

Terms of Reference – AWARE Advocacy Committee

Purpose

The AWARE Advocacy Committee is responsible for identifying and delivering advocacy priorities and campaigns based on AWARE's Strategic Plan and relevant issues that arise within Whistler. The Advocacy Committee is committed to driving meaningful change by championing sustainable policies, protecting natural ecosystems, and amplifying the voices of those who stand for a sustainable and climate resilient community. We are dedicated to holding decision-makers accountable, mobilizing our community, and creating lasting impact in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

Composition

The AWARE Advocacy Committee is composed of at least one AWARE Board director, the Executive Director in a non-voting role, and four to six members in good standing of the AWARE membership.

AWARE is committed to operating in a way that upholds justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) to create an inclusive platform for people from diverse backgrounds to participate in our committees. We encourage applications from candidates who have been historically disadvantaged and marginalized, including applicants who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit), Black, racialized, a person with a disability, women and/or 2SLGBTQ+. Guests may be invited to join specific meetings or participate in advocacy campaigns at the Chair's discretion.

Appointment Process

The AWARE Board will assign a Board member and alternate to act as the Advocacy Committee liaison. The Board will issue a call for volunteers to the committee as needed. The Board will appoint members to the committee from the applicants.

Term

Advocacy committee members will serve a two year term that may be extended for two additional two year terms at the Board's discretion.

Chair

The Advocacy Committee members will determine the Chair on an annual basis. The Chair may delegate his/her responsibilities to cover periodic absences.

Meeting Schedule and Administration

The Advocacy Committee will meet monthly. Notes will be kept and shared with the AWARE Board at its regular meetings.

Decision Making Process

Decisions will be made by consensus.

Lines of Accountability and Communication

The Advocacy Committee is accountable to and takes direction from the AWARE Board. The Board will communicate with the committee and vice versa through the AWARE Board liaison. The Advocacy Committee will provide a written update for each AWARE Board meeting agenda and provide an accompanying verbal update at Board meetings.

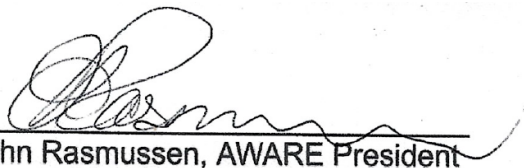
Responsibilities

This committee will:

1. Identify priority advocacy topics derived from AWARE's strategic plan and align campaigns with the communications plan.
2. Monitor, analyze and influence local, regional and relevant national policies that align with AWARE's strategic goals.
3. Attend bi-weekly RMOW Council meetings, submit and ask pertinent questions, write letters and/or have meetings with Councillors or key RMOW staff that further AWARE's strategic plan priorities
4. Seek opportunities to engage and activate the AWARE membership and general public in environmental issues in the Whistler area
5. Follow activities and plans of key Whistler stakeholders such as Province of BC, WB and Tourism Whistler and respond as appropriate
6. Develop a simple annual advocacy campaign strategic plan and calendar identifying actions to be taken, why and when.

Approval

This version of these terms of reference have been approved by:



John Rasmussen, AWARE President

Version History

Version 1.0 - Approved, February 20, 2025