

Frontenac Arch Biosphere



To the Brockville City Council,

Please accept the following proposal for local municipal support for the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network to continue and enhance its operations.

Background:

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve was nominated in 2002 by local organizations and resides on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people. It encompasses 2,700 square kilometers and includes the City of Brockville, the Town of Gananoque, South Frontenac, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Rideau Lakes, Front of Yonge, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Athens and Westport.

Our organization has been primarily a volunteer run “grass roots” not-for-profit that initiates community projects and programs to enhance people’s connection with nature. The programs we have implemented have been supported mainly through grants. While these programs are key to fulfilling our mandate, the grants received do not contribute to our core operating costs. Over the long term, this lack of core funding creates discontinuity within the organization and makes creating and managing programs to serve the community increasingly difficult.

Engaging Municipalities:

In Spring 2019 we visited the Brockville Council, and presented the benefits of being part of the World Network of Biosphere Regions. After letters and presentations were delivered to municipalities, we secured \$7,283 from the City of Brockville, the Town of Gananoque and Front of Yonge. We would like to thank the City of Brockville for supporting our organization, especially through 2020, a hard year for businesses, organizations and individuals.

Highlights:

The FABN has implemented many programs since 2002. We are currently in the process of developing an evaluation procedure for measuring program and organizational impact. Our Nature Program (2018-2020) has attracted 6220 participants, 8 Nature Program staff positions, 21 volunteers with over 1300 volunteer hours, six direct ongoing partnerships and 26 indirect partnerships. The Trails Festival (2019-2020) has attracted 97 participants, 10 volunteers with 25 volunteer hours, over 1300 pageviews and \$4000 in donations.

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Striking Balance is a TVO documentary series profiling Canada's Biosphere Regions. The Frontenac Arch Biosphere [episode](#) debuted in November 2020.

Funding from the City of Brockville has helped to support Nature Camp at Mac Johnson, Nature Programs, and the FAB Trails Festival. The combined FAB Programs have attracted 446 participants, 2 staff positions, and 565 volunteer hours in the Brockville catchment area.

Challenges of COVID-19:

In 2020, FABN cancelled all spring programs during the height of the pandemic, including a Youth Climate Summit and certain Nature Programs. Under Ministry of Health guidelines, our Nature Camp attracted more participants in its second year at Mac Johnson, but with registrations and revenue limited by COVID-19 regulations.

Despite the challenges, with the funds provided by the municipalities, FABN has been able to provide tangible benefits through programs and services and intangible benefits such as partnership development and community engagement. In particular, we are exploring the local food system through a series of virtual workshops, we highlighted the Brock Trail (Blockhouse Island and Brockville Train Tunnel) in our annual FAB Trails Festival this past summer, (37 participants and 15 hours volunteer time), and our Nature Camp at Mac Johnson saw 312 participants and over 500 hours of community volunteer service.

Growing Forward:

With your input, we will continue to develop programs that are considered priority to your strategic plan within the subject matter of environmental action and education. We have continued to apply for grant funding for 2021 which will support our Nature Program expansion and some shorter term projects including a shoreline cleanup initiative. In addition, the FABN will provide an opportunity for youth engagement and empowerment through the Youth Climate Action Summit, which will be held virtually in May 2021.

Request for Support:

Based on our new budget, we foresee a shortfall of approximately \$22,500 and would like to request the City of Brockville's ongoing support in the amount of \$5,900 through 2021 to continue community relationship building, program development and new project initiation. This amount is based on a per-capita contribution to the total requirement.

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Funding support from local municipalities demonstrates that they endorse and partner with the biosphere, which helps us to secure funding from other sources such as grants. The FABN strives to highlight local communities and serve nature in its programs and projects, including Local Flavours, Amazing Places, Nature Program, the Youth Climate Action Program and our FAB Trails Festival.

Thank you for taking the time to review our request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Julie Servant, B.Sc.
Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network, *Executive Director*

Total Revenue		Total Expenses	
Trails festival	\$2,000	Professional Fees	\$9,300
Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$7,675	Daily Operations	\$5,900
Membership	\$2,500	Staff	\$21,875
HST rebate	\$2,400		
Total	\$14,575		\$37,075