



May 29th, 2021

A/ED's Report - Sport North Annual General Meeting

Submitted by: Bill Othmer

I would like to begin by thanking the Membership, Board and Staff for their patience, encouragement and assistance while serving as Acting ED since February. The shift is going well. As Staff, "everything we do", *must* benefit the TSO directly or indirectly.

Please find below a summary of the Federation's progress since November's AGM.

Internal Operations

Staff Payroll Mitigation

I have been working with Tyler to review the budget overspend challenge in the staffing area. We are seeking ways to address the issue and searching for additional sources of funding. While the current amount received to date is minimal; the application for new revenue will be continued.

Some examples are:

- ITI SEED Funding application – to receive \$10k funding for auditing services.
- Government of Canada - CEBA Loan - \$10k
- GNWT Healthy Choices Fund Application - \$17k

Staff Responsibilities

In addition to their regular duties, we have shifted some Staff assignments to address gaps and to share in the overall workload. Spider is working with Parasport Canada, as well as being a member on the National LGBTQ+2 Task Force. He also is a champion in the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action. His efforts will provide the TSO's resources to assist in providing services and information to your membership. Whitney is working directly with the Sport Information Resource Centre (SIRC) in creating a Sport North communications plan. This will aid in providing information to you in a timely manner. Rita's ability to pick up the reins as Team NT's Chef de Mission for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, and Tyler taking on a larger role in the Don Cooper Building Management area, has assisted in managing my time more effectively.

Don Cooper Building

Renovations to the building are progressing. The technology in the Boardroom has been upgraded and we anticipate this space to be very popular soon. New flooring on the 2nd and 3rd Floors is a nice addition and the Partners are happy to see the shag rug removed! With Lotteries moving locations, we continue to lobby for TSO office space on the 2nd floor. We hope to be able to provide you with more details in the coming months.



Covid-19

Thank You to those TSO's who have worked tirelessly in providing Sport opportunities to their members. Good Luck to those TSO's who are patiently awaiting to return.

While we hope that all members receive the Covid-19 Vaccination we acknowledge that some members will choose not to do so.

Special Olympics NWT has been working with their Chapters and the national Special Olympics Federation to receive direction as we start to emerge with more vaccinated people.

The question revolves around the participation of volunteers and athletes who have made the personal choice to not get a vaccine. There is a recognition that it is people's right to make that choice. However, that brings two questions:

- will/should sport groups ask for confirmation that a person has or has not received a vaccine either through proof of attestation; and
- will/should there be a requirement that those who have made the choice to not be vaccinated would need to mask or take other precautions when engaged in the sport activity.

This is a highly important topic as TSO's will be dealing with the same challenges in their respective events as well as Team NT at future Games.

If your TSO has received any guidance / policy docs. in this area through your National Sport Organization, we would appreciate a copy to share with NWT Special Olympics as well as with the rest of the membership.

Strategic Plan

The Sport North High-Level Action Plan & Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was reviewed by the Strategic Plan Committee – Chantal, Glenn, Richard – on April 13th. A summary of the Strategic Planning Process and the High-Level Action Plan can be found on our website. The committee will remain intact for monitoring purposes and to initiate work on the 2023-2026 SN Strategic Plan. A "Strategic Plan at a Glance" document was also created. The one-pager will be available on the website and is a useful tool for presentations and future funding asks.



2022 AWG's – Postponement

The 2022 AWGs being held in Wood Buffalo, AB has been moved to Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2023. The media release announcing the date change was supplied to the TSO's on April 6th. The AWGIC is creating a project plan and we hope to have it soon. Once received we will contact the AWG TSO's directly and start the engagement process on the topics of ages, categories and of course Team NT selection. With the 2024 AWG's being held in Matanuska Susitna Borough Alaska, two AWG's 14 months apart will be challenging for all involved.

AWG Review Committee

The AWG Review Committee (Damien Healy – Basketball, Thorsten Gohl – Table Tennis, Andrew Goodwin – Snowboarding, Kyle Kugler- Hockey) enjoyed its final meeting on April 21st. The committee conducted eight meetings over this time. The decision to discontinue was made since all the areas in the AWG Handbook were reviewed and the members will be busy preparing for the 2023 & 2024 AWG's, once we receive direction and the project plan from the AWGIC. Recommendations were created and shared with the AWG TSO's. This will assist Sport North in updating the AWG Handbook. The Committee is willing to reconvene on this topic if the SN Board requires its' services.

Coaching & Podcasts

Rita continues to work diligently in the Coaching area. The final Coaching NWT Webinar was held on May 6th, *Mental Wellness Consideration for Coaches*.

In the area of information sharing and learning, we are also partnering with Josh Hagen, NWT Judo, to deliver sport podcasts for the fall. Topics are general to all Coaches and our draft topic list is:

1. The importance of impossible goals as well as tangible goals
2. Game Strategy and how to put it into practice
3. Competitive Readiness
4. Recovery
5. Self- Reflection
6. Scheduling and time management
7. Understanding long term athletic development and why athletes often quit too young
8. Strength and Conditioning
9. Nutrition

If there is a topic not on the list above that you would like us to pursue, contact Rita!



