

Background of CNS

Climb Nova Scotia is a non-profit, volunteer-based group established in 1991. CNS is dedicated to promoting and facilitating climbing throughout Nova Scotia. Our goal is to support all climbing interests including trad climbing, sport climbing, ice climbing, indoor climbing, bouldering, and to serve beginners and experienced climbers alike.

Brief Project Overview

The Climb Nova Scotia Association (“CNS”) requires a body of comprehensive research and reporting to educate its board of directors and executive on the legal and practical elements of landowner risk within the province.

This project is important to CNS because many climbing areas rely on the maintenance of positive relationships with landowners to facilitate access to members and the public in Nova Scotia. A primary concern of landowners with regard to rock climbing on their properties has historically been concerns regarding legal liability in the event of participant injury. To date, CNS has relied on layperson understanding of applicable laws, or occasional pro bono legal opinions based on specific facts in a given situation. No formal repository exists to understand and explain the rights, obligations, and risks facing landowners who permit (knowingly or unknowingly) outdoor recreation activities on their lands.

Project Goals & Target Audience

Although the board of directors and executive of Climb Nova Scotia are the initial audience for this educational and capacity-building initiative, the end goal of the project is to facilitate improved relationships with informed landowners and cultivate long term partnerships. Ancillary audiences include other recreation groups who routinely interface with landowners; the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, Surf Nova Scotia, and Hike Nova Scotia are just a few of the potential beneficiaries identified at this early stage.

Scope of Work

The resultant report should be prepared within the context of outdoor recreation including, but not limited to: access by the public to existing privately and publicly owned recreation destinations; the development and maintenance of trail systems and infrastructure; community clean-up efforts; and the establishment of new destinations for rock and ice climbing. Project deliverables will also include information sessions and summary literature to ensure the information is well understood and easily disseminated.

Deliverables

1. Handout literature summarizing key access management take-aways;
2. Written comprehensive report on landowner liability in Nova Scotia as it pertains to temporary recreation access by non-landowners;
3. Legal analysis and opinion regarding access concerns of existing areas;
4. Suggested strategies and contingency plans for probable risk elements; and,
5. Three workshops, seminars, or similar outreach education initiatives (development and delivery).
The consultant should be able to prepare their delivery for a variety of audience types.

Timeline

Work can begin as soon as a contract is signed at the conclusion of the RFP response date. All work should be completed by the end of the calendar year for 2018.

Criteria for Selection

1. Understanding of outdoor recreation landscape – Consultant has experience managing and executing outdoor recreation events, negotiating with landowners and managing participant liability for structured and unstructured outdoor recreation. Consultant is familiar with challenges facing organizations and individuals taking part in recreational activities on private and public lands.
2. Climbing knowledge – Consultant must understand the risks and access implications involved with all sub-types of climbing as they relate to geography, land use impacts, risk profiles, and participation numbers in Nova Scotia. The consultant will have cross-disciplinary competency to understand and contrast the nuanced access issues faced by boulderers, sport climbers, traditional climbers, aid climbers, and ice climbers.
3. Familiarity with region – The consultant should have an appreciation for the terrain, approaches, hazards, weather, and specific site locations within Nova Scotia where climbing and other recreational pursuits take place.
4. Experience with landowner relations – The consultant should have experience negotiating with stakeholders regarding land access.
5. Research competency – The consultant will be able to demonstrate specific instances of excellence in research, preferably studies of problems involving multifaceted legal, regulatory, environmental, and social factors. Consultant understands, has access to, and is able to navigate Nova Scotia's Property Online registration database.
6. Writing proficiency – The consultant will be able to demonstrate and provide samples of their own high quality original written works. The consultant must be able to write in plain language.
7. Teaching or public speaking experience – The consultant should be comfortable and proficient at conveying complex ideas to a variety of audiences of up to fifty people in a classroom or public venue setting.
8. Legal credentials – CNS will likely rely on the deliverable conclusions as legal advice. The consultant must therefore be entitled to practice law within the province of Nova Scotia, or else obtain a certificate of legal opinion from a Nova Scotia practicing lawyer that the deliverables are correct at law.
9. Budget – Consultant will provide a fully inclusive cost estimate for completion.

Budget

The budget for this project depends on the availability of additional funding from partner organizations and the Province of Nova Scotia. Pricing is an important part of the winning proposal but CNS is not required to select the proposal with the lowest value.

Proposal Submissions

Proposals will be accepted until June 18, 2018 in PDF format via email to:

Climb Nova Scotia
c/o Matt MacPhee, President
climbnovascotia@gmail.com

Pending funding, the successful candidate will be notified in writing on or before August 1, 2018. Selection shall be at the sole discretion of CNS, whose decision shall be final. Successful bidder will be notified in writing and a contract will be offered for acceptance by the project consultant.

Scoring

CNS will score proposals based on the following rubric:

Scoring Item	Value (out of 100)
Professional experience (i.e. applicant has the skills, qualifications and professional experience required to complete the work)	30
Quality of proposal (i.e. proposal matches the requirements of CNS)	30
Recreational experience (i.e. experience with access issues for recreation in Nova Scotia)	20
Price	10
Climbing experience (i.e. applicant understands the specific nuances of outdoor climbing and the risks and liabilities inherent with the sport)	10
Total	100