



TRACK AND FIELD / ROAD RUNNING / CROSS COUNTRY

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www.athleticsmanitoba.com

President's Report

Athletics Manitoba Annual General Meeting

June 15, 2021

Here we go again, another year with the Athletics Manitoba AGM held virtually. As much as it would be great to meet in person, we bound by provincial restrictions. As I write this, the public health restrictions remain tight. No group gatherings. Socialize with only members of your household and only go out for essentials. Vaccine uptake is occurring but the strain on the Manitoba health care system is ongoing.

Over the last 16 months, Athletics Manitoba has continued to operate and adapt to the changing restrictions to support athletes and coaches and develop programming to meet the needs of our athletes based on the public health restrictions. We were able to have a few cross country events and some meets at the Selkirk track last summer, but since then no formal competitions have occurred due to provincial public health restrictions. There have been many hours spent by Alanna and Michael to develop scenarios for competition and offer a safe environment for athletes, coaches and officials. Time will tell if an outdoor season will occur not only due the public health restrictions but access to a venue. University of Manitoba controls the access to both the outdoor and indoor track facilities for training and competition. 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.

As President, I have been a part of provincial activities which include attending or reading the summaries provided by Sport Manitoba Partner calls held bi-weekly. Sport Manitoba has continued to provide direction and support to provincial sports organization during the last 16 months as each sport continues to navigate the impact of the public health restrictions. As well, SM will continue to look to the future for sport recovery from the impact on sport due to the pandemic. Congratulations to Janet McMahon who was the named the President and Chief Operating Officer for Sport Manitoba in May, 2021.

Staff and Board members attended two sessions with two sport partners, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council (MASRC) and the Winnipeg Newcomer Sport Academy.

Athletics Manitoba welcomed a new Program Director – Michael Kananoja as a new Program Director. And there was short but lovely virtual send off for Noelle Merkel who moved onto another position. Board meetings have continued in virtual format bi-monthly. Athletics Manitoba and Manitoba Runners Association have a renewed Affiliation Agreement as of April 1, 2021 for three years. After the AGM, the Board welcomed several former board members and a new board director, Greg Athayde. Several committees have been formed and are moving forward with their work. These include the Governance Committee, Equipment Committee, the Athletes Council, the Officials Committee and the Masters Committee. All committees work with an approved Terms of Reference.

The Athletics Canada (AC) Branch Council conference call meetings have continued which generally are attended by both Alanna and myself. The AC Semi-Annual meeting was attended virtually by Alanna and myself on December 4, 2020. The AC AGM took place virtually May 27 and 28, 2021. The AC Board elected a new Chair of the Board, Helen Manning. Bill MacMackin will stay on the AC Board as past Chair to ensure a smooth transition. After receiving approval from Provincial and Municipal Health Authorities in Quebec, AC is able to



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move forward with a modified 2021 Olympic and Paralympic Trials in Montreal from June 24 to 27, 2021 with strict public health protocols in place.

My thanks to the Board members who have been supportive of staff and myself through all changes over the past 16 months. It is a privilege to work with such a committed group of individuals. I want to thank the board members exiting the board for their service and commitment to the sport. Specifically, I want to thank Grant Mitchell, who is exiting the Athletics Manitoba Board after many years of service in multiple board positions. We will miss his guidance, steady demeanor, as well as his sense of humour and sports trivia knowledge, especially in Track and Field.

I look forward to serving on the Board again for another term. I also look forward to working with all AM stakeholders (staff, board members, the membership of AM, provincial and national partners) as we move forward in the next few months of 2021 and 2022, as the public health restrictions are lifted, to ensure programming for our sport and continue the work to ensure recovery and growth of Athletics in Manitoba.

Stay safe and stay well!

Kathy Kelly

President, Athletics Manitoba