

BCA Chair Report

2009 BC Athletics Annual General Meeting

Looking Forward

For me personally, the position of chair over the past two years has been a stimulating and interesting experience. I have had the opportunity to listen, consult and learn from the best people in our sport from athletes, coaches, officials, and staff to people in other agencies that influence how we manage our sport. I have endeavored, with the support the Board, CEO and Staff to move the organization forward and improve the services we offer to both our high performance and recreational athletes.

The sport and the association continue to evolve and improve. The goal is to provide the best possible training and support for our athletes and members. We are doing it with the Run, Jump Throw program, the Long Term Athlete Development Model, and the upgrading of our coaching certification programs just to mention a few examples. We have lots of challenges and opportunities ahead that will put us to the test. In particular, funding is going to be an issue given the world economic turmoil. There is no doubt in my mind that the association has the strength to meet, deal and excel even in this tough economic environment. We have the people and organizational foundation that will enable us to provide leadership not only within our sport but within the sport community.

One of my goals this year was to attend on behalf of the Board as many events and functions as possible. It is important as a Board that we not only oversee the affairs of the association but that we are available to meet people, hear their ideas and see what we do well and what we to improve or change. This year I was able to participate on behalf of the association in a number of Track & Field and Road Running events, and other sport related education/information sessions and functions which I have detailed on page 3 of my report.

People and clubs are at the core of our success. We have built a strong foundation of volunteers, high caliber coaching, strong officiating, knowledgeable and dedicated staff. It provides both the recreational and high performance athletes with the opportunity to excel to the maximum of their abilities. As a result we have produced some of the best athletes in Canada, some of whom have excelled on the world stage.

This foundation provides us with the ability to grow as an organization and provide more value to the communities we live in. One of the major challenges we will have is the aging Canadian population. It will be important that we look strategically at how we are going to replace the many of us who are in that "55+" age category. We will need to actively recruit new people into the sport to fill positions throughout the organization.

To assist us in moving forward, the strategic plan has been reviewed and updated. The committee charged with developing the strategic plan has done a wonderful job of consulting with people in all areas of the organization and then working with a facilitator to create a plan that meets the needs of

British Columbia but ties very well with the revised and updated Athletics Canada strategic plan. The plan will be presented at this AGM and the Board and Staff are positioned to implement it in the New Year.

Looking to the future we will need to adapt and find innovative ways to provide added value to the services we provide our athletes. There is a challenging dynamic occurring between our federal and provincial governments. In general terms, the federal government is looking for podium results while the provincial government is promoting healthy living.

As a sport we are well positioned in this province to provide the necessary services to support both of these directions and have been moving forward to meet these needs. Some view these as competing alternatives, but one actually feeds the other. The more of the general population of all ages that we can attract to the sport as part of the healthy living initiatives, the larger the pool of athletes we have available to discover high performance athletes.

Currently we generate at least 60 to 70 percent of our funding from government. These grants most often come with strings attached which target where we may spend the funds. In the case of the Core Grant, which is one of our most significant sources of funds, we are compared to other sports based on a number of criteria. How we measure up determines the amount of funding we receive. Most of the grants we receive are targeted towards very specific goals which limits the flexibility we have in expending those funds. That said, staff under Brian's Leadership has not only attracted a lot of money through this medium but has ensured we have worked within the donors criteria in a way that has benefited our sport. It will be important over the next few years to find other sources of funds to lessen our dependency on government funding.

I have enjoyed the past two years as Chair and I will be putting my name forward to be Chair of the Board for the next two year term. I feel that there are still lots of opportunities for the sport that I would like to help shape with the support of the membership. I encourage our members to consider putting their names forward for the Board. We need to ensure we have strong leadership that will build on our organizational strengths. We will need to review our governance model during the next year to see where we can improve our operation as a Board and assist in the implementation of the strategic plan.

I would like to thank the Board, Staff and Membership for their support during my term. Unfortunately, I will miss this year's AGM as Anne and I have decided to take an extended holiday in South East Asia that we have long promised ourselves. We will be doing a plane, train, bus tour in Vietnam, seeing my son and family in Australia, and doing a camper van tour in New Zealand. Enjoy the AGM. I hope you will find the new AGM/Congress format of added value.

Best wishes to all for a great year ahead.

Larry Harper

Chair, BC Athletics

Board Involvement

As noted previously it is important, in my mind that the Chair of the Board and Directors constantly reach out and be visible both within and outside the organization. Your Board has been actively involved directly and indirectly in many ways in promoting the sport and being visible within the sport. I have listed below some of the activities I have been personally involved with over the past year. In many of these activities other Board members have been present as well as being involved in many other activities that they can share with you.

Events

- Canadian Junior Track & Field Championships at the Jane and Jerry Swan Track, Abbotsford
- 2008 Vancouver Sun Harry Jerome International Track Classic at Swangard Stadium, Burnaby
- Canadian Trials for Track and Field at University of Windsor, Windsor
- 2008 Provincial Cross Country Championships at Stanly Park, Vancouver
- Vancouver Sun Run

Projects

- BCA Strategic Planning Committee
- AC Membership Fees Review and Recommendation Sub-committee
- Invited to participate in the one of AC's Planning Committee Meeting to review AC Memorandum of Understanding agreement structure and proposal

Educational Sessions

- The Not-for-Profit Governance 2 day Workshop on how to improve the functioning of the Board of Directors in non-profit organizations
- Vancouver Board of Trade – Tough Talk for Tender Causes – a seminar on how “Not for Profits” can utilize the latest Internet tools to reach their membership
- Membership Breakthroughs – how to improve service to the membership of your organization
- Core Grant Funding Filters Workshop – A review by Sport BC on how the government funding models & filters work
- Sport BC Welcome Back Luncheon and Presentations on Sport BC Strategic Plan and Communications Plan
- Sport BC – Sports Sector Meetings
- Sport BC – 2010 for 2020 Vision for Sport and Healthy Living Functions
- Athletics Canada AGM
- Athletics Canada 2008 Annual Congress
- Valley Royals Track & Field Clubs 2008 Annual Awards Banquet
- Junior Development Annual Awards Banquet
- 2008 Premiers Athletic Award Presentation and Luncheon
- Sport BC – Presidents' Awards Presentation
- BC Sports Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees Evening of Celebration
- 42nd Annual Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards Banquet

- Sport Campus BC Grand Opening Ceremony
- Canadian Ismaili Games 2008 Celebration Night
- Vancouver Marathon VIP Reception