



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing Board Meetings held May 15 and June 12, 2023.

Greetings/Bienvenue!

Welcome to summer horse season. Whether it is horse shows of all disciplines, mountain rides, late nights waiting for foals, or just watching our partners munch on the green grass; our long Canadian summer days are the best of the best.

The Board has been extremely busy, so much so, we added an extra spring meeting on June 12th in order to finish up discussions on some very important topics.

As part of my President's statements in the June meeting, I informed the Board that Meg and I have finished reviewing proposal from three Diversity, Equity and Inclusion specialists to develop mandatory board education, starting in new Board year.

The Board discussed the Governance Renewal Position Paper, as prepared by Janis Riven and reviewed in detail the edits to the EC bylaws which will bring EC into compliance with the Sport Canada Governance Code. It's interesting to note that EC undertook this project a couple of years ago and it is now fortuitous that the Board foresight is now positioning us ahead of what is now a mandated deadline by the Minister of Sport. The board voted to provisionally approve the edited bylaws as presented and gave the blessing to begin community consultation.

Since the May meeting Janis, Meg and I have been busy connecting with our community to educate, discuss and received feedback on the changes. We've met twice with Voting Members, twice with PTSO Executive Directors, once with the EC staff and we have further meetings booked with athletes and operations committees. In addition, a webinar is being planned for all others who are invested but may fall outside the previously mentioned groups.

Chris Lowe and the Finance and Audit committee, along with Meg Krueger and Danielle Bowness have been doing great work with managing the budget from a monthly and long-term perspectives. The cash flow is in a great position and the forecasts for the year are on target. Meg spoke to the preparations for the audit (which commenced in June), benefits the Sport Canada Recovery Fund provided our bottom line, discipline funding strategies, and the corporate reserve replenishment strategy. Meg noted increased costs of shipping horses, transportation costs for athletes, AAFC project completions and Federal funding updates for sports, noting there has been no core funding increases for 12-13 years; with all NSO's being roughly 28% short on funding ultimately affecting technical programs due to inflationary increases during that period of time. Meg explained the various national discipline levy splits, noting that the new CANJump Initiative fee goes directly to the CanJump organization (third party), not EC. At the June meeting the Board discussed strategies to better align high performance fundraising initiatives with EC's fundraising strategies, work towards mutually beneficial systems for fund development and to ensure future clarity in the community.

Fostering a love of horses and sport, for life.



As has been well communicated, the Nominations Committee, Wayne Burwash and Kelly Gravelle, have been engaged with our Voting Members on the 2023-2024 Board of Director nominations, review and choosing of a slate of candidates to go forward for vote in July. There are three (3) vacancies open two (2) due to departing Directors, Charles Cue and Rob Mitchell, and one up for re-election to a second term (myself). The final slate of candidates up for vote has been communicated and the vote will take place between July 17-25 and announcement taking place August 14.

The June meeting was spent having conversations on topics of national and Board significance. As indicated, time was spent discussing CanJump, and other 3rd party organizations, as to how we partner in mutually beneficial manners that ultimately serve our community, our donors and our high performance teams.

We spent time discussing the USEF's recent bylaw amendment, which will impact foreign participants, essentially charging them a membership fee to compete in the U.S., was discussed. I want to note this move by the USEF was motivated by very strong Safe Sport policy coming from their federal government and the U.S. Centre for Safe Sport. The commitment to Safe Sport, the UCCMS and as a signatory to the new federal Office of Sport Integrity Commissioner is an EC priority, as such, we passed a motion to address this matter collaboratively along with the USEF, with further details to be publicly announced with the USEF/EC Reciprocal Agreement renewal, later this year.

And finally, of interest to thousands of equine owners, businesses, event organizers and general horse lovers, the work in the equine traceability space continues to be worked on by EC and discussed at the Board level. Having wrapped up the exploratory face of work with Equine Registry, Meg and her team will be bringing strategies and recommendations to the Board's August meeting for us to review and discuss. This is an immensely complicated process between financial commitments, systems that work in a country as vast as Canada and the Federal governments framework we must work within, the Board is committed to making a good business decision that fits with EC's mandate and serves the community in their varied needs.

In closing, I want to thank all the individuals I have met in person or virtually over the past four months of our consultation processes for the Governance Renewal project. You have been welcoming, respectful and have help me understand the many perspectives of our horse community. I look forward to the meeting with the Operations Committee and Athletes in the coming months.

Giddy up!

Lisa Robertson, President

On behalf of Equestrian Canada and its Board of Directors, this concludes the President's Report of the May 15 & June 12, 2023 Meetings.

*Attached please find the EC Management Report Spring 2022-23 for your perusal.