

# RESOLUTION 23R-12

To request the RI Board to consider endorsing the concept of Transboundary Peace Parks and encouraging Rotarians and Rotaractors to establish Transboundary Peace Parks

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Nelson, District 5080, Canada

1 WHEREAS, RI states that “As a humanitarian organization, peace is a  
2 cornerstone of our mission,” and

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4 WHEREAS, RI has seven areas of focus, dedicating itself “to build international  
5 relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace  
6 efforts,” and “to foster understanding within and across cultures,” and

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8 WHEREAS, Transboundary Peace Parks allow people and families to easily and  
9 safely meet at the borders of two adjoining countries, which can also enhance the  
10 relationship and cooperation between two countries, and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the first International Peace Park, Waterton-Glacier International  
13 Peace Park, was established on the borders of Alberta, Canada and Montana, USA  
14 in 1932. This park, created and supported by local Rotarians, is an example of a  
15 successful Transboundary Peace Park, and

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17 WHEREAS, RI’s support of the concept of Transboundary Peace Parks might  
18 encourage Rotarians and Rotaractors to pursue this positive step towards peace  
19 building

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21 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
22 International consider endorsing the concept of Transboundary Peace Parks and  
23 encouraging Rotarians and Rotaractors in their efforts to establish  
24 Transboundary Peace Parks.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

25 Transboundary Peace Parks, due to their location, are pathways to peace.

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27 There are four Transboundary Peace Parks at the Canada-USA Border, including  
28 the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association. This Peace Park is  
29 known as the world’s first Transboundary Peace Park and was created through  
30 the combined efforts of Rotarians from both Canada and the US in 1931-1932. It  
31 is an example for others to follow.

1 In its mission statement, the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park  
2 Association states that the park is open to Rotarians who have an interest in  
3 "...supporting and maintaining the development and promotion of Waterton  
4 Lakes National Park and Glacier National Park as a symbol of friendship,  
5 cooperation and our commitment to building peace initiatives whenever  
6 possible." The core theme states "We will support the work and mandate of both  
7 parks to provide educational opportunities for park visitors and the general  
8 public to preserve the flora and fauna and the lands which make up the parks. We  
9 will advocate with Rotarians and other groups who have similar goals for the  
10 promotion of peace, freedom, and equal opportunities for all."

11  
12 The Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Association's Pledge of Peace is  
13 embraced by Rotarians on both sides of the Canada-USA border: "In the name of  
14 all we hold sacred, we will not take up arms against each other. We will work for  
15 peace, maintain liberty, strive for freedom, and demand equal opportunities for  
16 all. May the long existing peace between our nations stimulate other peoples to  
17 follow this example."

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19 Transboundary Peace Parks are possible and achievable worldwide, and well  
20 worth the effort. They are a positive step in promoting peace between two  
21 countries. Future Transboundary Peace Parks may wish to follow the Waterton-  
22 Glacier International Peace Park Association's blueprint and ideals.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

23 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
24 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
25 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.