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## For Immediate Release

The **International Mountain Bike Association Canada (IMBA - Canada)** and the **North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA)** would like to announce the inaugural **Western Mountain Bike Advocacy Symposium**.

The symposium will be taking place October 12th through 14th, 2018 in North Vancouver, British Columbia and for the inaugural theme we have chosen *“Building a Diverse Mountain Bike Community”*.

Our organizations wish to host a timely conversation on the need for us all to work collectively towards ensuring mountain biking is seen as an open and inclusive recreational pursuit. We want to introduce new perspectives, outline why this is an important issue and help create a cohesive vision for building a diverse mountain bike community.

Keynotes, presentations and panel discussions will be hosted on the following topics: Privilege and the Mountain Bike Community, Building First Nations Relationships, Adaptive Mountain Biking, Supporting Youth Voices, Encouraging Female Representation and Reducing Barriers to Participation.

Space will be provided to facilitate conversation and answer questions through the delivery of discussion groups and workshops. We'll also be making time for ad hoc conversation and reflection through some organized trail work and numerous group rides!

We wish to be a spark that ignites further conversations within individual communities on how each of us has a part to play in ensuring mountain biking is seen as an inclusive and open space for all - building a diverse mountain bike community one rider and trail at a time.

We hope that you will join us this fall for this exciting and important discussion! Please fill out our [questionnaire](#) if you are interested in attending and if you would like to help support this initiative or have questions please email symposium coordinators Justin Darbyshire - [jay.darby@imbacanada.com](mailto:jay.darby@imbacanada.com) or Christine Reid - [christine@nsmba.ca](mailto:christine@nsmba.ca).

## **Symposium Details**

Name: Western Mountain Bike Advocacy Symposium

Theme: "Building a Diverse Mountain Bike Community"

Hosts: International Mountain Bike Association Canada (IMBA Canada) and North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA)

Dates: October 12-14th, 2018

Location: North Vancouver

Invitees: Mountain Bike Advocacy Groups (Provincial and National), Pacific Northwest Mountain Bike Advocacy Groups, First Nations Community Members, Provincial and Federal Government Staff and Officials, Municipal Government Staff and Officials, Cycling Clubs and Governing Bodies, Tourism Organizations.

Partnership Opportunities: Event Sponsorship, Speaker Funding, Social Event Sponsors, Attendee "Swag" Providers

Speaker Opportunities: Panel member, lecturer, MTBx Talks, Workshop Leader

Volunteer Opportunities: Reception Team, Ride Leaders, Social Event Hosts