

STAYING THE COURSE

In the late 1960's, seven clubs came together under the banner Mountain Access Committee (ACC-Vancouver, BCMC, COC, SFUOC, UBCVOC, VNHS, and VOA). The idea was that there is strength in numbers. Five of the seven original clubs are still part of the Federation of Mountain Clubs legacy. SFU's Outdoor Club disappeared and VNHS became a Member of the BC Federation of Naturalists when that federation was formed.

Since its inception, the FMC has sat at many government stakeholder meetings because the FMC is the largest organization in the Province representing mountaineers, climbers, and hikers. This ability of the FMC to participate in government planning has brought many benefits to FMC's members. In many cases, a particular club of the FMC has led the charge and the FMC lent its support as needed. Either way, this makes for an effective advocacy group.

The clubs of the FMC and the FMC have participated in the making of Garibaldi and Tantalus as Provincial Parks, negotiated with the Province on maintaining our trails through the FMC's Adopt-A-Trail Programme, led the charge on obtaining an Occupiers Liability Act for the Province of B.C., and have sat at many Land Use Planning tables. All of these activities were great achievements, but they did not happen quickly. They took months and years of effort by various paid and unpaid people within the FMC. Most backcountry users have little knowledge of the personal sacrifices made by these people.

The FMC today continues that tradition with the involvement in developing a Roof Accommodation policy, the transfer of climbing lands to the District of Squamish after retaining ownership of these lands for almost 20 years, the development of the Mt. Arrowsmith Regional Park proposal, the protection of important caribou habitat areas in north central B.C., the Sea to Sky planning process, and the general fight for areas of peace and quiet in backcountry with continued issuing of motorized tenures.

The FMC is as relevant today as it was forty years ago when member clubs began banding together to promote sanity on backcountry issues. A giant thank you to all who have supported their clubs and the FMC through their membership to promote the importance of a strong, non-motorized federation of clubs.

Sincerely,

Pat Harrison
President