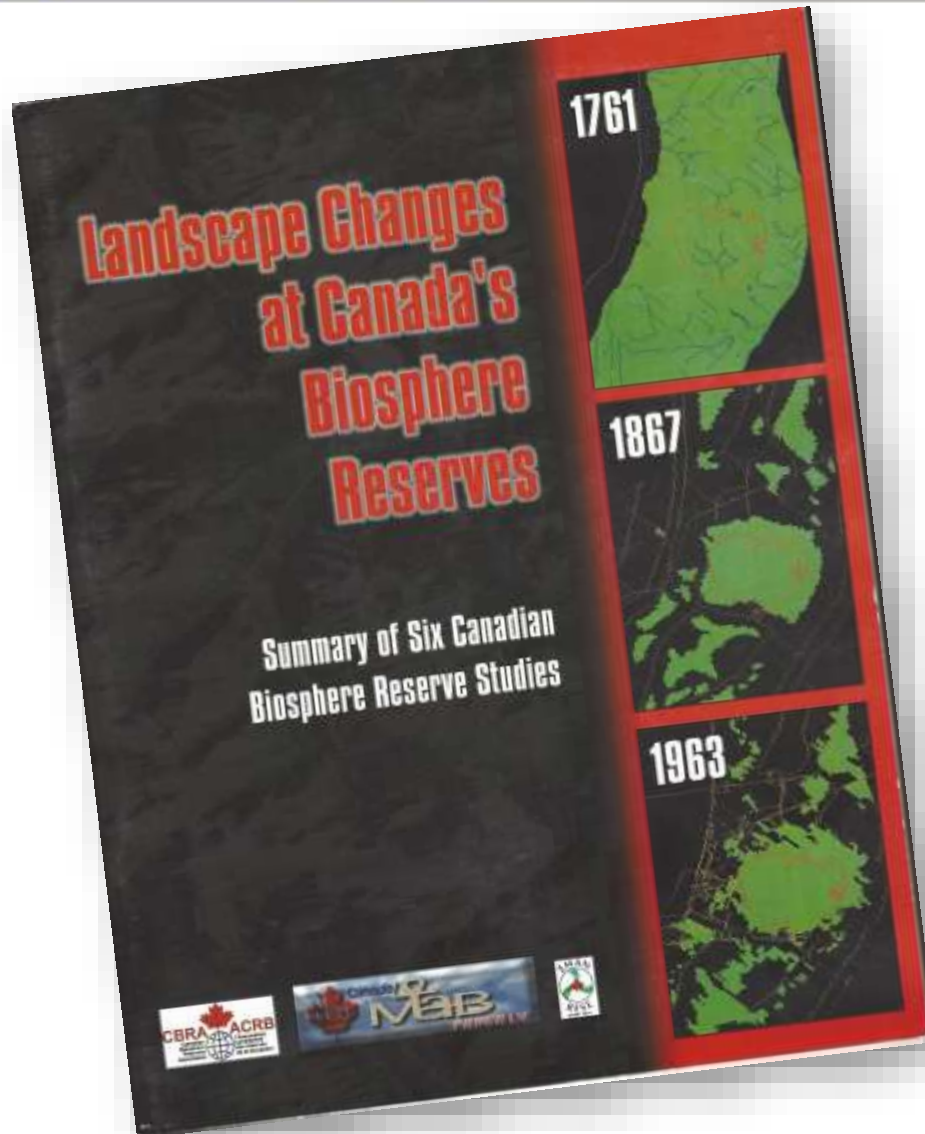
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Canada *for*

