



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Detailing Board Meeting held October 22, 2024

Greetings/Bienvenue!

The first meeting of a new Board year always brings a sense of both reflection and renewal. As we came together on October 22nd, I felt deeply encouraged by the strong leadership, institutional knowledge, and fresh perspective represented around the table.

This is a time of steady progress and growing clarity. The last quadrennial saw Equestrian Canada stabilize its foundation—from leadership and staffing to culture and financial oversight. With Strategy 2025 nearing completion, we are shifting into a new mode of strategic and quadrennial planning that aligns with the Major Games cycle, allowing us to plan with more intention and stability.

During this meeting, we also officially welcomed our new and returning Directors and confirmed our Committee Chairs for the coming year:

- **Jennifer Hodgson** – Finance & Audit Committee
- **AJ Dallaire** – Governance & Ethics Committee
- **Kelly Gravelle** – Nominating Committee
- **Lisa Robertson** – Human Resources Committee

Thank you to each of you for stepping into these roles. Your time, expertise, and commitment are what continue to move EC forward.

Safe Sport & Complaints Policy Updates

A key topic of this meeting was the approval of a revised Discipline, Complaints & Appeals (DCA) Policy, which will come into effect January 1, 2025. The new version reflects a more focused and efficient approach, narrowing the scope to EC-sanctioned events and clarifying roles and responsibilities. This brings us closer in line with other NSOs and helps us manage growing legal and operational costs. Thank you to Rachel Huebert and the team for this thoughtful revision.

2025 Fines & Penalties Schedule

The Board also approved the 2025 Schedule of Fines and Penalties, with a 5% increase. We've aligned our fee schedule with increased remittances to the FEI and updated sections relating to the Horse Welfare Code of Conduct. Transparency and communication will be key—especially for our FEI athletes facing new international cost increases.



Strengthening International Connection

We were fortunate to have Mark Samuel, FEI Vice President and Canada's representative to the FEI, join us for a discussion on Canada's global presence in equestrian sport. From officiating reform to regional game qualification criteria, Mark's updates offered a powerful reminder that Canada's voice is both respected and needed in shaping the future of international horse sport. We thank him for his time, insight, and enduring leadership.

Building Stronger Community Connections

A central theme in my President's Update was the importance of "voice" in our community. While we've made great strides in modernizing EC's governance, many stakeholders still feel unheard. We will continue working with Janis Riven, Governance Consultant and the broader community to better utilize our existing structures, ensure proper information flow, and create more touchpoints between Board Liaisons and our Voting Member Categories. Relationship-building is the foundation for trust—and we're committed to doing it well.

Management & Strategic Planning

CEO Meg Krueger provided an onboarding presentation for the Directors, highlighting EC's structure, strategic goals, committee evolution, Safe Sport onboarding, and upcoming priorities like the CEIP and quad budgeting. We discussed the importance of aligning strategy and budget cycles and were encouraged by the news that Sport Canada is considering a four-year funding intake model—an important shift for long-term sustainability.

CHIP (Canadian Horse Identification Program)

Now renamed CHIP, the program remains a significant focus. Implementation challenges with technology and suppliers have prompted a revision to the rollout plan. Staff will return to the Board on November 18th with a revised proposal. This work is central to EC's leadership in equine welfare and biosecurity, and we are taking the time to get it right.

Looking Ahead

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our new and returning Board members, and to the staff who continue to demonstrate such professionalism, integrity, and care. Our community is strong, our direction is clear, and our commitment to excellence—on and off the field of play—is unwavering.

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 October 22, 2024.

Fostering a love of horses and sport, for life.