



# Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



**Memo to:** Provincial Sport & Recreation Presidents and Executive Directors/Chief Operating Officers

**From:** Doug Rosser  
Chair, *sportalliance* Board of Directors

**Re:** December 2006 "Update"



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As the year draws to a close, I would like to again provide our stakeholders with a quick "update" on recent areas of SAO activity.

## 2006/07 BOARD OFFICERS

The SAO's officers for the current year (expiring at the September 2007 Annual Meeting) are as follows

- Chair – Doug Rosser
- Vice Chair – Michael Murphy
- Vice Chair, Finance – Carol Nickle

## GOVERNANCE MODEL REVISITED

As I am sure you are all well aware, the issue of the SAO's "governance model" remains the #1 priority to be resolved. While work continues on a more realistic "strategic plan", we have agreed that we need to quickly resolve the challenges posed by our current model. In particular, we are very conscious of the need to develop a model which enhances the active and meaningful participation of all PSO's and MSO's.

The Governance Review Committee has been meeting regularly since the first of November under the leadership of an excellent external consultant – Marg Strus – and we have made important and significant decisions as a group.

The members of the Committee are reflective of the Board, our current "constituent" members and PSO's. Board members include: **Mike Murphy, David Saad, Janie Romoff** and **myself**. Board constituent members include: **Doug Gellatly** (Education), **Ilene Watt** (PSO Council), **Karen Makela** (Recreation) and **Holly Abraham** (ED Council). Provincial sport representatives include: **Al Will** (Sailing), **John Craig** (Track), **Wendy Cathcart** (Softball), and **Cathy Vincelli** (Paralympics). **Margaret Emin**, Chair of the PSO Council, was also invited to participate. Our CEO, Jim Bradley, also participates on this and most committees.

The discussions have been frank, a healthy variety of opinions expressed, and one by one the issues have been resolved through group consensus.

**Next Steps?** The Committee is hoping to complete their work and, through the consultant, make a recommendation to the SAO's Board at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. If the Board accepts the report, than the next step will be to convene a "special members" meeting of the existing constituent members, at which time a vote to approve the changes would occur. Assuming this is successful, the changes would come into effect for the 2007 Annual Meeting.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Once we are comfortable that agreement will be reached on the new governance model, then the priority attention will revert to completing our Strategic Plan. Board member **Mike Murphy** has agreed to lead this process through to completion.

## **FACILITY FUTURE**

The Building Future Committee working on the future of our facility is making progress with the initial steps in this important process. We publicly distributed a Request for Qualifications seeking bids from companies or consultants to provide professional leadership to the facility review process. We were pleased to have received eleven proposals. These companies were invited to a Q&A session in late November and final bids were due on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to interview all bidders and select one to provide the expertise we require going forward as we approach our October, 2009 lease expiry.

Having gone through this experience three times myself with the Sports Centre since 1978, I can assure you that it will be a most interesting time. There will need to be extensive consultations with all existing resident associations, as well as potential new tenants. As we look ahead to the next decade, what type of facility will best serve the needs of PSO's, MSO's, and recreation organizations? Would it be better to continue to lease or build and own? Should we remain at our current building or move? What building design would enhance the sense of "community" within our group?

There will be a number of information sessions scheduled, most likely commencing in late February – stay tuned for details.

## **NEW FEDERAL MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT**

The Sport Alliance has send a letter congratulating the new Federal Minister Responsible for Sport – The Honourable Peter Van Loan, (member for York-Simcoe) and reinforced the message that a strong contribution from the federal government into sport and recreation infrastructure is an absolutely essential priority.

The Minister is the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and now the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Sport.

## **OTHER**

... The SAO is sad to see two longtime Executive Directors leaving and moving on to other fields of endeavor.

Both **Patrick Okens** (Rowing) and **Steve Merker** (Cycling) have contributed time and input into SAO committees as well as other PSO groups and their contribution will be missed.

... It occasionally comes to our attention that some ED's would appreciate a deeper understanding of our finances. To help with this we are contemplating a "financial understanding" seminar early in the new year. Please watch for the announcement.

## **BEST WISHES**

In conclusion, I would like to extend our best "Holiday Wishes" to all of our sport and recreation stakeholder community. This is a special time to be with friends and families and I hope that it is a time of relaxation and good cheer for all of you.

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I would again reiterate that if there is **ANYTHING** that you would like further clarification on, or would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (416) 426-7234 or call our CEO, Jim Bradley at (416) 426-7074

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