**4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, Lima Peru, March 16, 2016**



# Canadian Biosphere Reserves





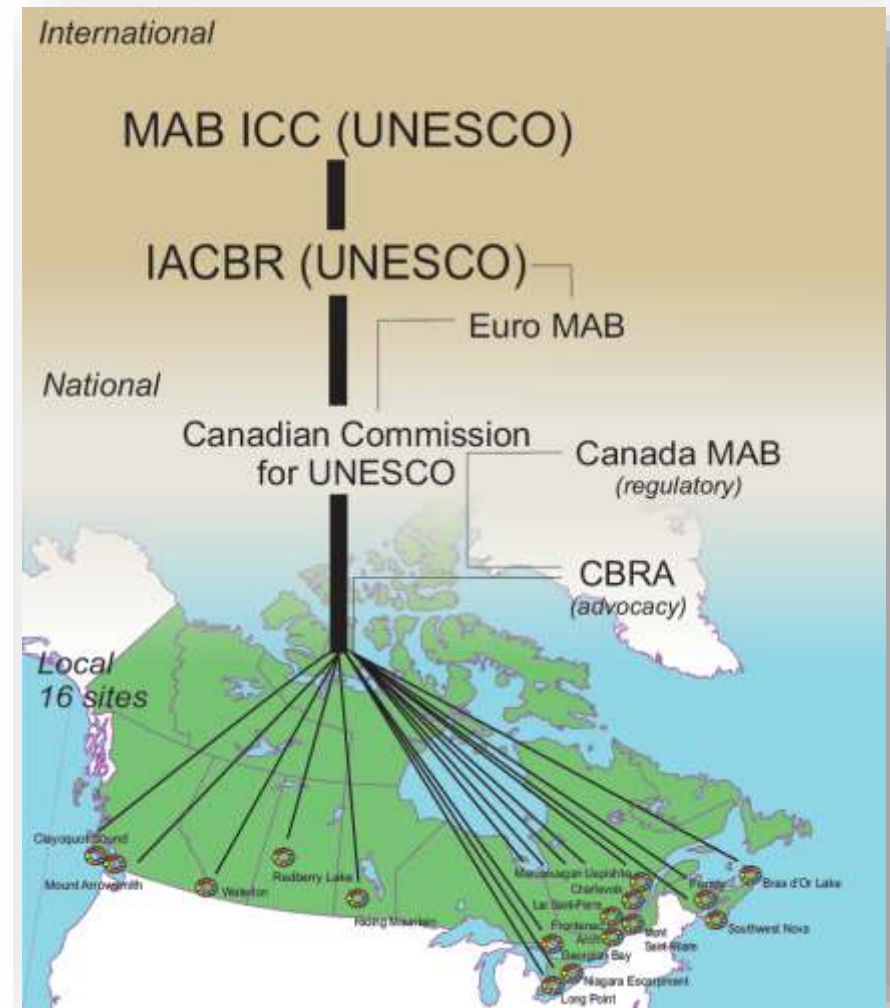
First collaboration  
completed 2000

Since then, Canadian BRs  
have been challenged to:

1. Work together
2. Connect to MAP/MAB  
priorities
3. Address “big” issues  
(climate change,  
biodiversity  
conservation)



BRs tend to work alone on regional priorities



Credit: Colleen George



# Purpose of the partnership project (2011-2014)

- Help BRs evaluate their practices, develop networking strategies, and learn from each others' experiences
- Re-connect BRs with the UNESCO/MAB mandate (Madrid Action Plan)
- “look up and out”



