



## **Statement of Council Member Responsibilities**

The members of the Muskoka Watershed Council determine the policies, ongoing projects and direction of the Council, making every effort to ensure that all goals are realistic and attainable. The Council is responsible for reviewing the activities of its Committees as they relate to policies and long-term goals of the Council.

Most importantly, Council members recognize the importance of the work of the Muskoka Watershed Council and its commitment to the conservation of Muskoka's watersheds.

The following may assist Council members to be effective in furthering the work of the Muskoka Watershed Council:

- New members are encouraged to consider a minimum of a two-year commitment to the work of the Council. Members who are willing to consider a position on the Executive Committee or who are actively involved in the work of one of our committees are encouraged to extend their involvement beyond that date.
- While the Muskoka Watershed Council does not have attendance rules for its members, regular attendance at meetings is essential if individuals are to maximize their potential to make a meaningful contribution to the work of the Council. It is suggested that attendance at a minimum of 70% of the regularly scheduled Council meetings is a realistic goal.
- Council members are encouraged to become involved in the work of one of the Council's committees (Communications, Strategic Directions, or Policy & Research), as this is where the bulk of the Council's work occurs. Alternatively, Council members may be better able to support the work of the Council and committees on a professional or business basis on a specific project. The efforts and work of MWC can only be advanced when members of the Council are actively involved.
- The work of the Council is supported by a small but highly motivated and hard-working staff who strive to be responsive to the Council and the Executive Committee. In order to ensure their ability to plan their time and carry out their responsibilities, all requests of staff should be discussed at Council meetings or directed to the Executive Committee through the Chair.
- Acquiring the financial resources to maintain the programs of the Muskoka Watershed Council is an ongoing challenge. Most program funding must be raised through our partnership with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation. Council members can play a key role in meeting the fundraising challenge by becoming members of the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and becoming actively involved in fundraising through donations at both the individual, business and corporate levels, and by supporting MHF fundraising events.
- Our Council members are our key link to the varied communities that we serve within Muskoka's watersheds. We need their suggestions and ideas relating to fundraising, MWC initiatives and priorities, volunteer recruitment and future directions, as well as daily operation of the Council.
- It is essential that our members serve as advocates in the community for MWC and its programs. If those of us who are directly responsible for and involved in the programs and initiatives of MWC fail to sing its praises at every opportunity, we should not be surprised when others in the community fail to appreciate the good things we do.