



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing Board Meeting held August 18, 2025

Greetings/Bienvenue!

It was a pleasure to welcome the Board back from a brief summer break and to gather for what proved to be a highly substantive and important meeting. I want to begin by extending congratulations to James Hood on his expanded role as Chief of Staff. This interim structure reflects thoughtful planning and will allow Meg Krueger to focus on high-impact strategic work—particularly fundraising and advancing Strategy 2028.

Our meeting opened with an in-depth session on Safe Sport—one of the most complex and pressing areas in Canadian sport today. We were joined by representatives from the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) and our legal counsel from Sport Law to walk us through the evolving landscape of Safe Sport policies, jurisdictional responsibilities, and how EC's own policies intersect with the broader Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP). These conversations reaffirmed that while the system continues to evolve, our organization is committed to being proactive, transparent, and grounded in strong policy foundations that serve our community with fairness, care, and accountability.

The conversation also touched on the important nuance of our sport: with animals involved, cases are often emotionally charged. Our team has made important recommendations to ensure EC continues to lead with integrity and compassion. We'll revisit this topic with dedicated time in our September Board meeting.

Meg then provided updates that speak to the strong position EC is building. We received our Sport Canada funding approval—down slightly at \$660,000 (a 4.2% reduction), but with a first-ever 4-year approval that provides stability through the quad. The strength of our application reflects years of strong Board governance, financial management, and program development, particularly in high performance. Notably, our governance score was a perfect 5/5.

We also reviewed the detailed evaluation from Sport Canada and flagged Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) as an area for improvement. This is a national priority and one we're taking seriously—aligning our Board-level work with Beyond Diversity and seeking clarification from Sport Canada to ensure our efforts and achievements are properly captured.

The Board also received an update on EC's evolving fundraising strategy, and I want to thank Meg and her team for framing it clearly: our goals are ambitious, but we believe they are achievable. We are asking the Board to continue setting the tone with personal giving, opening doors, stewarding donors, championing EC in the community, and engaging meaningfully in activities that raise visibility and



support for our programs. We'll return to this with more detail at our September meeting, including a working session on Board roles in fundraising.

We also had a forward-looking discussion with James Hood on the "Future of Sport in Canada Commission" initiative, including EC's participation in the national Commission and upcoming strategy sessions. It's critical that our sport's voice is present as Canada rethinks the future structure and funding of the sport system. I'm grateful to James and Meg for representing us at the national table and ensuring equestrian perspectives are not overlooked.

Finally, Rachel Huebert presented early-stage proposals for rule changes of national significance. These included recommendations on Safe Sport training, parental education, and equity in sport policies. I want to thank the Board for a thoughtful and measured discussion. These are complex and important conversations, and we are taking the necessary time to do this work thoroughly—with appropriate research, stakeholder input, and risk consideration.

We closed the meeting without an In Camera session and with great anticipation for our upcoming in-person meeting in Langley. I look forward to seeing everyone face to face and continuing the important work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

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 18, 2025.

Fostering a love of horses and sport, for life.