

President's Report

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming to the AGM and for supporting your club.

I will briefly go over some of the Board's activities this year.

Ben has briefed you on the operational matters and I will try to keep my remarks focused on policies and major initiatives of the Board.

This is our third year operating as a policy governance board and though we are still working out some of the kinks, it has been a great success. There are now much clearer lines between the Board's responsibilities and management responsibilities. It has allowed our Board to stay focused on the major issues and policies while management takes care of the day-to-day.

Our key initiatives as a board stem from our strategic plan, which we recently extended for two years until 2025. We found that most of the objectives were still relevant and some had not been advanced because of the hiatus during the pandemic.

The Board's focus is on 5 major issues identified in the strategic plan:

- incorporating inclusion, diversity and reconciliation in our programs, activities and policies,
- obtaining more secure forms of land tenure,
- reducing our impact on and adapting to climate change
- preparing the club to host major events such as Arctic Winter Games and Nationals
- developing and enhancing our relationships with funders, partners and stakeholders.

READI Committee

Our sub-committee on reconciliation, equity, accessibility, diversity and inclusion (READI) has been working hard to support staff in advancing these goals. Staff has responded by making skiing more accessible to those with lower incomes, skiers with disabilities, new skiers, new Canadians and First skiers from Yukon First Nations. For example, this year, all participants in Kwanlin Koyotes and Ta'an Kwach'an Council youth programs will receive a season's pass. The Kwanlin Koyotes hut was incorporated into our hut-to-hut event.

The new club interior, once built, will update washrooms and showers to new, individual, non-gendered spaces, which are now standard in new public buildings. The club is working on race formats that allow registration and results for a non-gendered category, in addition to male and female categories. Work is underway to further these goals in the coming year.

These are just a few examples of what is being done to make the ski club more welcoming to all. You will hear more in the Manager's Report from Ben about all the new programming initiatives that took place this past year that are aligned with our goals of making cross country skiing a low barrier sport that all in our community can access and enjoy.

Land Tenure

Our sub-committee on land tenure has been working with ATCO, the Yukon Government and the City on ensuring that the lands under our trails, most of which are owned by Yukon Government, remain available for skiing. Some of our trails are on lands that are in private hands (such as the ATCO lands under the Pierre Harvey loop). Almost all of our trails are underlain by mineral claims staked in 2008. We have expressed our concern to the Yukon government and to the City about the impacts that mineral exploration and development could have on our trails and we have let governments know that we support greater protection. We seek to replace our existing license of occupation with a lease, we are exploring long-term protection for ATCO lands with ATCO and the City and we would welcome enhanced protections that could be provided by formally establishing McIntyre Creek Regional Park.

Climate Change

Our sub-committee on climate change mitigation and adaptation was established but has not advanced as quickly as we had hoped. Its focus continues to be on developing an inventory of our emissions and identifying the most effective options for mitigating our impact on the climate. It also aims to identify the greatest risks we face and how we might be able to adapt our programs and operations to meet the challenge posed by climate change. Despite the slower than expected pace, climate change is considered in our operations: our new PB is much more fuel-efficient than the old one, our budgeting process now clearly accounts for the purchase and consumption of fossil fuels and this year, we will be making an inventory of the energy needed to heat our outbuildings. When the Chalet is renovated, the main space we occupy will become much more energy efficient. Our staff has worked with the City to allow skis to be transported on public transit and to increase the availability of secure bike racks outside the Chalet. On the environmental front, beyond climate change, our policies now ban fluorinated wax and the club has promoted a fluoro wax collection program.

Preparing to Host Major Events

A major events sub-committee with representation from Cross Country Yukon aims to prepare the club to host major events such as Arctic Winter Games and the National Championships. As part of this work, the sub-committee informally expressed the club's interest in hosting the 2026 Nationals to Nordiq Canada. This preceded the announcement that Whitehorse will host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games however. We may need to re-set the target year to ensure we are not overwhelmed by hosting two major events in a single year. The club funded timing equipment, services and training to assist in holding races and club members were recruited to provide volunteer support for races. Joint work will continue with CCY this year toward training officials, volunteer recruitment and equipment purchases like new V-boards.

Developing and Enhancing Our Relationships with Funders, Partners and Stakeholders

We were successful in obtaining approximately \$140,000 from Lotteries Yukon this year to support the purchase of our new Pisten Bully groomer. However, our request to the Community Development Fund was not approved, meaning that the club had to fund some of the PB purchase from its reserves. The Board will follow-up with funders, including Yukon government Ministers, to highlight the key role played

by our club in providing a venue for low-barrier, affordable winter recreation and active living for thousands of City residents.

We have also taken the initiative to begin a functional planning program for our stadium and outbuildings. Updating and consolidating the outbuildings situated in the stadium and near the Chalet (such as PB storage shed and the stadium outbuildings) has long been on the City's "to-do" list, but continually falls to the bottom of that list. With support received from CDF, we will hire a contractor to develop a functional plan that can be used in making funding requests to various levels of government. This is how Mount Sima was successful in obtaining a \$5M contribution directly from Yukon government to upgrade its snowmaking and how biathlon was able to obtain \$2M directly from Yukon government for its planned projects. We hope to follow in their footsteps.

The functional plan would aim to improve, expand and make our storage buildings more energy efficient, improve facilities for holding races in the stadium, improve access to facilities to run ski programs and activities, provide the infrastructure necessary for energy efficient snowmaking and improve year-round use of the stadium by other groups. We will be inviting the City, CCY, Kwanlin Dun, TKC and others to advise the consultant in developing the functional plan.

We also contributed to Cross Country Yukon's strategic planning, including by distributing their strategic plan for input by all club members. We are beginning to work with them on how they, as the sport governing body for cross country skiing in Yukon, can further support the club in its programming, activities and priorities and how the club can contribute to CCY's strategic goals. We encouraged CCY to extend its reach to affiliate clubs and to seek affiliation from clubs in other communities. This year, CCY's board includes representatives nominated by the club and two representatives nominated by the Kwanlin Koyotes. Through this involvement, we hope to strengthen our relationship with CCY, the Kwanlin Koyotes and Marsh Lake, the CCY's other affiliated club.

Finally, to support our members who are also members of Biathlon Yukon and who wish to train on skis while carrying a rifle, a sub-committee of the board supported staff in developing a new policy and procedure that can ensure this occurs safely. In the early season, biathletes will now be able to train on snow in the stadium area while wearing their rifles, under supervision of biathlon coaches.

In closing, I extend my thanks to all Board members, and, on behalf the board, I thank our fantastic staff our many volunteers, our 2200 members, our sponsors and our partners for another great year.