

A change in the membership of the Board of Directors became necessary when Bruny Surin, who had been elected at the A.G.M in Moncton, resigned to concentrate on the affairs of Athletisme Quebec following the departure, due to ill-health, of long-time Executive Director, Jean-Paul Baert. Candice Jones, a former Director, was appointed to fill the remaining year of Bruny's term.

Later, when Director of Finance, Diane Gagne, resigned to move up to the C.F.O. position with another National Sports Federation, C.E.O. Rob Guy came up with an innovative way to replace her.

He negotiated an arrangement with Swim Canada, located down the hall from our National Office, whereby their Director of Finance, Larry Clough, would now split his time between the two organizations on a cost-share basis, thus providing both sports with excellent financial management while reducing expenditures.

Rob has also encouraged other closer working relationships with Branches to enhance the concept of 'Athletics In Canada', including the participation of Branch representatives in the annual meeting of the Planning Committee to further the work towards an integrated Strategic Plan for all of Athletics Canada.

Most recently, the Board has undertaken a review process to look at the structure and operations of a number of the Athletics Canada Committees – a task which is being carried out by an ad hoc Committee in collaboration with the Branch Presidents' Council. Concerns had been raised about both the effectiveness of certain Committees and the nature of the communication between them and the membership. Recommendations are being considered which would see significantly more active participation in the work of these Committees by designated Branch representatives.

An important new initiative was launched at the National Championships in Calgary. Although most of our outstanding athletes have been inducted into various Canadian Halls of Fame, Athletics Canada has never had one of its own to recognize the achievements of those who have made our sport so significant, nationally and internationally.

That has now been rectified and, in Calgary, an impressive group of those who have contributed to the glory of our sport were inducted into the Athletics Canada Hall of Fame. In the Builder category, our own Diane and Doug Clement were honoured for their long-time involvement, both as Olympic athletes and for the work they have done over the last few decades to promote the growth of the sport and the development of Canada's athletes, especially through the Harry Jerome International Classic and the Vancouver Sun Run.

B.C.'s Debbie Brill and Greg Joy joined with Donovan Bailey, Mark McCoy and Bill Crothers in the Athletes category, while Percy Williams, Ethel Catherwood and Paralympian Andre Viger were honoured "In Memoriam". Gerard Mach was the first inductee in the Coach category.

Another very recent initiative has seen the re-introduction of the Run Canada Week. Scheduled for the week of April 9-15, it will seek to embrace a number of both new and established road running events across the country, emphasizing the importance and value of road running within the Athletics family, and encouraging schools to focus on cumulative distance running as a means of building a healthy lifestyle.

Internationally, our younger teams have had a busy and successful year. In the NACAC cross-country event, both the Junior Girls and Junior Boys won the gold in the team competition, while individually taking the silver and bronze in the girl's race and sweeping the podium in the boy's race. The World Youth Championships in France saw Canada winning two silver medals and one bronze, equaling our best showing in this competition. At the Pan Am Juniors, five B.C. athletes were among those who helped our team amass 14 medals in all, six being silver and eight bronze, while on the Isle of Man, another 8 medals – three silver and five bronze – were won in the Commonwealth Youth Games.

At the IPC World Championships in New Zealand in February, the total of 12 Canadian medals were evenly split between 4 gold (of which 3 were won by Mikey Stilwell of Nanoose Bay), 4 silver and 4 bronze, one of which was brought home by Braedon Dolfo.

On the Senior level, both men's and women's teams at the NACAC cross-country event won silver medals, while at the just completed Pan American Games three of the four medals were won by B.C. athletes – Malindi Elmore securing a bronze, Sultana Frizell a silver and, adding to his silver medal at the World Championships in Daegu and his Diamond Trophy on the European circuit, Dylan Armstrong finished his most successful season with the gold medal and a new Games record.

For London next year, we have predicted that our athletes will have three podium finishes. It will take the utmost in terms of preparation, dedication and competitive readiness on the part of our athletes and coaches to meet this target but there is an sense of confidence throughout the entire structure that this is possible. They will certainly require, and will have, our full support.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Daniels,
Vice Chair, Athletics Canada.