



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing Board Meetings held January 27, 2024

Welcome to 2024!

As was communicated in the December 8, 2023, *Update from the RCA Board of Directors*, effective January 2024, the RCA Board of Directors will provide a 'President's Report' after each scheduled Board meeting. This will inform members of the organization in a more timely and regular fashion of the work of the Board. I would like to take the opportunity to let you know what was discussed, as well as some important decisions taken at our most recent RCA Board meeting at Quebec City, Quebec on January 27, 2024.

This was an in-person meeting. Board members present included Lindsay Bergan, Athlete Director; Mike Bryden, Director; Fred Enns, Director; Paul Fritz-Nemeth, Director; Charles Minett, Director; Carol Purcer, President; and Derek Ventnor, Provincial Director/Treasurer. Dana Thorne, Director, was not in attendance. It was a very full agenda. We began with a presentation on Board Evaluation by Janis Riven, a consultant from *governance & compliance solutions*. It is a key element in strengthening our accountability and utilizing our Board members expertise in an efficient manner. The presentation has started the conversation for an on-going process.

The Board also determined that we would adopt a Risk Management Framework and Strategic Planning Framework and will meet in late March for an in-person work meeting.

The Board also reviewed the expectations for the Plenary Session with members, being held later in the day, as preparation for the Semi-Annual meeting.

CEO Report:

CEO, Terry Dillon, updated us that *Canadian Sport for All Initiative (CSAI)* funding has been approved and clubs across the country can continue to be supported with funding for projects to grow rowing! This has been a boost for so many of our clubs and exciting changes are happening nationally. We also learned that Sport Canada funding has been delayed until next month.

The Event Sanction Policy has been updated to better align with the needs for our emerging disciplines and National Team Selection.

Terry Dillon also shared that long-time Board Secretary, Sid Murdoch, will be retiring at the end of March. We appreciate Sid's commitment to RCA for the past 25 years and wish him well in retirement.

Financial Report Update:

The Treasurer presented the financial statements for the 9 months that ended December 31, 2023, as well as the current projections the fiscal year-end March 31, 2024. Director Ventnor confirmed that we are tracking to end the fiscal year on budget. Director Ventnor also reported that he, along with the CEO and Manager of Finances, have confirmed the workback schedule to complete the 2024/25 budget and work continues to review and modernize the report formats that will be used to present the quarterly financial updates to the Board and the Membership going forward starting with the quarter ending March 31, 2024.

Board Committee Work:

The Board has received a report from the **U19 Lightweight Rowing Working Group**. After much discussion we determined that our next steps will be to meet with the Working Group to clarify some questions.

The **Independent Review Accountability Committee**, shared in a report to the Board, that there was a recent visit, by members of the committee, to Shawnigan Lake, one of the National Team's Training sites. It was an "immersive experience allowing observation of the daily training environment, witness interactions with athletes, coaches and staff and gain valuable insights into the operational dynamics of the high performing training environment." We look forward to providing further updates to the membership soon.

There was a risk assessment quarterly report from the **National Training Center - Project Committee** (NTC-PC) presented by Director Enns. The Committee is meeting regularly and moving the NTC Project forward.

I was glad to see so many participants at the RCA Annual Conference! Meeting in person brings opportunity to share our experiences in easy conversation and allows me to hear the inspirational stories and the challenges you face which in turn, helps us better serve our community.