

Randy Longmuir

## Strategic Plan Activities

- Competition – Competitions

The 2015 track and field and cross-country seasons were very successful. Meets, in general, were well attended, and excellent competition took place throughout the year. BC Athletics athletes performed very well at the Youth Legion Championship, with 23 individual and 1 relay medal in the Under 16 age group and 21 individual and 2 relay medals in the Under 18 category. Junior athletes, with 13 medals, and Senior athletes with 21 individual and 1 relay medal competed strongly at the combined Canadian Junior and Senior Championships. The Western Canada Summer Games yielded 35 individual and 4 relay medals to end the track and field season. At the time of writing this report, BC will be fielding a strong contingent at the Canadian Cross Country Championships in Kingston. Many BC athletes were selected to represent Canada at all levels of competition, with Ben Thorne, walking with the world's best to place third at the World Championships, and Christabel Netley jumping to an outstanding 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

- Competition – Facilities

New track and field facilities opened in Victoria and Vernon this year, adding to the 58 current track and field venues in BC, and many facilities received significant upgrades. A new facility has been approved for Vancouver in 2017, and two new facilities are in the planning/funding stage for the Victoria area.

- Athlete Development – Schools/Recruitment and Retention

BC Athletics has been working with BC School Sports in an effort to ensure a high level of competition and officiating at all events. BC Athletics is continuing to explore ways to increase student participation at BC Athletics events. Given Maurice Wilson's analysis of BC Athletics members at the recent BC High School Cross Country which showed 59.5% of the top finishers being current BC Athletics members, it appears that we have much room to continue to grow by working closely with BC School Sports.

- Athlete Development – Training & Competition

The Calendar Congress has attempted to ensure that appropriate competitive opportunities are available to our members. The Team Selection and AAP requirements were reviewed over the year by the Track and Field Committee, and some modifications were made to the criteria.

An excellent Youth Endurance Conference, organized and hosted by Bruce Deacon, and supported by BC Athletics, was held in Victoria on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A session with Cam Levins started the conference,

and the 50+ athletes (primarily aged 15-18) from across the province had a combined workout on Saturday, followed by a question and answer panel composed of ex-Olympic athletes Robin Meagher, Simon Hoegewerf, and Heather Hennigar, as well as current National 1500m champion, Thomas Riva. Sessions on nutrition and wellness culminated the outstanding conference. It is hoped that this successful format can be used as a template for other disciplines and venues.

- Coach Recruitment

Coach recruitment continues to be a major difficulty for most clubs, especially in many rural communities, who see a large exodus of former athletes settling in larger communities after university. Enhanced access to NCCP training has been helpful in training new coaches, but the “lifespan” of most new coaches mirrors their children’s participation in track and field.

- Competition – Officials

BC Officials should be thanked for their incredible efforts over the course of the year. Many of the same dedicated and long-serving officials could be seen at all of the meets that I attended/watched. They consistently provided excellent officiating and did so with enthusiasm and a “professional” approach.