



President's Report - Whitehorse Nordic Ski Society 2024 Annual General Meeting

The 2023/24 year was another successful one for our organization. Several new members joined our board, bringing new energy and perspectives. I would like to thank all board members for their commitment, passion and dedication.

Some of the board's major activities this year included:

- providing feedback on our sport governing body's new strategic plan;
- working with a contractor and stakeholders on the development of a functional plan for future capital improvements at the Whitehorse Nordic Centre;
- changing the name of our organization to be more modern, inclusive and welcoming; and
- engaging with the City and our members on proposed improvements to the Mt McIntyre Recreation Centre.

We also engaged with decision-makers at the municipal and territorial levels on our organization's interest in permanent protection of our network of ski trails from development. This consisted of a presentation to City Council, a meeting with the Mayor and a meeting with several Yukon government ministers and their staff. We shared information about the increasing popularity of nordic skiing in Whitehorse, reflected in our growing membership. We conveyed the importance of securing our tenure as the foundation for making capital improvements to meet our members' growing and diverse needs. This ranges from improving trails and facilities for users of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities, to putting in place the infrastructure needed to attract ski tourism and hold major events. Our message was positively received.

The board also set in motion two major initiatives for the upcoming year: hosting the Canadian Masters Cross-Country Ski Championships in February and hosting the Yukon Ski Marathon in March. The Ski Marathon is re-envisioned for this year as an invitational event, anchoring a ski tourism week that includes the possibility of attending skills clinics and skiing the Buckwheat Classic the following weekend. These initiatives align with the territory's interest in promoting sport tourism. We obtained funding from CDF and logistical support from Sport Yukon for these events. Holding events like these helps strengthen and grow our volunteer base. We encourage anyone with an interest in volunteering for one or both of these exciting events to contact the WNC manager.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude, on behalf of the board, to our managers and staff. They exemplify passion and dedication to their work and are the cornerstone of our success. I would also like to thank all members for their input and support and, of course, a huge thank you goes out to all those who selflessly volunteer their time in support of our organization.

Jean-Paul Molgat
President, Whitehorse Nordic Ski Society