



Aiming for Excellence

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President's Report

As I sat to write this update, I did my usual look back at what did we say we were going to do and did we actually accomplish any of that? We did, and that's great but I felt that's also a little bit boring! Crazy right!? But then I thought wow, we actually did do all that we set out to do and then some – only because we have an incredibly passionate and dedicated group of volunteers that sit with me on the board and within the biathlon family at large that get \$#it done! We also have of course the best General Manager and BATC staff in the country!

So, I dedicate this report to all of my fellow board members and staff who make my “job” incredibly easy. These folks are like you, they all have families, jobs, and generally lead very busy lives. With that, here's a little insight into who they are.

Biathlon Alberta Board of Directors

Sherry Thompson – Treasurer

Sherry has been actively involved in either cross country skiing or biathlon since, well, forever. She has fulfilled essentially every volunteer position that has ever existed and possess the qualifications to be a TD (Technical Delegate) in biathlon. Sherry splits her time between Calgary and Canmore and despite announcing her intentions to retire two (?) years ago, she is still ensuring our financials are in tip top shape. Her institutional knowledge has been instrumental to us other relative newbies in the sport. Because of Sherry's financial stewardship, Biathlon Alberta is the envy of our fellow Nordic sport PSO's, owing to our wealth of managed assets and favorable balance sheet position.

Jason Nishiyama – Vice President, Technical

Jason is a teacher based in Calgary and also has the qualifications to be a TD in biathlon. Like many folks in biathlon, Jason came into the sport through the cadets program. Jason too has been involved as a senior official in provincial, national and international biathlon events for many, many years. He ensures our technical policies remain current with IBU standards and with degrees in Astrophysics and Astronomy he is certainly one of our brightest shooting stars ... sorry, I couldn't help myself.



Ntala Quintilio – Vice President, Administration

Ntala picks up the reins when other duties call me away – quite literally. Living at the Crazy Mare Ranch just Northwest of Edmonton, she and Kevin not only maintain a farm with livestock and a massive garden, they also train a group of local athletes on kilometers of home-groomed trails and their own personal range!! To say these two are busy is an understatement. Ntala's career and experience in professional biathlon (98' Nagano Olympics – hello!!) bring an incredibly valuable perspective to the board. If you want to get hold of Ntala, you best ring her before 5:30am or you'll never catch up in the day.

Rachel Koroscil – Director, Coaching Development

Rachel is the Biathlon Program Manager for Canmore Nordic. Like others on the board, she seems to possess limitless energy and passion for the sport of biathlon. Rachel hails from Manitoba where she first started in the sport and earned degrees in Physical Education (2013) and Education (2015). Rachel brings a coaching and athlete first perspective to the board and is often spearheading updates to our many sport governing policies. She has been a strong advocate for the implementation of the Ecoaim Camera based rifles in biathlon and instrumental in getting this new category formalized and started in Alberta.

Philippe Gauthier – Director, Officials' Development

Like Jason Nishiyama, Philippe is a details guy. He always brings a healthy dose of skepticism and critical thinking to meetings. Born in Quebec, Philippe and his family called Alberta home for many years where we met in the Foothills biathlon program. Unlike me, Philippe is a very proficient skier and probably should have raced in the now popular Masters category! Philippe has done great work to clean up our roster of trained and certified officials in Alberta. Interestingly, we did see a dip in certified officials owing to the disruption caused by COVID-19 the past two seasons and look forward to reigniting that interest and getting new folks trained to be officials at biathlon events since Canmore will once again be home to an IBU Cup event in February 2023 and an IBU World Cup event in 2024!

