

Launch of Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network

About 10 years ago, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) reviewed its designation of the Niagara Escarpment as a biosphere reserve and indicated that to retain this special acknowledgement, it wanted to see less government management in favour of more involvement by communities and Indigenous people.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2022, the incorporation of a new organization, Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN), was celebrated at The Brown

Homestead in St. Catharines. The word “reserve” has been dropped because it has negative connotations for some Indigenous people.

A NEBN document about this meeting states “Through an agreement between the Transition Leadership Committee and the Indigenous organization Plenty Canada, with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada, work is underway to engage in a process consistent with recommendations from Pathway to Canada Target 1, including the reports *One With Nature*, *Canada’s Conservation Vision*, and *We Rise Together*.”

► Alyssa General of Six Nations, gave a presentation on the Mohawk language in The Brown Homestead on Earth Day. Alyssa is an artist, educator, poet and filmmaker.



▲ Presenters at the celebration of the new Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network included from left, Alyssa General, Larry McDermott, executive director of Plenty Canada, Liette Vasseur of Brock University, Bradley May of Brock University and Tim Johnson.

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