

President's Address

It is my pleasure to be writing the 2021 President's Address to the membership of Sport North and the greater Northwest Territories (NWT) sporting community. In opening, I would like to first acknowledge and give thanks to all Indigenous groups located in what is now the NWT for the privilege to live, work and promote healthy living within these Traditional Territories. It has been with great humility and a varying level of anxiety that I took on the President's role from our outgoing President, Les Skinner, in February. I want to take this chance to thank Les for his dedication and years of service not only to the Board, but also to NWT sport as a whole.

The year like no other. A common phrase now, but one that will hold true for all of our lifetimes. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything, and sport in the NWT was no exception. Territorial Sport Organizations (TSOs) scrambled to create 'Return to Play' documents so our athletes could get back to some form of activity and sport. Through many hours of effort, collaboration with partners, multiple drafts of safety protocols, you brought sport back safely in many places. Challenges will remain as we carry into the rest of the year, and we will continue to face them as a sporting community.

It has been a year of change. Changes in how we deliver sport; change at the Federation's President and Executive Director positions; and massive changes in the sporting calendar. Change is good though. It gives us time to reflect on how we conduct our organizations, how we approach delivering our sport services, and how we can all move our organizations forward. 2021-22 will be a big year as the NWT begins to emerge from pandemic protocols, and we slowly, and safely, get ourselves focused on returning to sport in full force. We have delayed athletic development to catch up, coaches and officials to recertify and a busy Major Games schedule to prepare for. We will have obstacles ahead of us, but I have full confidence in our community to rise to the challenge and overcome, Big hurdles most definitely, but also very exciting times ahead of all of us.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank the TSO membership, the Sport North staff, our sponsors, my fellow Board of Directors and the vast collection of volunteers, coaches, athletes and parents/guardians who make sport in the NWT possible. Your efforts to promote your sports in such an uncertain climate is admirable, commendable and appreciated. As a teacher by trait, I know in many cases the little things go unnoticed. Know that your efforts are noticed! You are all making a difference and that those unsung efforts are what will move the greater NWT sporting community forward. Together we will move past pandemic restrictions and into a brighter future for engagement, participation and sport successes for people of all ages throughout the NWT community.

Sincerely,



Colin Pybus
Acting-President, Sport North Federation