Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba – Annual General Meeting Oct 26, 2026

Provincial Development Program (PDP) report

Program notes:

Target age groups are U14 and up to U20 ages (12-19 years old) We do have older athletes registered to the program such as university students attending school out of province. These athletes need to be part of a local club and benefit from being a part of the PDP.

The program attempts to provide a bridge between entry level competitive racing to high level racing at the national level.

The PDP is run by a very capable committee that meets monthly to review the local race events and to plan and execute out of province travel to high level competition around Canada and USA. We also create policy and guidance for the program. The committee members are: Richard, Karin, Mariko, Alex, Steven W, Murray, Jennie, Dechen, Gideon and myself.

Program Highlights from the 2025/2026 ski season:

Approx 26 in-province athletes and three university athletes registered in the program. We hope to see this number increase as we see a rebound from covid era. Looking at our current program registrations, this is starting to happen with a total of 37 for the 2026/2027 season.

We attempted to travel to Sovereign Lake for an Early Snow Camp. The purpose being to provide early access to snow and an early season race experience. This camp had to pivot on very short notice from Sovereign Lake, which had no snow, to Lake Louise which had adequate snow. This pivot provided great early snow skiing but did not have a race opportunity. Upon discussion with the athlete reps on our committee it was a great trip but was missing the racing opportunity.

Staff members and athletes as follows:
Staff - Steven, Cheryl, Mike and Mark
Athletes – Gideon, Kate, Jessica, William W, Anika, Dechen, Paul, Violet, Nicholas, Luke and PJ Earl

Western Canadian Championships were in Canmore in late January. This team trip has a focus on development for first time out of province competition for athletes. Guiding them to train and live in a team setting, race preparations, goal setting and introduction to high level competition settings. This trip was hammered by a nasty Nova virus that swept through the team in very fast and furious move. Racing still happened but not at optimal levels for all. Staff were not spared!

Staff members and athletes as follows:

Staff – Cheryl, Steven, Mike, Sarah, Casey
Athletes - Anika Wiens, Colin Klessens, Dechen Guenther, Don-Han Lau, Jessica Kagan, Gideon Hoeppner, James Wiens, Kate Sawatsky, Leah Marek, Luke Stow, Nicholas Nazar, Paul Wiens, Preston Earl, Ryder Loewen and William Wintoniw

Nationals in Mont Sainte Anne. A high-performance trip. This trip was able to be hosted by only three staff members because all athletes were racing in the same age category so that makes traveling and logistics much simpler.

Staff members and athletes as follows:

Staff – Mike, Steven, Cheryl
Athletes - Gideon Hoeppner, Kate Sawatsky, William Wintoniw, Jessica Kagan, Paul Wiens, Dechen Guenther, Anika Wiens

Manitoba Games in Thompson were attended by many PDP athletes and new potential staff for PDP trips in the future emerged!

Canada games Trials – the first phase of selection races has happened which is normal to have two races from the last season and two races in the new season (2026/2027)