



# Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

## **MBB Robson Hall – University of Manitoba Chapter Constitution**

**Purpose:** MBB is a non-profit provider of pro bono conflict resolution capacity building within post-conflict communities. A key goal of MBB is to develop indigenous skills for group facilitation, public dialogue, strategic planning, collaborative negotiation, and peer mediation. Teams of volunteer mediators will conduct skill-building workshops consistent with the norms, values, and culture of the locale. The mission is to increase the capacity of hostile communities to prevent, resolve, and recover from violent conflict. An array of conflict alternatives can be explored by strategic integration into the political, economic, and social institutions. The same team would volunteer for between 1-3 weeks per year, over a number of years in the same country, to build sustainable initiatives and to develop local peacemakers and peacekeepers. MBB will partner with existing NGO's and ADR entities to provide experienced mediators as trainers and consultants to complement and expand the conflict resolution capacity of already funded peace projects. Students may become involved in MBB in order to learn alternative dispute resolution processes and their importance in a hands-on environment. Participating in and contributing to MBB initiatives will allow students the opportunity to travel to developing nations and provide help to people in post-conflict communities.

**Activities:** To fulfill its purpose, Robson Hall MBB will sponsor a range of activities, programs and services. Events will include hosting forums and discussions with speakers who are experienced mediators, involved in the political realm, or representatives from partner nations or organizations. Robson Hall MBB will host fundraisers to help raise dues and travel expenses for students, and consistent meetings with frequent talks by professors from various departments within the university, as well as ADR minded individuals from the community at large, will take place.

**Membership Requirements:** A diverse membership will be encouraged of students from Robson Hall, of all races, creeds, ages, sexes and nationalities. Members must attend at least three events or group meetings per semester to maintain membership. No hazing or illegal discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in the organization.

**Financial Obligations of Members:** Each member will be responsible for paying dues to MBB International as set out by MBB International. Fundraisers throughout the year will help raise money for student's dues if a student cannot afford to pay the national dues.

**Associate Membership:** Faculty, staff and alumni of Robson Hall and non Robson Hall persons may participate in meetings and activities of the organization but may not vote, hold office, or serve in formal leadership positions.

**Membership Procedures:** Recruitment of new members will be constant, with extra focus on the beginning of Fall semester. At initial meetings each year, forms will be given out in which potential members will sign-up. All members that meet the requirements will be accepted. The privileges of membership will include access to meetings, the ability to run for formal office, the ability to vote for officers, the ability to attend all meetings and events, and to potentially be involved in international travel initiatives. Members who do not meet the membership requirements and stay active with membership dues will be made inactive for the remainder of the semester. If the member does not meet the requirements in the beginning of the following semester, then that person will be removed from membership in the organization.

**Voting Privileges:** Voting privileges are limited to active student members in good standing with the organization. Requirements to maintain voting privileges include paying dues and meeting membership requirements.

**Officers:** Robson Hall MBB must maintain at least three student officers currently enrolled and in good academic and social standing at Robson Hall to be certified. Faculty, staff, alumni and external affiliates may not serve as officers. Robson Hall MBB's officers will include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publications Chair, Events Chair, and Fundraising Chair. The President will have overall control of the organization and interact constantly with MBB International. The Vice-President will assist the president in operations and be available to take over presidential duties should the need arise. The Secretary will take minutes of all meetings and ensure general organization of Robson Hall MBB. The treasurer will be in charge of collecting and managing dues from members, as well as keeping track of the financial books, including spending and earnings from events and fundraisers. The Publications Chair will be in charge of contact with local media including The Manitoban. Additionally this person will be responsible for promoting Robson Hall MBB events, publicizing the workings of the group, and maintaining a group website as well as other relevant internet sites. The Events Chair will be in charge of organizing specific events, making sure that all events and meetings are safe, and that all risk to any students during meetings, events, or travel will be limited. The Fundraising Chair will be in charge of creating fundraising plans and ensuring that Robson Hall MBB is meeting fundraising requirements in order to run successfully. They will work in conjunction with the Publications Chair and Events Chair to ensure proper organization, and publicity, of Robson Hall MBB Events.

**Election of Officers:** The election of officers will take place once a year during the close of the Spring Semester at a meeting in late March. Officers are nominated by anyone present at the meeting who meets the membership requirements. Nominations will take place at the meeting directly preceding the meeting at which elections will take place. All officers are required to be members in good standing who meet the

membership requirements. The President and Vice-President must have been active within Robson Hall MBB and in good standing for at least two consecutive semesters. The president must have held another position as an Officer to be eligible for President. The election process will be by printed ballots, in which each member present at the election meeting will circle the name of the candidate on the ballot. Ballots of members not present may be received by the Secretary in advance of the election. The results will be announced by email within 24 hours of the vote. A simple majority of votes cast will be required to win a position. An officer can hold only one position at a time. No proxy ballots can be cast.

**Terms of Office:** Terms of office will begin on the first day of May of each year and will end on the thirtieth day of April the following year.

**Removal of Officers:** Officers can be removed by a vote of more than 75% of the active members in good standing. A new vote will be taken to fill that position, and that new officer will fulfill the remainder of the current term.

**Voting Rights:** All members, including officers, will be allowed to vote.

**Meetings:** Regular meetings will be held at least once per month, and at least three times per semester. Anyone may attend meetings. To constitute a quorum 50% + 1 members must be present.

**Finances:** All spending must be approved by both the Treasurer, and either the President or Vice-President. All checks must be signed by two parties.

**Advisor:** Robson Hall MBB will have an advisor from Robson Hall Faculty. There may be additional advisors from other university departments and ADR minded organizations but this is not required.

**External Affiliations:** Robson Hall MBB will be a part of Mediators Beyond Borders International, a non-profit organization run out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. To be recognized as a student organization of MBB International, Robson Hall MBB will have to adhere to certain guidelines set by MBB International including payment of membership dues, consistent operation on a day-to-day basis, and monthly correspondence between Robson Hall MBB Officers and MBB International.

**Amendments:** This Constitution may be amended by the approval of 80% of active members of MBB Robson Hall, and consent by a majority of the MBB Robson Hall Officers.