



Tourism Representation Policy

Background:

Various levels of government engage in consultations with various stakeholder groups from time to time. Although NOTO is occasionally asked to provide representation at such consultations, frequently individuals are approached directly by government and appointed as “stakeholder representatives”.

Some of these “representatives” may be NOTO members, perhaps even NOTO Board members. However, being a NOTO member, a NOTO Board member, or working in Ontario’s nature and outdoor tourism industry does not give an individual authority to speak for NOTO or Ontario’s nature and outdoor tourism industry. In order for an individual to speak on behalf of NOTO there must be a mechanism by which the people and interest they are representing can hold them accountable.

Government is free, of course, to consult with any individual. However, it is the view of NOTO that only inclusive organizations with open membership, democratic representation and clear accountability policies can be considered as legitimate representatives of identified stakeholder groups.

NOTO insures accountability to the nature and outdoor tourism industry in the following way:

- NOTO staff and appointees are directly accountable to the NOTO Board through NOTO’s Executive Director.
- The NOTO Board is directly accountable to the NOTO membership through elections and legal accountability mechanisms in the Corporations Act.
- Any business operating in Ontario which uses Ontario’s natural resources to provide nature and outdoor tourism products can be a member of NOTO and vote to elect the board of directors.

Policy

Wherever possible, government should engage in consultations with legitimate, accountable stakeholder groups. NOTO is the voice of the nature and outdoor tourism industry in Ontario. In order for an individual to be considered a representative of NOTO and Ontario’s nature and outdoor tourism industry, the following are required:

- Requests for representation at any consultation must be directed to the NOTO office
- NOTO may appoint individuals or provide a short list of nominees if necessary
- Any representatives chosen will report on their activities regularly to NOTO staff so that staff may in turn report to the board
- Representatives will be responsible to act in accordance with NOTO official policies
- The NOTO office will provide information and policy support
- NOTO will retain the right to remove and replace representatives

Adopted by the NOTO Board of Directors September 6, 2006