

CROSS COUNTRY SKI ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA INC.

October 21, 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome everyone. Welcome to the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba (CCSAM) Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the 2022-2023 ski season.

The big story in my mind was the generally favourable ski weather in the entire province. Specifically adequate snow with moderate temperatures from the past ski season. Once again - ***I am optimistic for the upcoming ski season in Manitoba.***

Our Events Calendar was a success. Ski Lessons across the province (and the entire country) continue to be in high demand.

Our provincial Sport funding remained solid and constant.

I must mention the tremendous support CCSAM gets from Sport Manitoba over the years. I participate in monthly Nordiq Canada (NC) conference calls among all the provinces and territories. CCSAM continues to be the envy of other provinces when it comes to all round support. This past year is assistance in the adoption of Safe Sport Initiatives and Guidance.

The upcoming 2023 – 2024 ski season in Manitoba is returning to a more normal state. However, COVID has not completely disappeared. A better phrase might be ***A new normal.*** The priority will always be: Keep our people safe.

A few days before our AGM I had a one on one virtual meeting with our National Sport Organization Nordiq Canada's Chief Executive Officer, Stéphane Barrette. We had an open and frank conversation about what was working in Manitoba and areas for improvement. I believe we are all aware of what we are doing right. Areas for improvement were:

- Promote, develop and foster skiing in the entire Province of Manitoba – the vast north is under serviced.
- Develop additional Coaching capacity at all levels – Jack Rabbit to High Performance. This is equally true on the Technical side of volunteers.
- Host high level events in Manitoba.

CCSAM developed a 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. A plan to guide us was prepared. Here are the points and the progress CCSAM has made in the past year.

1. CCSAM strives to introduce Manitobans to the sport of cross country skiing, providing support and guidance for participants at all levels. *We have several programs for school skiing and new Canadians on skis. Only happening in certain areas of the province, more work to do. Ski Fit North and Spirit North are valuable allies to promote skiing in the North. Work to do. Twenty five, plus years ago CCSAM had a contract employee visiting communities in Manitoba to promote XC skiing. Time to resurrect the program?*
2. CCSAM works as a community to identify and train athletes. to achieve their highest level of competitive performance. *NSO asked if CCSAM was interested to host HIGH LEVEL EVENTS. Examples such as Nationals, and International Events – SKI TOUR FIS (Quebec City – Ottawa – WINNIPEG – Canmore) FIS Sprints Event held in Dresden Germany on a flat city course)*
3. CCSAM supports the development of certified coaches, instructors, officials, and volunteers to foster excellence in sport leadership. *Continuing to work with our NSO to reduce / remove barriers to coaching certification. NSO is aware of the bottlenecks across the country. Ski instructor course being developed by NSO.*

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4. CCSAM demonstrates clear direction and leadership. CCSAM acts strategically to support participation, excellence, community involvement and accessibility to the sport as well as the ability to govern effectively.

As always, I invite all clubs – to look at CCSAM (and NC) website for information such as Policies, procedures and general information. There is a wealth of information from sport organizations.

THANK YOU'S ARE IN ORDER:

- Our Executive Director (E.D.) Ms. Karin McSherry. For eight months of the year Karin does the work of two people. Karin works all year round on Cross Country Skiing. I have personally witnessed, over the last 20 years Karin's commitment to skiing in the province of Manitoba. Even in the summer months when Karin is a "cycling volunteer", Karin is thinking skiing. Karin has been attending all the PSO / NSO meetings.
- The **BOARD of CCSAM** – Thank you to the Board who provide thoughtful attention to detail to keep Nordic skiing on track in Manitoba.
CCSAM Board from 2022-2023 was composed of:
Marissa Zurba / Pauline Nadlersmith / Kristin Isaak / Murray Carter / Katrina Froese / Kevin Miller / Pam Little / Neil Kornberger / Derek Page. Thank you so much for your hard work.
- CLUB REPRESENTATIVES: Too numerous to mention. All are welcome to our Board meetings – last Tuesday evening of the month. Confirm the exact time and date with Karin.

I remind everyone – any club to speak up with concerns / comments to myself – to Karin or – to any Board member. We encourage Club input at our monthly Board meetings.

1. **Provincial Development Committee** (formally known as the High-Performance Committee) – one hardworking Committee – meets monthly. Members from 2022-2023 included: Pauline Nadlersmith / Megan Carter / Ihor Barwinsky / Jennie Hissa / Andrew Vanden Berg / Elise Paetkau / Alex Loeppky / Kristin Madsen / Karin McSherry. Athlete Reps: Mia Sawatsky / Raphael Boutroy
2. **Windsor Park Nordic Center Committee** – Laurie Penton is the Chair of this important committee. Our Lease agreement with the City of Winnipeg runs until October 31, 2024. CCSAM believes our relationship with the City is solid and do not anticipate any problems in the near future.
3. **Recreational Ski Committee** – Kevin Miller is the Chair of this committee that has become a key committee now and in the future. Kevin has, as always prepared a very detailed precise report. If you want a comprehensive summary of our ski season, please read Kevin's report.
4. **Coaches/Volunteers/Athletes**. The Volunteers – way too many to name because you all are Volunteers. I want everyone to know how much we – I speak on behalf of all skiers-acknowledge/appreciate their sacrifice and hard work.

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As I have noted over many years that *“Good ski conditions relate to good financial results.”* We are a weather dependent sport.

CCSAM's goal is always to secure consistent funding. Base funding from Sport Manitoba has remained consistent. I believe that our relationship and funding with Sport Manitoba is secure.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Huybers Chairman, CCSAM