BIOSPHERE RESERVES																
REGIONS / PROJETS AREAS - DOMAINES DE PROJET	SOUTHWEST NOVA	FUNDY	BRAS D'OR LAKE	HANICOUAGAN	CHARLEVOIX	MONT ST-HILAIRE	LAC ST-PIERRE	FRONTNAC ARCH	LONG POINT	NIAGARA	GEORGIAN BAY	IDDING MOUNTAIN	WATERTON	REDBERRY LAKE	DUNT ARROWSHILL	LATOQUOT SOUND
<b>CONSERVATION</b>			P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
<i>Terrestrial</i>						P							P			
<i>Ancient conservation/Heritage</i>				P	P				P				P			
<i>Cultural Sites</i>	P							P			P					
<i>Natural Goods and Services</i>			P											P		
<b>Biodiversity</b>						P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>High Conservation Value/At Risk</i>	P					P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Low Conservation Value/At Risk</i>	P					P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Sustainable Forest/Corridor</b>	P			P	P	P		P	P	P		P			P	P
<b>Protected Management</b>				P	P	P	P						P		P	
<b>Leadership</b>				P					P	P				P		P
<b>Monitoring</b>	P	P				P		P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
<b>Planning</b>		P				P		P	P	P				P	P	
<b>Stakeholder Governance</b>					P				P				P			
<b>Education</b>					P	P	P	P	P			P		P		
<b>LOCAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY</b>																
<b>Sustainable Communities Development</b>	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Sustainable Alternatives</i>			P		P	P	P					P		P		P
<i>Biosphere Institute</i>				P		P			P							
<i>Biosphere or Sustainability Center</i>								P				P				P
<i>Sustainability Charter</i>								P	P		P				P	
<i>Biosphere Value Charter</i>					P	P			P		P					
<i>Health of Biosphere (Resilience)</i>		P							P							P
<i>Community Health</i>									P							P
<i>Cooperation Plan/Partnership/Community Engagement</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Natural Resources/Community Atlas</i>		P	P			P		P						P	P	P
<i>Regional modeling &amp; Cooperation with BRs in Canada and abroad</i>				P	P						P					P
<i>Transboundary</i>														P		
<i>Sustainable Tourism/Labeling</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Food Strategy</i>		P									P					P
<i>Trail/Water flow trail</i>		P			P	P	P	P	P							
<i>Land management</i>					P				P			P		P		
<i>Agriculture</i>					P				P				P		P	
<i>Art &amp; Culture</i>					P				P							
<i>Climate change/Air quality</i>				P		P			P						P	P
<b>Education Network</b>														P		
<i>Network</i>		P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Schools</i>			P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P				P
<b>UNESCO School</b>											P					
<i>School boards</i>				P	P	P		P			P	P				
<i>University/College/Research</i>		P		P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P		P		
<i>Museum</i>				P	P	P		P	P		P					
<i>Parc</i>				P	P	P		P	P		P			P		
<i>Community outreach/General public</i>	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<i>Day/Summer Camp</i>		P		P	P	P		P	P			P				
<i>Youth</i>		P		P	P	P		P								P
<i>Scholarships</i>											P					P
<i>Events - Day</i>				P	P	P		P	P		P			P		P
<b>WORK ORGANISATION CAPACITY</b>																
<b>Communication &amp; Distinct Identity/Product</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Human Resources</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P	P
<b>Operational Capacity/Efficiency of General Operations</b>	P	P	P					P	P			P		P		P
<b>Collaboration in Board Governance</b>				P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P		P
<b>Management Fund for Biosphere Development</b>		P		P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P	P
<b>Membership Expansion and Regional Integration</b>		P		P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Staff Training</b>		P		P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Education creation/celebration/</b>		P		P	P	P		P		P						P
<b>Marketing</b>				P	P	P					P					
<b>Finance</b>				P	P	P	P							P		
<b>Real property</b>						P										
<b>Grants Funding</b>						P				P				P		P
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>	<b>SOUTHWEST NOVA</b>	<b>FUNDY</b>	<b>BRAS D'OR LAKE</b>	<b>HANICOUAGAN</b>	<b>CHARLEVOIX</b>	<b>MONT ST-HILAIRE</b>	<b>LAC ST-PIERRE</b>	<b>FRONTNAC ARCH</b>	<b>LONG POINT</b>	<b>NIAGARA</b>	<b>GEORGIAN BAY</b>	<b>IDDING MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>WATERTON</b>	<b>REDBERRY LAKE</b>	<b>DUNT ARROWSHILL</b>	<b>LATOQUOT SOUND</b>
<i>Fiscal Report Template EC 2018/Fiscal</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>	<i>BRAS D'OR DR Program Dev Strategic</i>	<i>Support localities_RMPHNU (S)</i>	<i>Work Plan 2018-2019</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018</i>	<i>ACDR Environmental Canada</i>	<i>FAO_2018_Fiscal_Report</i>	<i>2018 Biosphere Millers Newsletter</i>			<i>GGPR Annual Report 2018</i>	<i>Manitlin DR - Fiscal 2018-2019</i>	<i>WBR-Fiscal Report 2018 to 2019 final copy file</i>	<i>Annual Report GGPR 2018</i>	<i>MADR_Fiscal Annual Project Report 2018-2019</i>	<i>2018_CPT_Business Plan_Updated</i>
<i>Strategic Plan/Fiscal Report Jan 23 2018</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>		<i>FONDS CDR HANICOUAGAN/ARISKA</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>		<i>6-2018 EC FAO Program Review</i>	<i>Annual Project Report EC April 2019</i>			<i>GGPR Fiscal Report Environmental Canada 2018-2019</i>	<i>WORKPLAN - Editing Manitlin DR - Fiscal 2018-2019</i>	<i>WBR - EC Fiscal/Workplan Fiscal 2018-2019</i>	<i>Appendix E - WORKPLAN</i>	<i>MADR CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT</i>	<i>Executive Director 2018 Annual Report</i>
<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>	<i>Progress Report 2018-2019</i>		<i>Rapport d'activités_HANICOUAGAN/ARISKA</i>	<i>AR Calendar 2018-2019</i>	<i>Annual Report 2018-2019</i>			<i>Draft LP/WRP Strategic Plan 2018-2019</i>			<i>GGPR Fiscal Report Environmental Canada 2018-2019</i>	<i>Fiscal Report October 2018 to March 2019</i>	<i>WBR_Annual Project Report March 2019/Fiscal</i>	<i>Jan/March Fiscal Report Fiscal</i>	<i>MADR Fiscal Report 2018-2019</i>	<i>Managing Director 2018 Annual Report</i>



