



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing the Board of Directors Meeting held February 12, 2024

Greetings/Bienvenue!

As the winter season deepens, and we start to look ahead to the promise of spring and an Olympic and Paralympic summer on the horizon, your Board of Directors gathered once again on February 12th for our first meeting of 2024. We came together remotely with a full agenda and a shared commitment to continuing the important work of Equestrian Canada.

We began the meeting with a formal Land Acknowledgement, this time presented via a moving video from the University of Saskatchewan—reminding us of our responsibility to reconciliation and respect for the lands we gather on and the communities we serve.

A central point of discussion was the evolving global dialogue around equestrian sport's social license. The FEI and World Horse Welfare recently released a powerful education video, which I shared with the Board to encourage reflection on the perception of horse sport and the steps we must take to protect our future. This is timely and important work, and I encourage everyone to engage with the content, available [here](#).

In my President's address, I also highlighted key national trends affecting our sport ecosystem, including Sport Canada funding shifts, Olympic Committee financial pressures, and our own position as we advocate for continued support. The Board reviewed insights from recent Deloitte and COC/Paralympic Committee reports. These conversations are the backbone of building a more resilient future for EC and the broader equestrian community.

On a positive note, the Inclusion Working Group has begun its important work, reflecting on how different voices are—or aren't—heard across our organization. A new outreach survey to Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations (PTSOs) is being developed, taking inspiration from a successful pilot project. We're eager to understand more deeply how our members feel and what matters most to them.

CEO Meg Krueger walked the Board through EC's Winter 2024 Management Report—now in a cleaner, more metrics-forward format. Directors were enthusiastic about the report's clarity and usability. A big thank you to Meg and the staff for their continued commitment to transparency and excellence.

Fundraising remains a top priority. Melanie McLearn presented an overview of EC's approach to corporate sponsorships, grassroots giving, and the roadmap needed to grow this area. We also heard from Director Gilles Levasseur about a creative opportunity: exploring fundraising receptions in partnership with the Embassies in Ottawa, which could be an exciting platform for awareness and fundraising.



As always, Canadian Equine Identification Program (CEIP) updates are never far from our agenda. Meg advised that a full discussion is scheduled for our March 18 meeting. Federal timelines are shifting, but the Board remains engaged and ready for a thoughtful decision-making process.

Following the staff departure, we turned to committee work. The Human Resources Committee, chaired by Melanie Biron, reported on staff progress, Board onboarding, KPIs, and an upcoming review of in-person Board meetings. Governance & Ethics Chair, John Gallinger, brought forward two updated Terms of Reference—both passed after productive discussions, including a nuanced conversation around diversity language in the Nominations Committee document.

An in-depth conversation on the use of AI transcription tools for Board meetings followed. After thoughtful debate on privacy, legal risk, and best practices, the Board unanimously agreed to discontinue AI tools for Board and Board Committee meeting minutes. They may still be used at the operational level as deemed appropriate by EC's Management Team.

Nominations Chair, Wayne Burwash, walked us through the 2024 Director Election procedures and timelines. A few next steps include finalizing the Director Application Package, sending out the Skills Matrix, and reviewing our NDA process.

On the Finance side, we approved EC's updated FY25 Budget and Sustainability Memo. The Board also adopted the EC Risk Management Framework Guidance Note, presented by Gilles and developed in collaboration with Janis Riven. We remain focused on building a strong, resilient, and future-ready organization.

That wraps another impactful meeting filled with insightful conversation and continued progress. Thank you to my fellow Directors, our exceptional staff, and all of you in the community who continue to champion equestrian sport from coast to coast.

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 February 12, 2024.

Fostering a love of horses and sport, for life.