



## Aiming for Excellence

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Dear Biathlon Alberta members,

The 2020-21 season was a season that will stay in all our memories. Less than two weeks before our 2020-21 Calforex Cup season was supposed to kick off stricter COVID-19 restrictions ended our planning for this and all the other race weekends that were supposed to follow.

The winter months, usually a time of connecting with the biathlon community became the time where one of my key tasks was to educate and lobby for our sport with the goal that the clubs were able to continue their outdoor training while many other sports had to stop their operations for months at a time. I am very impressed with the work that our Alberta clubs have done during this difficult year to keep their members engaged in our sport and motivated for the races that will return. I had countless conversations with our members throughout the year that showed me what a resilient and fantastic community we have.

Throughout this time our working relationship with the other nordic sports became closer and I am especially happy that Nordiq Alberta and Biathlon Alberta build a good working-relationship that allows us to publish shared communication pieces and coordinate our race calendars. These initiatives are in the best interest of our members and I am looking forward to growing these relationships in the future.

Over the summer we started engaging with programs like Spirit North and different para-sport programs in the province to work towards the goal of making our sport more inclusive and accessible for everyone. This will be a learning process and something that will have to grow over time but the first steps are made and I am looking forward to the next steps throughout the winter.

The planning for the 2021-22 season is in full swing and I am hopeful that we will be able to host biathlon events in Alberta. It might not yet be what we would all consider "normal" but I think that we can all agree that races with some restrictions will be much better than no races at all!

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their work during the 2020-21 season and I am looking forward to continuing this work with the elected Board of Directors for the 2021-22 season and beyond. I would also like to thank all coaches, officials, volunteers, athletes and parents for their ongoing efforts to promote and grow our sport in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Elmar Heger, General Manger- Biathlon Alberta