# Learning to document, evaluate & share good practices



Clusters undertook projects across 3 themes:

- Sustainable tourism
- Ecosystem services and land management
- Education for sustainable development

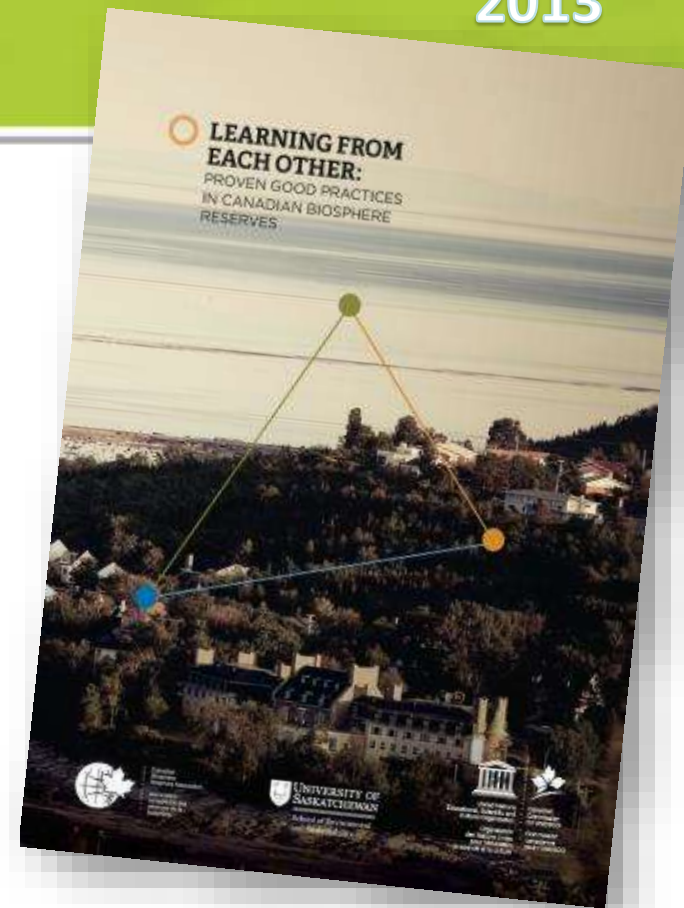




## EuroMAB, conference in Canada (Oct 2013)

- 197 people from 27 countries
- CCUNESCO published *Learning From Each Other/Savoirs Partagés*

