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FABR partners with Queen's University to study the overall health of the Biosphere



The School of Environmental Studies at Queen's University and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere have signed an agreement to work together to investigate just what makes our Biosphere region a healthy place and how to measure its health over time.

Working with students in a capstone course at the Queen's School of Environmental Studies, a process will begin which measures the key indicators of economic, environmental, social and cultural health in the Biosphere Region. Over the coming years, measures will be identified for each indicator as well as the most economic way to gather the information. The goal, an ambitious and innovative one, is to have a 'State of the Biosphere' report released on a regular basis.

Who should care and why? The Frontenac Arch Biosphere is a unique part of Canada, recognized by UNESCO as being a special place where people and the environment can and do interact, sometimes producing both challenges and opportunities for a very high quality of life. But that is only if all pillars of the equation are working – economic, environmental, social and cultural. The idea of measuring this is an innovative goal of the Biosphere, confirmed in its current Business Plan.

Only in this way can we see if we are in fact creating that harmony of goals. The agreement is meant to guide the partnership which will enhance the learning experience of students while providing worthwhile information for the Biosphere.

The "State of the Biosphere" will act as a baseline in the process of ongoing monitoring and assessment. The agreement sets out the ground rules and expectations of the two organizations making it possible for students to carry out applied research in support of the Biosphere's initiatives.

The agreement begins this fall and is expected to continue over the coming years. As this is ground-breaking, it is not likely that a full "State of the Biosphere" report will be completed and made available for at least a year.

For further information, please contact:

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