



## Terms of Reference

### Access and Environment Committee (Standing Committee)

OCTOBER 2023

The Access and Environment Committee of the Board of Directors will have the oversight responsibility, authority, and specific duties as described below:

#### Purpose

The main purpose of the Access and Environment Committee is to make the Club an important and effective voice of Canada's mountaineering community as it pertains to its values of conservation and sustainable practices. Specifically, its mandate is to lead the environment strategy of the ACC and undertake projects and initiatives that:

1. Promote stewardship, sustainability and protection of mountain landscapes and our wild places to and through our membership and for the Canadian public.
2. Develop advocacy principles and programs in partnership with our Sections and on a national level to give effective voice and action to our values.
3. Engage our members as a community on the critical access and environment issues confronting the club and our Nation.
4. Contribute to the ongoing work and diffusion of mountain science and knowledge of mountain environments to members as well as the Canadian and international mountain public.
5. Support sections in achieving a balanced approach to accessing places of mountain-related activity.

The committee's mandate is not to report on the sustainability of the operations of the club or to communicate through the ACC's national communication channels on the activities of the committee, which falls under the work of the national office. The committee will work with the national office by regularly communicating its work and reporting its initiatives and recommending communication to the marketing and communication team. This committee's point of contact at the national office will be the programs director/manager



## **Membership**

The Access and Environment Committee shall consist of 3 - 8 diverse members having a both skills and a strong interest in preserving and protecting the alpine environment and wild places. It will be chaired by either the Vice President (VP) of Access and Environment or a committee Chair that is independent of the board. In the latter case, the committee Chair will report into the VP Access & Environment

## **Terms of Office**

The Access and Environment Committee terms of office shall be three years, co-incident with the term of the Vice President of Access and Environment, with unlimited renewals. Renewal of committee members shall be conditional upon their performance and is subject to the recommendation of the committee Chair.

## **Committee Meetings**

The Chair will produce an annual work plan and schedule committee meetings for the year at a frequency according to the outlined work and at a minimum of once per trimester, noting that a special meeting will take place to review and decide on the distribution of the environment fund.

## **Records and Committee Output**

The Access and Environment shall report regularly (verbally or in writing) on its activities, recommendations and conclusions to the Board in the context of the Committee's annual work plan. Written minutes of committee meetings and reports shall be maintained and shall be available to the full Board through the VP Access & Environment.

## **Power and Authority**

The Access and Environment Committee shall not have the power to obligate the Club to any financial outlay, or to commit it to any contract, agreement or other arrangement unless specifically authorized to do so by the board. All initiatives, programs, advocacy work, and activities where the Committee purports to represent and or communicate on behalf of the Club will require the prior consent of the Board.

## **Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at meetings.



## Duties and Responsibilities

The Access and Environment Committee shall document an annual work plan outlining the work it will undertake in alignment with the purpose of the committee. This workplan will support other areas of the ACC, such as fundraising, communications and section relations.

Committee members will oversee projects and activities as outlined in the work plan and report on progress to the VP for Access and Environment.

Other responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

1. To keep the Board aware of issues that may impede access to popular recreational areas
2. To aid sections of the Alpine Club of Canada in resolving access issues
3. To advocate on behalf of members for the conservation and preservation of Canadian alpine environments and self-propelled access to areas where such access can be ecologically sustainable
4. To keep abreast of leading environmental practices locally, nationally and internationally through the UIAA and to pass these on to the Board to implement where desirable
5. To review applications to the Environment Fund and issue said funds on behalf of the Board.
6. To promote the Club's national and international reputation as a leader in low impact, self-propelled access and travel in alpine environments.