BR practitioners led or co-led several workshops and post-conference events



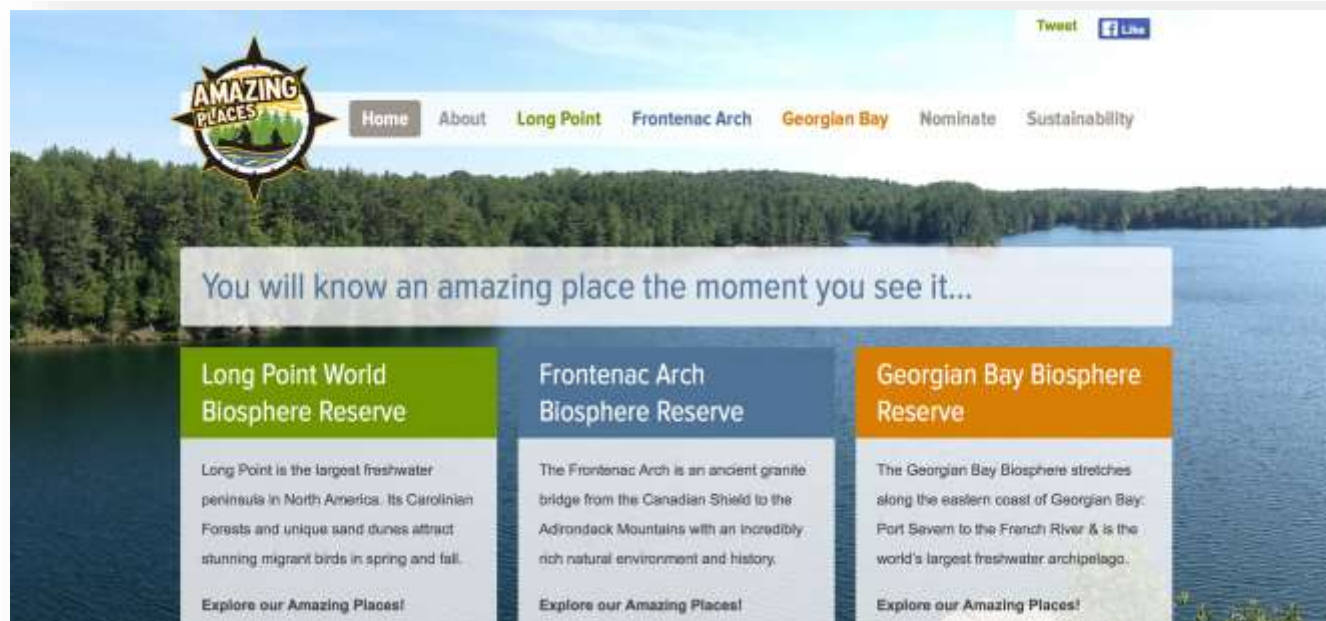
<http://unesco.ca/en/home-accueil/biosphere>







## Outcomes – Enhanced capacity



- Shared learning
  - a) Facilitation skills for land management
  - b) Education tools – curricula, videos
  - c) Tourism charters
- Linked projects
  - a) Sustainable Tourism – “Amazing Places”



## Outcomes – Improved awareness of and commitment to MAB

- Improved awareness

- a) Madrid Action Plan
- b) Periodic review
- c) Indigenous Peoples



- Strengthened commitment to the international network

- a) NORDMAB
- b) Working Group on Indigenous Peoples
- c) Academic relationships internationally (e.g., Japan, Sweden)
- d) 20 people from Canada here at World Congress



## Outcomes – Heightened profile and funding

- Heightened profile
  - a) Full season documentary series on Canadian biosphere reserves airing Fall 2016
  
- New funded initiatives
  - a) Ontario biosphere reserves sought and received funding from Trillium Foundation





## Outcomes – Academic recognition

- Academic and plain language publications
- Conference presentations
- University Presidents officially informed/involved
- Recognition by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
One of 3 finalists in national awards by the funding agency

