



Annual General Meeting - September 24, 2025 President' Report 2024/25

Welcome to the 2024-25 AGM. Thank you to all for attending tonight and for your ongoing support.

I would first like to thank our staff and board members for their dedication to the success of our organization and a huge thank you to the hundreds of members who volunteer their time and effort to support our events, operations and activities. A special thanks also to the departing board members Dahria Beatty, Stephanie Coombes and Sarah Aasman. We'll miss your energy, enthusiasm and contributions.

This season was a memorable one, with a record-setting early opening on October 22. We had none of those dreaded mid-winter melt-outs and almost no cold weather closures. Mother Nature delivered an excellent season!

This season, our board focused on supporting the implementation of several elements of our strategic plan. What stood out this year was our foray into sport tourism, our focus on developing race officials and volunteers and our efforts to secure tenure over our ski trails to protect them from development.

Sport Tourism

We entered the sport tourism space by working with Sport Yukon's Sport Tourism initiative and by allocating funds to support wider marketing of the Yukon Ski Marathon and the Whitehorse Nordic Festival. These events attracted 191 participants, with 27 from outside Yukon. We are continuing to dedicate funding to grow these events, which are one key element of being "on the map" in terms of receiving government and sponsor funding needed to meet the growing needs of our organization. Our highly successful Canadian Masters Ski Championships held in March is another example of our ability to attract ski tourism, with 144 participants, and 87 from outside Yukon. Kudos to the organizing committee and volunteers for pulling off an event that most participants described as one of the best ever held in Canada.

Race Volunteer Development

Our major events feed into another element of our strategic plan - the continuing development of a volunteer crew with the ability and knowledge to host local races and major events. In support of this goal, our board established a Races and Competitions Committee which works with staff and Cross Country Yukon to help structure the season's racing events and train

volunteers. Race volunteers and officials are key to helping us run major events like the upcoming Arctic Winter Games and future major events such as Nationals or regional races.

Land Tenure

We continued to work toward the goal of protecting our trail network from development. Our tenure at the moment is quite fragile - our License of Occupation with Yukon Government does not confer legal rights that can compete with developments such as mining or residential uses. Mining claims staked in 2008 continue to underlie 70% of our core trail network and were recently optioned to Gladiator Metals, which is actively intending to explore areas that include some of our trails.

Our focus last year, with the support of many of our members, was to provide strong encouragement for the formal establishment and protection of Chasan Chu (McIntyre Creek) Park, including the extinguishment of existing mining claims in the park. The park was formally established by the Yukon Government in June and we see this as a positive first step. However, we were surprised and disappointed that the proposed boundary was modified to exclude some of our most popular trails such as the Shakuni Trail and the Copper Trail south of Best Chance corner. In response, our board met with City and Yukon governments to express our concern and we recruited additional experienced members for our land tenure committee.

In the coming months, our land tenure committee will be meeting with Gladiator Metals to open a dialogue on protecting our trails from mining development. This committee will also be working to ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding between Gladiator Metals and Yukon Government on the relinquishment of mineral claims within the park is pursued and completed in a timely way. We will also lobby to ensure that all of our trails, including the Pierre Harvey Trails and the Skyline Trail, are brought within the park boundary and protected from development.

Planning for the Future

Our membership and programs have seen tremendous growth of about 40% in the past 5 years. In 2023, our board initiated a functional planning process to develop concepts for new and improved infrastructure needed to meet our organization's needs over the coming decades. With the assistance of the board and a member advisory committee with experience in past trail and stadium development, our consultant produced a report that will be released in the next few weeks. We took the time over the past year to meet with City, First Nation and Yukon governments to familiarize them with our vision and with organizations like curling, tennis and pickleball that could be affected by various potential concepts. With these engagements complete, we feel prepared to release the functional plan.

In closing, I would like to extend thanks to all of our volunteers, sponsors, partner organizations and above all, the skiers who make our organization one of the biggest, best and most successful nordic ski centres in Canada.