

Ocean Bridge Steering Committee Terms of Reference

Ocean Bridge is an innovative youth-led response to the challenge of ocean conservation in Canada. By co-creating service projects in urban and wilderness settings, diverse young adults participating in the program will contribute to Ocean conservation. Ocean Bridge will form a national, diverse team of youth 18-30 years old that make a difference by directly improving ocean health in National Marine Conservation Areas, and by engaging and empowering their peers from coast to coast to coast.

Participating Youth will balance urban, rural, Northern, and Southern Canadian perspectives in serving together toward shared goals. Participants will form an enhanced understanding and appreciation of their peers and all Canadian's role in supporting a vibrant and flourishing future for our oceans. By recruiting youth representative of our national diversity from the full spectrum of our socio economic reality, including new Canadians and youth at risk working alongside more affluent Canadians we will help them to appreciate the resilience and strength they contribute to our shared future.

Our marine nation has the longest coastline in the world and borders the largest system of fresh water on earth. These environments are an integral part of our natural and cultural heritage, they are essential to:

- The survival of marine species and ecosystems
- The Aboriginal peoples of Canada
- Our transport, trade and communication
- Our fishing and tourism industries
- Our coastal communities

In serving together as stewards of our shared responsibility for our oceans, Ocean Bridge youth will emerge as ambassadors and champions for civic engagement, ocean conservation, global citizenship and a collaborative, hopeful future of their making.



Terms of Reference

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Ocean Bridge Steering Committee is to discuss the effectiveness of the Ocean Bridge program in achieving its objective and to continuously improve youth engagement, technology functionality, and youth experiences.

The Committee will review plans with the Ocean Bridge program team to ensure:

- Culture of service and civic participation
- Co-creation of service projects with youth
- Engagement of youth and underrepresented youth
- Pedagogical and conservation merit

II. Oversight

A. Oversight of Ocean Bridge program components:

Ocean health service projects	Local community service	Conservation needs
Ocean literacy service projects	Outreach	Evaluation

III. Responsibilities

A. The committee will have open communication with Ocean Wise and the Ocean Bridge program team, in order to strengthen the Committee's knowledge of current and prospective issues and opportunities.

B. Meeting agendas, minutes of prior meeting and relevant material for review and discussion circulated to Committee members at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting.

C. All committee members will:

- Be appointed bi-annually;
- Act in good faith and in the best interests of Ocean Wise Conservation Association;
- Contribute to a culture of dynamic and constructive debate and strategic advancement;
- Maintain confidentiality and comply with Ocean Wise's Code of Ethics as amended from time to time;
- Proactively ensure that the purpose of the Committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference is upheld and the activities of the committee reflect that mandate; and
- Come to meetings having read any background materials and being prepared to make meaningful contributions.

IV. Composition and Operations

A. The committee shall be composed of 10 to 15 members including at least two youth, Ocean Wise staff, representation from Ocean Health and Literacy service regions, and representation from across Canada.

B. The committee will meet once a month for two years with three meetings being in person.