



National Training Centre Announcement **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. How did RCA select North Cowichan for a National Training Centre?

Rowing Canada launched a Request for Proposal for a National Training Centre (NTC) in May 2018. The RFP process allowed any community in Canada to submit an Expression of Interest and proposal.

The municipality of North Cowichan was selected as the future home for Canada's National Rowing teams based on the following criteria: strongest technical scorecard, high level of community support, access to suitable bodies of water, dedicated and tailored boathouse facility and dryland facilities in close proximity.

North Cowichan has a long relationship with RCA, as athletes have been training on Quamichan Lake for decades. North Cowichan, together with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and other partners, submitted a proposal in September 2018, which went through a lengthy evaluation process alongside other communities.

Background information on the RCA Facilities Strategy available here: <http://rowingcanada.org/national-team/national-training-centre-and-facilities-strategy-review>

2. Who made this decision?

The NTC Project Committee reviewed all submissions, engaged in comprehensive discussions with site teams, conducted site visits, attended presentations and submitted a recommendation on final selection of the primary site for RCA's National Training Centre to the RCA Board of Directors.

The RCA Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the NTC Committee at the end of 2018, following additional feasibility testing and focus group sessions with key stakeholders.

3. Are the scorecard results accessible to public?

RCA will not be releasing details of the scorecards for any bid communities. The scorecard criteria was created and refined as a result of an extensive consultation process (SLSG) involving technical experts, current national team athletes (Senior & NextGen), alumni, coaching staff and the wider rowing community.

4. Who were the bid communities?

A total of ten Expression of Interests from across Canada were submitted to the NTC Project Committee with five formal proposals presented in September 2018. All bid communities engaged in an iterative, comprehensive and confidential process. RCA will maintain confidentiality of the site teams.

5. When will RCA National Teams relocate to North Cowichan?

For the 2021 season, athletes and coaches will begin relocating to North Cowichan. A timeline for the next two years is under development. RCA will continue to train at Quamichan Lake and Shawnigan Lake periodically over the next two years, as they have done for the last decade.

6. Does this mean that RCA is moving its headquarters from Victoria?

No. RCA will continue its core operations at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence in Victoria.

7. What is the transition plan for the departure of NT operations from Victoria?

This process was designed to establish the future home base for RCA's National Teams. RCA will begin working closely with all key stakeholders in the Lower Island region to establish an appropriate transition plan. RCA would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of the Victoria Rowing Society and our Lower Island community. The unwavering support of this community has been outstanding and we will continue to foster these partnerships moving forward.

8. What are the costs associated to this and how will it be paid for?

The decision was based on performance criteria - where is the best home for our National teams to support our future success. RCA will work with North Cowichan and funding partners to develop that plan moving forward.

9. What is being done to manage and enhance water quality on Quamichan Lake?

North Cowichan is aware of the immense importance of water quality to their community and RCA. The health and safety of our athletes remains a priority. North Cowichan is committed to doing everything it can to support the health of Quamichan Lake and the people using it.

Like many shallow urban lakes, Quamichan Lake is nutrient rich and may experience periodic blue-green algae blooms. In March 2018, North Cowichan secured a former biologist for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, along with a Masters student from the Ecological Restoration Program at the BC Institute of Technology, to undertake research on the lake and develop restoration recommendations. A restoration plan is expected to be available in Spring 2019 and will provide options and recommendations for enhancing lake health.