

Date: 20 September 2017

To: Biathlon Canada

From: Murray Wylie, President

Re: PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017



Dear Directors and Members:

We have had a challenging year.

Post season we lost two incredible members of our biathlon family – Pat Bobinski and Richard Boruta. Both Pat and Richard contributed so much to the development and growth of biathlon in Canada. Richard and Pat leave impressive legacies and are sorely missed.

The highlight of this season was the gold medal performances of Megan Bankes and Leo Grandbois at the 2017 WYJCH in Bresno-Osrblie, Slovakia. These were amazing achievements by both Megan and Leo. This underscores the talent of our athletes and the dedicated mentoring by our coaches. Kudos to Megan and Leo, and our technical team!

On the World Cup circuit, Scott Gow, Christian Gow, Emma Lunder, and Julia Ransom all had career-best seasons. As you are all aware Nathan Smith missed most of this season due to health issues. Unfortunately our path to the 2018 Pyeong Chang Olympics hit a 'speed bump' when Own the Podium stripped us of our funding for this season. Notwithstanding, our Board and staff has revamped our program and plans to address the associated funding shortfall. Our national team remains focussed and determined to excel this season. Let's git'er done!

We all acknowledge the disappointment by the Prince George Local Organizing Committee when the decision – due to snow conditions and weather – was made to move the 2017 NACCH to Canmore. The Canmore team met this challenge at relatively short notice and hosted a super event. Once again thank you Prince George and Canmore!

As many are aware, our Board decided to realign our focus for coaches and officials. A Domestic Committee is in the process of being established; this Committee will provide leadership and direction for both our coaches and officials. We thank the Officials' Committee for their contribution over many years to the growth and development of biathlon. In particular, we would like to recognize Graham Lindsay's leadership and his remarkable contribution in so many areas with respect to biathlon official's and event policy development. Bravo Zulu (well done) Graham!

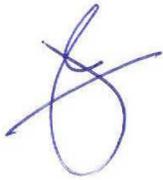
Annually at our Canadian Championships, we recognize individuals at the national, provincial, regional, Club and local level. We know there are many who provide yeoman service to our sport at these levels. Please continue to nominate individuals who go well above and beyond in supporting our fantastic sport. As a small national sport organization, all of our volunteers and staff are critically important. Without the tireless efforts of so many, biathlon in Canada would neither exist nor grow. Thank you all very, very much!

We expect to hear some news from the IBU with respect to the hosts for the 2019 World Cups in the next month or so. Given the fantastic World Cup that the Alberta Hosting Society for Biathlon hosted in February 2016, we are guarded optimistic that this will be good news for biathlon in Canada.

Communications with our biathlon family is an area that we have been trying to improve. We post considerable information through social media – Facebook and Twitter – and on our webpage. These posts are closely monitored to assess their effectiveness and ‘reach.’ We also endeavour to send regular updates to our Members. Shortly we will be relaunching a newsletter. Communications and information management is very complex – and can be very expensive – but we are trying to strike a reasonable balance with all of this.

Let’s continue to work together to meet our many challenges and build all aspects of biathlon in Canada. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Yours in sport,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Murray Wylie', written in a cursive style.

Murray Wylie
President