



## **2020 Chairman's Report**

### **March 2021**

Ontario Snowboard was on a very good roll up until the pandemic stopped everything in its tracks. The 2019 season saw a record number of events across all disciplines and levels, and we had hoped to build on that in 2020.

We hosted the 2020 Alpine Snow TKO World Cup at Blue Mountain. This is something that meant very much to all of us who have worked so hard to be the best snowboard organization in Canada. It was a massive success and the return to Canada of the World Cup in the Alpine discipline after an eight-year hiatus. Athletes from around the world said it was one of the best World Cup events they had experienced. When athletes at this level with this kind of experience and knowledge personally tell you that, it means a lot.

And the kicker was two firsts – kind of fitting for a year of firsts. On February 29<sup>th</sup> the first ever tie for first place in a parallel event happened. And then the next day the crystal globes for the overall PGS titles were presented for the first time in Canada. We were able to continue on that success by hosting the Junior and Senior National Championships in Alpine Snowboard.

March 12<sup>th</sup> we decided to cancel all upcoming events until we could get a determination of the severity of the pandemic and what this would mean for our athletes. Unfortunately, after planning the entire season, all of the things we wanted to do didn't happen. The health of our members is one of our primary concerns. Our relationships with the clubs and resorts who are very generous and important partners is something we always consider – and that was and is a difficult thing to navigate during a pandemic.

Regardless, it is important to recognize the contributions of all of our volunteers and staff. We didn't stop planning. We had events ready to go in order to fulfill what we think is the best for our athletes in 2020 and this year. And we continue to do so looking ahead at 2022.

We would like thank the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries for their support, the Government of Canada for assisting with our international events as well as all of our partners.

### **Athlete Highlights**



Before the shutdown, Ontario Snowboard managed to run 42 training and competition days. This included NorAms in Snowboard Cross, Slopestyle and Alpine as well as Provincial Slopestyle Championships.

The reason we all contribute to this sport is to create an environment in which our Ontario athletes can thrive. This includes the events ON SBD executes, support for coaches and training officials. Of all the athletes in the National High Performance Programs, riders from Ontario comprise 38%. We think we are on the right path – Ontario riders, even after a shortened 2020 season went out into the world this year and absolutely killed it.

At the Junior World Championships in the Alpine discipline Kaylie Buck was the first Canadian woman to earn a medal. Liam Brearley scored multiple medals on the NorAm Cup circuit and then at the Youth Olympic Winter Games scored a medal in each of Slopestyle, Big Air and Halfpipe. Those are just a few examples of results but many other Ontario riders progressed in personal bests this season.

### **Moving On**

Ontario has been lucky to have so many good people in roles that support snowboarding.

Craig Hurst is retiring. His commitment to ensure ON SBD events are the best in Canada has resulted in just that. We now have three Ontario FIS Technical Delegates who can oversee the competitions our athletes require to succeed. His mentoring of all of us at ON SBD has made our board of directors, volunteers and the things we do, better in all regards. We will miss Craig, but I'm sure he will return as a spectator at snowboard events in Ontario in the future. Thanks Craig, and a few will be hoisted the next time the gang gets together.

We are also losing a longtime member of our board. Liz Farrell's nine year term is up and she has to move on. The quickest and most accurate producer of meeting minutes will be missed. As well as her experience in the financial and governance realm Liz will be difficult to replace. Thank you Liz, for all you have contributed to snowboarding in Ontario.

### **The Future**

The kids who develop into world class athletes are one thing we celebrate. Ontario riders know that whenever they need a hand we will be there for them. And we are. It doesn't matter if you move on to the National HPP – you will always be an Ontario rider.

ON SBD has lost two important people this year, so as always, the call goes out.



We ask that anyone who is interested and isn't yet involved, that you get involved. If you have a skill or an interest you think we could use, please get in touch. We can always use a good volunteer.

2022 will be one of the best seasons yet for Ontario riders and everyone involved has a hand in that.

Thank you,

Mike Nazwaski  
Chairman