

B.C. ATHLETICS A.G.M. 2008

ATHLETICS CANADA REPORT

2007 was an important year for Athletics Canada in three respects.

Firstly, our CEO, Joanne Mortimore, was able to announce at the AGM that the deficit had finally been eliminated. Having been able to achieve this, in spite of the reduction in funding from Sport Canada, removes an operational shackle from the Association which has hampered its ability to best utilize its non-dedicated funding.

Secondly, for the first time in its history, Athletics Canada was able to mount a fully integrated Senior National Championships in Windsor, bringing together able-bodied and para-athletes for a four day festival of the very best in our sport. It was especially good to see finals for both sets of athletes featured on the CBC TV broadcast from those Championships.

Thirdly, within the new COC/Sport Canada established basis for future funding of our programs, were we able to meet the targets set for and with our athletes of gaining two podium finishes at the World Championships in Osaka - the silver medals gained by Perdita Felicien and, most spectacularly, by Gary Reed.

At the same time, our teams at the Pan-American and Para-Pan American Games also exceeded their target aspirations. This was particularly important for the para-athletes since, lacking any other IPC specific international competition, concerns have been expressed by the Road To Excellence (RTE) program about our lowered expectations for podium placements at the Beijing Paralympic Games. However, this is primarily due to the fact that many of the events in which Canada gained medals in the Paralympic Games in Athens are no longer included in the 2008 event.

The results from the World Youth Championships in the Czech Republic were also encouraging, with a medal in the Girls relay and a whole raft of PBs being recorded – a good indication that our young athletes really responded when given their opportunity to compete at the world level.

There were other changes during the year in the way that Athletics Canada does business. One example was the changing of the format of the AGM. The first full day is now given over to a Governance Congress, which allows for much fuller discussion of areas and items which Branches would like to see examined, outside of the restraints of formal motions, etc. The AGM is then able to be handled in a more business-like fashion on the morning of the second day. One thing we learned in the process this year was that certain items debated on the first day need to be carried forward, if necessary, as formal motions to the AGM itself.

2.

One of the areas looked at, but not carried forward to the AGM, dealt with the question of the level of fees paid by Branches to Athletics Canada as the National Federation. It was proposed that these should be increased, with the revenues from the increase helping the Association to provide more assistance to offset the self-funding required of a number of our national teams. This matter will be reviewed again at the 2008 AGM.

Also at the AGM, significant changes were made to the presentation of our Annual Awards. To deal with expressed concerns, a questionnaire was posted on the AC website, inviting members to give their opinions about the Awards system and asking for suggestions on possible ways to improve it. Based upon the plentiful feedback, some previous categories were integrated into one, some new ones were created (most significantly, that of recognizing the Outstanding Coach of the Year) and some of the trophies were re-designated in line with the new Awards structure.

The end results, which included a new criterion for the Canadian University Athlete award based upon the suggestion made at the BC Athletics AGM last year, seem to have been very positive, and the Awards Banquet, held in conjunction with the Technical Congress in Toronto, proved to be most successful. Plans are being considered to make this event even more significant next year.

One other very welcome outcome was that which arose out of the call for candidates for the two seats on the Board of Directors. In the election process which followed, Tom Hastie was successful in joining me on the Board, along with Albert Tschirhart from Ontario. Tom was then later designated to take over the position of Chair of the Masters Committee, an assignment which he is pursuing with his usual energy and enthusiasm.

2008, as an Olympic and Paralympic Games year, will bring many challenges to the Association. In my report next year, I anticipate being able to detail both our successes in Beijing and our plans for moving forward towards London in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Danny Daniels,
Vice Chair, Athletics Canada.