



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing AGM, September 19, 2023; Officer Election September 25, 2023;
& Board Meeting held October 16, 2023.

Greetings/Bienvenue!

I write to you today as winter is beginning to make its presence known but hot off the press is our Dressage, Eventing and Showjumping teams bringing home team Bronze, Gold & Silver, respectively, at the Pan American Games. Plus an individual Bronze medal for Lindsay Traisnel and her partner Bacyrouge. AND each team punched their tickets to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Félicitations/Congratulations to Canada's athletes, coaches and staff. On behalf of myself and the entire Board of Directors, we are very proud of all of you and your equine partners.

EC held its 2023 AGM on September 19, 2023. There was 17 of 27 voting members in attendance making up the quorum for the evening. The diminishing voting member engagement at the AGM is concerning and something the Board will discuss as part of the Phase II Governance Review as engagement and inclusion are critical to good governance.

For those that did not watch via the live Facebook stream, the most significant piece of business was the vote in support of the changes to EC's bylaws (Phase I Governance Review). After a year-long process of working with our governance consultant, Janis Riven, engaging with the EC community and editing sections of the bylaws, I'm thrilled to say our bylaws will now be aligned with Sport Canada's Canadian Sport Governance Code – two years ahead of the mandated time line for all NSOs.

The fiscal 2022-23 audited financial statements were presented (including the reserve balances as of 4/1/2023), an opportunity to ask questions was offered no questions arose so the audited report was officially received in compliance with the Not For Profit Act. Finally, KPMG was appointed as the 2023-24 auditors.

And finally, the new Board of Directors were introduced and welcomed to the board. The new board members are Ms. Audrey-Julie Dallaire, Mr. Gilles Levasseur and myself, voted onto my second term. Thank you to the members of the Nominations Committee for continuing to provide the board with new talent in alignment with our skills matrix.

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On September 19, 2023 the board had a very quick meeting to fill the roles of President and Vice President.

I was honoured and excited to be acclaimed as President, as I am committed to EC's vision and the strategic journey. And I'm committed to doing the right things for the right reasons, always with EC's best interest at heart. The election for Vice President took place with Ms. Jennifer Hodgson being elected for a one-year term.

October 16, 2023 saw the board meet for the first regular board meeting of the 2023-24 board year. The most important order of business was the appointment of our committee chairs: Finance & Audit Committee Chair, Jennifer Hodgson; Governance & Ethics Chair, John Gallinger; Nominations Committee Chair, Wayne Burwash; and Human Resources Chair, Melanie Biron.

CEO, Meg Krueger did an excellent presentation to the Board on where we've come from, where we are today and where we are headed, guided by our strategic plan. This presentation was highly informative for the new board members and a very good refresher to returning Directors – this presentation helped level organization knowledge base for the board so there is less lag on learning for new Directors.

The remainder of the meeting was presentations and discussions on the Canadian Equine Identification Project (CEIP). This incredibly complex project remains one of the top priority projects for EC as the Board will be tasked with final decision making on if and how EC moves forward as the government lead on a national equine identification program. The board is taking this decision extremely seriously as it would be a transformative project for the Canada horse industry and Equestrian Canada's business model.

In addition, time was spent discussing Pan American Games preparation and financials.

And finally, Safe Sport is always a topic of discussion and decisions as the governments Safe Sport policies and standards evolve in our country. With this evolution comes learning and best practices that EC continues to adopt. In this case, the board is reviewing policy regarding avenues for provisional suspension appeals in order to align with the Human Rights Code. We are focused on protection of our human and equine athletes while striking a delicate balance of respecting the rights and providing natural justice to respondents – challenging work to say the least.

Well that's a wrap. Until next time be well, ride well and love a horse well!

Giddy up!

Lisa Robertson, President

On behalf of Equestrian Canada and its Board of Directors, this concludes the President's Report of the AGM, September 19, 2023; Officer Election September 25, 2023; & Board Meeting held October 16, 2023.

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