



## *TRACK AND FIELD / ROAD RUNNING / CROSS COUNTRY*

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www.athleticsmanitoba.com

### Athletics Manitoba President Report AGM 2020

As I am writing this, Manitoba has just started Phase 2 of the re-opening of our province and the start-up of many activities. Slow and steady as per the relaxing of the public health orders. But as the province's Chief Public Health Officer has continued to say "It is not a return to our previous normal"

On March 12, 2020, the professional sports world went dark due to a virus, now referred to as COVID19. In the days and weeks that followed, amateur sports and access to training facilities was suspended at all levels due to public health orders and the provincial state of emergency. In that time we have learned many new terms like CEWS and CERB, have conducted meetings virtually and become more proficient with ZOOM and Skype by necessity. Most people except essential workers were sent home to work, some were also home schooling their children and we were all told to stay in, at home as much as possible. This is upset most peoples routines. Athletes especially have routines and suddenly they are told to stay home and there were no training facilities available except being outside (and it was not a warm spring).

The business of Athletics Manitoba (AM) has continued amid COVID19. The first few weeks of the pandemic was consumed with gathering financial information and working with Sport Manitoba to determine if AM qualified for any federal financial programs. Ultimately, we did qualify for the CEWS program which will assist the long term financial picture for AM. The office staff have continued to keep in touch with coaches and the membership as well as sport partners such as Sport Manitoba and Athletics Canada. The latest project and energy has been at the Athletics Canada (AC) table for a governance paper on "Return to Play" and submitting AM's proposal to the province for approval.

I have been able to participate in the weekly Sport Partner Zoom meetings with Sport Manitoba during this pandemic. This has been worthwhile use of time to solidify my knowledge of the workings of SM and its relationship with its sport partners.

The regular monthly AC Branch Council conference call meetings have continued. The AC AGM will take place virtually June 26 and 27, 2020.

As much as there have been stresses and unknowns, the leadership by Alanna and support of the office staff has been exceptional. Alanna has kept the Board informed of potential issues and sought guidance where needed. We have not had to lay off any staff and the staff have developed new programs such as the Virtual Competition program. The staff have and will have the opportunity to put energy and time to projects that never seem to have time in the schedule. We look forward to the having summer students funded by the Green Team program.

There was Athletics and Board activities before COVID19 and we look forward to functioning in the new normal. It will take some time and patience and ongoing creativity.

I was able to attend the SAGM in Saint John, New Brunswick in November, 2020. The majority of the meeting was organized to inform the AC Strategic Plan for the next few years. I encourage all members of AM to view both the AM and AC websites periodically.



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The Board approved the formation of 3 new board committees to increase board engagement. These are the Awards, Governance and a Masters Competition Committee. There are two other board committees, the Equipment Committee which has been in place and now formally set as committee of the Board. And the Officials Committee, which has been in place for 4 years now.

We look forward to 2021 as the sport world resumes, including Athletics. The Manitoba Summer Games and Canada Summer Games have been rescheduled to summer 2021. The Olympic Trials and national championships will be held in June 2021.

I would like to thank the Board members who bring their passion and support for Athletics to every meeting. I appreciate their response when volunteers are needed for a variety of reasons.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the outgoing board members Jared Kist and Jeff Vince. Jeff has been a board member on AM for 10 years and we will miss his advocacy for Sport for Life and road running. Jared has been on the board 4 years and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Wishing you a COVID careful summer and look forward to seeing everyone when we can!

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathy Kelly  
President  
June 6, 2020