

# Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee Code of Conduct

## 1. PURPOSE OF CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that members of the Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee (“the Committee”) have a clear understanding of proper practices, and appropriate individual and collective behavior for the Committee.

Further details on the Committee, including background, purpose, and member roles and responsibilities can be found in the Committee’s [Terms of Reference](#).

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMITTEE PROCESS

The Committee process will be guided by the following principles:

- Recognition of multiple interests: Consistent with sustainable development, a clear statement of all interests and the full range of environmental, community, First Nations, recreation and economic management objectives will be incorporated into the Committee process.
- Respect for purpose and scope: Issues and interests concerning topics that are outside of the scope of the process will be documented separately (e.g., ‘parking lot’) and forwarded to the relevant body (e.g. MEM, BC Hydro).
- Strive for consensus: The Committee process will strive for consensus among participants. Every effort will be made to explore, understand and accommodate the interests of dissenting viewpoints. If consensus is not achieved, differences in opinion amongst committee members will be included in the Committee meeting summary.
- Recognition of existing legal and constitutional rights and responsibilities: The process recognizes existing legal and constitutional rights and responsibilities. These include existing rights and responsibilities under current licenses; constitutionally protected treaty rights, aboriginal rights and title and environmental regulations.
- Use the best available information from all sources: The best available information will be sought to support the Committee process.

### **3. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All Members of the Committee will endeavor to:

- Treat others with courtesy and respect;
- Listen attentively with an aim to understand other interests;
- Speak in terms of interests instead of positions;
- Be concise in making your point;
- Challenge ideas not people;
- Let opposing views co-exist;
- Use the “parking lot” for issues that fall outside the day’s agenda;
- Act in “good faith” in all aspects of the process;
- Avoid disruption of meetings (e.g. use of cell phones, caucusing at the table, etc.); and
- Keep in mind that some Members represent a larger organization or constituency that may itself have divergent views and interests.

### **4. DECISION RULE FOR THE COMMITTEE**

Consensus is a goal, but not a requirement of the Committee. Consensus is viewed as a decision that all Committee Members can accept, even if the total outcome, or smaller elements of the outcome, are not supported enthusiastically by every Member. A non-consensus outcome is one that does not meet the minimum needs of some of the members.

On topics or items where no consensus is reached, differences of opinion and reasons for disagreement will be documented without assigning names to the various positions taken.

### **5. ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR**

The Facilitator of Committee Meetings is responsible for:

- Assisting the Members in achieving their purpose, tasks and deliverables as outlined in this Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.
- Ensuring that the information and methods used during the process support the Committee.
- Making every endeavor to ensure that all parties are heard and that all differences are resolved fairly.
- Making every endeavor to be, and remain, completely impartial and accord equal attention and courtesy to all persons involved.
- Ensuring that the Code of Conduct is followed by all Members.

### **6. CHANGES TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct may be amended at any time based on a consensus decision of the Committee.