

# FBLWA STEWARDSHIP COALITION

## Questions and Answers

### **What is the FBLWA Stewardship Coalition?**

Answer: The FBLWA Stewardship Coalition is group of groups that have agreed to perform one or more of the Roles and observe the Operating Principles of the Coalition's Charter.

### **Is the Coalition registered under the Societies Act?**

Answer: No. The Coalition is not a registered organization. It is deliberately designed to be loosely organized. Its operational terms of reference are completely contained in its Charter, which is a simple, two-page document.

### **What are the Coalition's principal features?**

Answer: The Coalition is designed to have as little formal structure as it needs to accomplish its purpose. It asks its member to act in accord with a set of **Guiding Principles** and perform one or more **Roles** outlined in its **Charter**. It has a **Council** that functions as a steering and coordinating committee. Each **Coalition Member** has one or two representatives on the Council. All decisions of the Council are decided by **Consensus**. The Council meets at least once every three months and may develop additional Terms of Engagement if any are needed to carry on the work of the Coalition. (Keywords appear in bold print.)

### **What are the Coalition's principal areas of activity?**

Answer: The Coalition's focus will be on matters pertaining to education, research, conservation, and recreation.

### **Who are the founding members of the Coalition?**

Answer: The founding members of the Coalition are

- Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association (BLT R2T)
- Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT)
- Safety-Minded ATV Association
- St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA)
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)

### **Who are the members of the Council?**

Answer: Each of the founding member groups and Nova Scotia Environment have representation on the Council.

### **Does the Council have officers?**

Answer: Not really. Council members elect a chair for the purpose of convening meetings and a secretary to record and report its decisions and recommendations.

### **What does the Council do?**

Answer: The Council

- initiates projects
- establishes goals, objectives, and priorities
- coordinates activities among Coalition members
- identifies sources of human and financial support for Coalition activities
- serves as a channel of information among Coalition members & the public at large
- serves as the link between government and the community

### **Why do we need another environmental organization?**

Answer: The community and government need to play a coordinated stewardship role in protected areas. A framework for planning, Initiating, prioritizing, funding, implementing, and coordinating projects is required for this work to be effective.

### **How does a group become a member?**

Answer: Membership requires active engagement in a role or a project recognized by the Council and a commitment to abide by the Charter's Guiding Principles. Any group that agrees to these criteria and applies to and is approved by the Council becomes a member of the Coalition and is entitled to representation on the Council. If in the judgment of the Council the group's role or project becomes inactive, the group's membership becomes inactive.

### **Can individuals become members?**

Answer: The Coalition is a group of groups. If individuals want to initiate a project that fulfills one of the Roles of the Coalition Charter, they are encouraged either to form a group or to work in cooperation with a group that is already a member.