Women in Sport

Rita & Spider worked on two projects with Canadian Women in Sport, one webinar in celebration of International Women's Day and one potential partnership for a proposal to Women and Gender Equality department (WAGE). The department currently has a call for proposals for projects that will provide funding to support a feminist response and recovery from the current impacts of COVID-19 through systemic change projects.

Women in sport Leadership sessions are completed, we are awaiting our final invoice to determine how much additional funding we have and will use any additional funding for either additional sessions, or a new session around Women in Sport.

CWS is projecting to work with 55 organizations, total. This includes 5 pilots (preferably one in each jurisdiction) and 50 for the full roll-out post-pilot. They have budgeted a \$5000 honorarium per year for each participating P/T partner (Sport North) for a total of \$15,000 per partner over the course of the project. Their intention in choosing this figure is to support our partners' capacity to contribute to the project, and hopefully to support enhanced capacity on gender equity more broadly. CWS has also budgeted a \$2500 honorarium per participating territorial sport organization.

Safe Sport

Rita represents Sport North on the MACA / Sport Rec. Youth, Safe Sport Working Committee. The Committee has contracted the Sport Law and Strategy Group to provide the plan. We hope to be able to provide you with more details soon.

Communication & Marketing

Whitney maintains the Social Media component of the Federation and below is the current data:

- The Sport North Facebook has 1575 followers.
- The Team NT Facebook 3706 followers.
- The Sport North Instagram has 489 followers.
- The Team NT Instagram 1416 followers.
- The Sport North Twitter has 975 Followers.
- The Team NT Twitter has 1235 Followers.

KidSport

Applications increased in the Fall but with minimal sport occurring, requests have been minimal. We know that the demand will be high upon TSO's return to play and must have a plan in place to ensure we do not leave any Kid Behind!

The Peterson & Auger Kidsport Golf Tournament Fundraiser is slated for July 9th. It is with Great Sadness that our Major Supporter, Mr. Roger Walker passed away in February. Roger funded the tournament, so all proceeds could go directly in the KidSport Account. We are currently discussing ways to honour Roger's name and benevolence moving forward. IF there are any ideas out there, we would welcome them.



Special Projects

Common Vision – Breaking the Cycle

Spider is continuing to work on the Common Vision Project. He will be receiving assistance from Hannah Courtoreille who will begin May 3rd.

Below is a brief update:

- Parent Leads from each of our 8 pilot communities being re-confirmed due to partial attendance on zoom training meetings.
- 13 Aurora College Early Childhood Educator student's participation confirmed.
- 3 of 6 zoom facilitated sessions with parent leads have taken place, remainder to be offered by May 31, 2021.
- 4 on-line self-directed learning sessions (High Five, Appetite to Play, DancePLAY, YogoPLAY) – links finalized and distributed.

Multi-Sport Athlete (Pilot) Project

In October 2020 we approached the TSO's requesting names of athletes who they believed would meet the requirements of a Multi-Sport Athlete.

Our objective was to create a campaign to research, promote and highlight the importance of Multi- Sport Athletes in the Northwest Territories. Most important, sharing the stories of our athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers in the North through marketing, social media, advertisement, and a possible Multi-Sport camp in the future.

We launched the project on April 19th as a collaboration with Thorsten Gohl who is the representative on the P.L.A.Y (Physical Literacy and You) Working Group.

The Pilot Project featured Gracie Brennan, Danika Taylor, and Wren Acorn. All Multi-sport Athletes performed wonderfully! A combination of posters and videos were created to promote the multi-sport athlete and what Team NT means to them. A Live Session with the athletes leading some training was also provided.

Whitney and Thorsten are to be recognized for their hard work with this project. I am convinced this concept has potential to grow as the profile videos were very popular.



Building Strength Fortifying Resiliency (BSFR) Campaign

The BSFR Campaign is being led by Spider and Whitney. It includes the Covid -19 Hero Award and the Power of Sport/Healthy Nation Project.

Covid -19 Hero Award

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the 2020-2021 year in Sport was largely a year of non-competition. With a lack of tournaments in the NWT and on a national level, it was difficult to distribute awards equitably.

As a result, Sport North will be postponing its traditional Sport North Awards Program; and in its place will recognize our 2020-21 TSO's Covid-19 Hero's.

The Sport North Covid-19 Hero Award will be open to all TSO's and we are convinced that you will find worthy "Heroes" in your Sport.

Power of Sport / Healthy Nation

The goal is to have all TSO's have their logo adjusted to include a tagline in how they are breaking through the pandemic.

A brief presentation on each campaign area is on today's agenda.

Closing Remarks

The Sport North Staff have been encouraging and supportive during this time. I do not have to question the staff's disposition when it comes to their commitment to Sport. I know who they are, I know why they are here, and I am grateful to be working alongside them. During this time, Staff have stepped up and taken on new responsibilities to assist in the overall well-being of the organization. They are to be commended for their dedication.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Othmer".

Bill Othmer
A/ED