



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Detailing Board Meeting held August 12, 2024

Greetings/Bienvenue!

What a remarkable summer it's been! As we wrap up the Olympic Games and look ahead to the Paralympics and our September AGM, the Board met on August 12th to finalize key business items and continue our path forward on several strategic fronts.

Let me begin by extending my deepest thanks and recognition to EC staff and support teams, who worked tirelessly on the ground in Europe at the Olympics. From managing logistics to communicating with our community back home, they delivered exceptional leadership and ensured our athletes—both human and equine—had what they needed to perform on the world stage. Staff will be heading back shortly to support our Paralympic athletes. Thank you all for your dedication!

The Board approved several foundational items for the upcoming **2024 AGM**, including the meeting agenda and minutes from last year. We also received and approved the FY24 **audited financial statements** from KPMG. I'm pleased to report that EC posted increased revenues of \$7.3M with a modest deficit of \$72k. Our thanks to Danielle Bowness, Director, Finance, and the Finance & Audit Committee for their steady oversight.

A major focus of this meeting was the **Operational Sustainability Action Plan**, developed by staff in response to long-standing funding realities, operational challenges, and our responsibilities as an NSO. Meg Krueger presented the guiding principles and strategic areas for the next phase of EC's evolution. Following thoughtful discussion, the Board gave its support and consent for staff to proceed. This is about building a stronger, more focused EC that can serve the community for years to come.

We also received a formal update on the **Canadian Equine Identification Program (CEIP)**—which will soon be renamed **CHIP (Canadian Horse Identification Program)**. Work is progressing toward the September public launch, including marketing and branding, partnerships with veterinarians, and alignment with USEF microchipping rules. This is a landmark initiative for equine welfare and sport integrity in Canada.

We welcomed Janis Riven, Governance Consultant, to present findings from the **Inclusion Working Group Report**, which drew on more than 3,000 data points from stakeholders. This is an incredibly rich dataset, full of insight into community expectations, barriers, and opportunities. The Board was grateful for Janis' clear recommendations, which will help inform how we work with PTSOs and modernize our systems moving forward.



On **Safe Sport**, the rising volume and complexity of complaints—especially legal costs—were reviewed. The Board received a revised DCA Policy draft and agreed to treat it as a Notice of Motion pending further review. Thanks to Rachel Hubert for leading this work.

The **Finance & Audit Committee** also presented EC's Q1 FY25 financials. Danielle Bowness reported no concerns at this time, with cash flow projections managed weekly. The impact of Safe Sport legal costs continues to be a financial pressure point, shared across the sport sector.

The **Governance & Ethics Committee** and **Nominations Committee** brought forward thoughtful discussions on **athlete representation**. With no athlete representative elected by Voting Members this cycle for the next Board year, the Board reviewed long-term solutions. Work will continue with the new Board to define athlete eligibility, consider bylaw changes, and possibly create an Athlete Advisory Committee to ensure strong sport representation.

Before we concluded, I took a moment to thank our outgoing Directors:

- **Wayne Burwash** – for your experience, wisdom, and mentorship.
- **Melanie Biron** – for your integrity, openness, and leadership on HR.
- Chris Lowe – for your athlete voice and thoughtful transparency.

You've each made an enduring impact on EC, and we are truly grateful.

With the AGM just around the corner and a new Board about to be welcomed, I remain energized by what we've accomplished—and by what's still to come.

### **Giddy up!**

Lisa Robertson, President

*On behalf of Equestrian Canada and its Board of Directors, this concludes the President's Report of the Board Meeting held August 12, 2024.*

Fostering a love of horses and sport, for life.