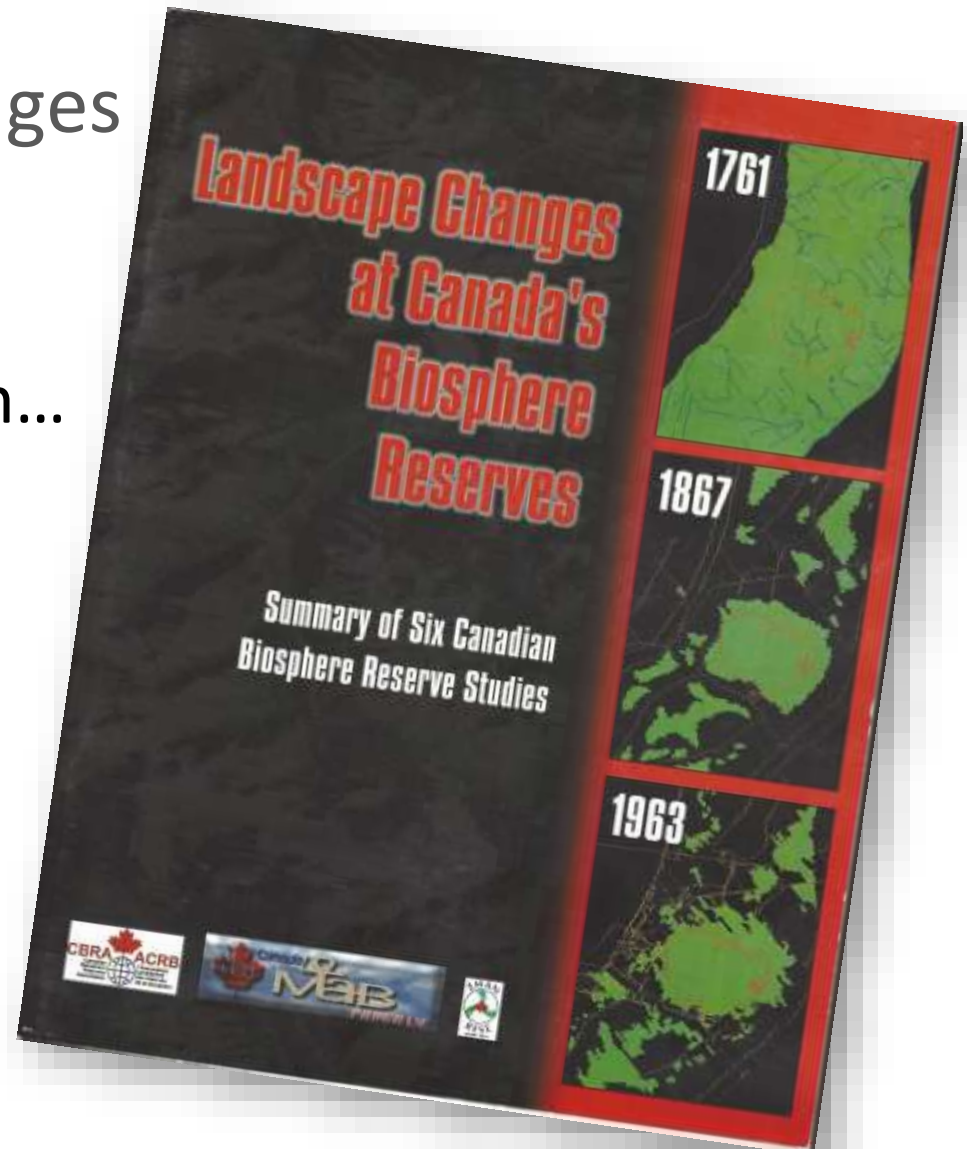


Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, SSHRC meet to celebrate the project Nov 2014. Patricia Roberts-Pichette was the Canada-MAB secretary in the 1970s.



Lasting effects? - challenges

How to retain momentum...





## Lasting effects? - opportunities

- Commitments to Indigenous peoples
- New/renewed courses and opportunities for networking
- ‘national debates’
- NORDMAB
- Regional efforts (e.g., ON, QC)
- Reaching out to international network





## To do...(re)establish transdisciplinary partnerships among scientists, practitioners and policy makers

- demonstrate tangible contributions of BRs to conservation and sustainability
- establish appropriate, reliable and active partnerships that retain action research agendas & transdisciplinary research teams
- engage knowledge-holders with specialized western scientific knowledge and local experiential and indigenous knowledge

Acknowledging the years of unstinting service to the national and international networks: George Francis, Al Anderson, and Fred Roots





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# Thank-you!

- To biosphere reserve practitioners, partnership team, and the national & international networks.
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