Robin Hengel – Director, Athlete Development



Robin is one of the newest members of the board and lives in Hinton. Like most others on the board, Robin wears many hats and works tirelessly with a group of Hinton volunteers that have seen that program grow tremendously over the past few years. Hinton was one of the ranges that benefited from a government CIP grant (thank you Liz Baker!) which provided them funding for a much-needed upgrade to their range and target facilities. With that upgrade, they have been actively applying to bring events such as Biathlon Canada Nationals to Hinton! Robin works with others on athlete development initiatives which has resulted in better collaboration provincially and inter-provincially to bring high performance camp opportunities to northern Alberta. Interesting story (To Be Confirmed), Robin may or may not have left a vehicle occupant behind (which may or may not have been his son) at a pit stop at Tangle Falls on the Icefields Parkway on his way to a biathlon event in Canmore!?! Urban Myth? Another version of the story has the vehicle occupant abandoning the chauffeur!?! The truth is out there ...

Holly Bird – Director, Public Relations and Marketing

Holly oversees our external communications efforts and outreach. She has an extensive background in international sport marketing and communications. She took the “downtime” in the 20/21 season as an opportunity to create a new website for Biathlon Alberta which was long overdue for a tune-up. She has also helped spice up our BATC promotional materials and will spend a considerable amount of time in the next season improving our financial support outreach materials.

Jason Acker - Director at Large

Don't let the title fool you – Jason punches well above his weight with his contributions to the board. Another one of these types that gets 30 hours of work done in a 24-hour day. Jason is involved in other PSO's and is a Professor & Scientist, Transfusion Medicine and Cryopreservation out of the UofA in Edmonton. So yeah – that. A critical thinker whose background was instrumental in Biathlon Alberta's crafting of a hosting policy over the past two seasons that permitted us to get back to the sport we love in a safe and responsible manner. Jason will also lead the implementation of our Safe Sport Policy this season.

Biathlon Alberta Staff



Matthias Ahrens – Head Coach, Biathlon Alberta Training Centre

I'm not sure I need to describe Matthias – he is essentially synonymous with biathlon in Canada. Matthias was formerly the Head Coach of Biathlon Canada and has spent his entire career coaching at the highest levels of the sport. We are extremely fortunate to have Matthias running the BATC. He is now coaching the largest team of high-performance biathletes in the history of the BATC – 20 athletes! A product of the German education and sport system, Matthias retains close ties to the EU and the IBU, often being invited to sit on IBU committees or to take part in IBU coaching sessions, bringing that knowledge and experience to our young and developing athletes here in Alberta. You may not have known his other not-so-secret passion is photography, which you will find plenty of here: IG: [@hias.ahrens](#).

Helene Jorgensen – Assistant Coach, Biathlon Alberta Training Centre

We welcomed Helene to the BATC family this spring and we are as equally fortunate to have her coaching with the BATC athletes. Born in Norway, Helene is currently completing a PhD in Sport Psychology at the UofA. She will not only help our athletes be physically prepared but also focus on mental preparedness for competition on the national and international stages.

Elmar Heger – General Manager, Biathlon Alberta

Yes, I saved the best for last! Elmar is the wheel, the headlights, the engine that drives everything biathlon in Alberta forward! Several years ago, the board took the decision to move from that of a hands-on operational role to more of an oversight role, leaving the responsibility of the day-to-day operations of Biathlon Alberta with the GM. Not only did Elmar accept the challenge, he thrived. Specifically, Elmar's initiative has seen Biathlon Alberta introduce more indigenous and para-athletes to biathlon over the past two seasons with plans to foster these initiatives further in 2022/23. He also actively and continuously explores new avenues for collaboration opportunities with other Nordic sports and organizations to improve delivery of our sport for athletes. In the off season, you will often find (chase) Elmar on a bicycle or swimming in a lake as his true love in sport grew from competition in high performance Triathlon!

Please join me in giving these folks and all the coaches, parents, officials, athletes and volunteers a warm round of applause for all their efforts to make biathlon great in Alberta. It's a new season and we're getting really excited about the racing that is about to begin!!



Oh, and for those of you not in the Bow Valley, the work on the new biathlon facility in Canmore has begun! But first, out with the old ...



Looking forward to seeing everyone out for our first events currently scheduled in Canmore in November! I am always keen to hear from you, especially if you have any ideas about how we might improve and grow the sport of biathlon in Alberta!

Sincerely,
Clayton Paradis
President, Biathlon Alberta

