



TRACK AND FIELD / ROAD RUNNING / CROSS COUNTRY

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www.athleticsmanitoba.com

Athletics Manitoba AGM Office Report

2017 was a big year for Athletics Manitoba. We saw great participation numbers through all our indoor programs and followed it up with an incredible outdoor season.

We hosted the Tri Province Western Canada Challenge, Canada Summer Games and the Royal Canadian Legion Championships. Volunteers, coaches and officials all got involved in organizing these events and our whole community pulled together to present incredible competition opportunities for our athletes.

The legacy of the Canada Summer Games has been incredible and will have a lasting impression. We are still working toward finalizing the organization and storage plans for the Butler Hut, but already it has been put to great use. The photo timing booth has made life easier for many of our officials and the equipment legacy is substantial.

We have signed a new agreement with the University of Manitoba regarding facility use and shared equipment, and we also began collecting the first-round equipment levy fees. Both of which were important steps toward creating a sustainable, long term equipment management plan.

A new affiliation agreement has been signed with the Manitoba Runners' Association. With updated language to reflect our current positive working relationship.

Noelle Merkel was hired as our new Programs Manager. She has been working hard to get up to speed on our programs and events, and has been doing a great job.

We once again hired 4 summer students through the Province of MB Green Team grant program. (Clement Sackey, Janine Zajac, Gee-ef Nkwonta, Oyinko Akinola) We also hired 2 additional summer students through our Bilateral funding (Brooke-Lynn Boyd, Simon Berube). Our initial staff plan included an Office Manager however in the end none of the applicants worked out. As a result, one additional student was hired to primarily work in the office, assisting with Outreach coordination as well as summer event management (Matt VanSchepdael). This group of students has been doing a great job of reaching out to programs and offering a wide variety of clinics. This year the crew has already done an exceptional job of representing Athletics MB and there is still a lot of summer left.

We have reached out to the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Rec Council and are in the process of scheduling 2 trips to work with two different communities looking to get more involved in Athletics. Scheduling has often proven challenging in the past but this year we are placing a higher priority on making them happen and I'm confident we'll make it work. There were strong northern participation numbers at the MHSAA Provincial Championships and we are optimistic that we can continue to grow and develop participation in the North!

We have begun talks with coaching contacts in Brandon MB and we hope to organize an Athletics camp leading up to the Legion National Championships.

Jim, Doreen and the rest of the Royal Canadian Legion organizing committee have been putting a substantial amount of work to prepare for the hosting of the Championships August 11-13th.



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The facility manager in Brandon has been working to install the concrete pad around the throwing cage to make sure that it can be installed once all the new parts arrive. Once Age Class Championships have wrapped up, we will begin the process of organizing our equipment for the transfer to Brandon.

We have also been contacted by the Recreation Development Manager at the Central Plains Rec Plex in Portage la Prairie. They have reached out to a number of sports in the building and are looking to expand the programs offered at their facility. We have seen some strong athletics performances by Portage Collegiate Institute athletes this season, hopefully we will be able to assist with establishing a new program.

Shirley Allan Boudreau has returned to the office to assist in a temporary capacity. She has been phenomenally helpful, keeping our membership records and finances up to date, as well as training both Noelle and the students on a number of key functions.

This spring a competition committee was established to assist with the planning and organizing of events. So far they have assisted with the Spring Open and are playing a key role with Age Class Provincials. This has been a positive step to keep all members of the community engaged in the hosting of key events and making sure that members are being consulted on an ongoing basis. While it has certainly required some work to implement, it has already begun to relieve some of the pressure from the office in preparation for these events.

Our 2019 Western Canada Summer Games (Swift Current) coaching staff has been named, team selection criteria and standards are being developed and will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Next summer (2019) Tri Province will be held in SK.

Junior & Senior National Championships will be held in Montreal QC, in 2019 and 2020.

The next Manitoba Games are being held in Dauphin, MB in 2020.

Manitoba is also scheduled to host Tri Province in 2020.

The next North American and Indigenous Games will be held in Halifax NS, in 2020.

The next Canada Summer Games are being held in Niagara, ON in 2021.

Junior & Senior National Championship are scheduled to be held in Langley BC in 2021 and 2022.

Winnipeg (and the Manitoba Marathon) will play host to the Canadian Half Marathon Championships from 2019 through 2022.

The Canadian Marathon Championships will be held as part of the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon from 2019 through 2022.

The future of the Western Canada Summers Games is currently unknown. The BC government has pulled out of 2019 and future WCSG, with the remaining provinces/territories evaluating their ongoing participation.

BC, SK, MB and AB have all agreed to move forward with plans to organize and host a U23 Western Canadian Championships event. The intent is that this event will occur every two years and rotate between host provinces. The inaugural event is planned for 2022.

We are also in the midst of developing a new Coach mentorship program that will run parallel to the Canada Summer Games cycle. This would be an opportunity for 1 male and 1 female coach to work alongside our Provincial Team staff, complete a variety of personalized coaching tasks and professional development assignments. The goal is to provide further development opportunities for our young coaches.



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There has been a noticeable increase in Masters athletes looking to get involved in the sport. We are looking ahead to the fall and intend to run an introductory event where they can try some events and meet some training partners. This event will also serve as indoor record attempt for Lou Billinkoff.

Unfortunately, this year we have seen a reduction in some of our Sport Manitoba funding. Our base funding has seen a slight decrease and our annual Bilateral funding has been cut by 10k. We have been assured that there are different ways some of our external groups will still be able to access Bilateral funding, so we will have to do some work to establish which groups we can help directly and which we will have to redirect and encourage to apply regionally. While these are substantial challenges, we have reviewed our overall operating budgets and have begun to plan accordingly.

On the positive side, we have once again received a strong base for our Inter-Provincial Games funding, and we have already been approved for some additional funding for Officials training. We are also in the process of applying for some additional Coaching Manitoba funds.

We have already seen some outstanding performances by our athletes this outdoor season, with a strong group having already qualified for Performance Pathway funding. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the summer will bring and can't wait to celebrate some outstanding accomplishments!

Respectfully submitted by,

*Alanna Boudreau
Executive Director
June 19, 2018*