



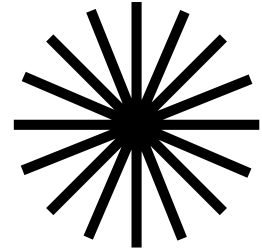
2023-2024 Annual Report

www.nordiqalberta.ca



About Nordiq Alberta

Nordiq Alberta embodies the love of nature and active lifestyles. We strive to create an environment that values equity, fairness, and transparency for all members, whether they are trying to achieve the podium or skiing recreationally for lifelong health.



All Albertans on skis!



Vision: We foster passion for Nordic skiing in Alberta.

Mission: We advocate for lifelong participation in Nordic skiing for all Albertans through the support of clubs, events, access to Nordic infrastructure, as well as athlete, coach and official development.

Our Team

Staff

Ivan Babikov, Director of Operations & Provincial Coach

Kyla Meyers, Program and Communications Manager

Kirstie Pebres, Bookkeeper and Office Administrator

Mark Toth, Coach and Para Nordic Coordinator

Emily Yungblut, Outreach Coordinator

Chelsea Kowton, Sport Development Assistant
(Practicum Student)



Board of Directors

Stephanie Chretien Lemyre, Board Chair

Graeme Thain, Vice Chair

Angelika Goncalves Da Silva - Board Treasurer

Matt DeCarufel - Director at Large

Anne Bradley - Director at Large

Raphael Couturier - Director at Large

Joshua Lohka - Director at Large

Claire Richter - Director at Large

Michelle Gaudet - Director at Large

Leanne Gartner - Athlete Representative

2023 - 2024 Highlights



COOP FIS Cross Country World Cup

✱ Nordiq Alberta was present at the World Cup event in Canmore. We helped to select the Forerunners for the event - many of the athletes being AST & ADST athletes!

✱ In partnership with the Alberta World Cup Society, Nordiq Alberta raffled bibs signed by COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup race winners in Canmore! All proceeds from the raffle go towards athlete development camps.

✱ Nordiq Alberta hosted the COOP Mini World Cup! Registration completely sold out at 270 participants from ages 4 - 14. This race was a fun free skiing event designed to give the kids an unforgettable World Cup experience.

Membership Contest

✱ Nordiq Alberta had their first Membership Contest in 2023 - 2024! Each club worked to increase their club membership in comparison to the previous year. The clubs with the highest percentage of membership growth were awarded with fantastic prizes!

Bow Valley Race Series

✱ The Bow Valley Regional Race Series was brought back in 2023 - 2024! This race series is to provide fun, recreational, and social race opportunities for athletes and participants in the Bow Valley area. Three Bow Valley Races were hosted throughout the season and had over 380 skiers participate.

Director of Operations Report

Sport Excellence

- Nordiq Alberta hosted two Alberta Development Ski Team Camps - one in Camrose and one in Jasper
- The Alberta Ski team had two training camps, one in Bozeman, Montana, and one in Calgary at the Canadian Sport Institute. The Alberta Ski Team also had various joining training sessions with the Alberta World Cup Academy throughout the season
- Nordiq Alberta hosted two provincial open camps - one rollerski and one on-snow. Each camp had over 50 people register and attend. Through grant funding, Nordiq Alberta was able to offer subsidized participation for Para Nordic participants to the open camps and had 5 join us at the rollerski open camp and 3 attend the on-snow camp
- The 2024 Alberta Winter Games which were hosted in Grande Prairie from February 16 - 19, 2024. 7 of the 8 Alberta Zones were represented and 128 cross country ski athletes attended
- Nordiq Alberta participated in Nordiq Canada's Para Nordic Camp and training courses. Two athletes and one coach attended

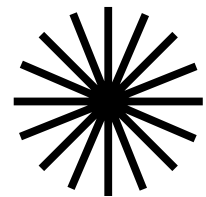


- Eight Alberta Cups were scheduled across the province throughout the season. Six took place as one weekend was canceled due to lack of snow. Coach and Athlete Socials were held at each Alberta Cup in an effort to build community and meet others from different clubs
- Twelve Tier 3 Events & Loppets were sanctioned by Nordiq Alberta and hosted throughout the province, including the Canadian Birkiebeiner, Alberta Youth Championships, and more!
- Four athletes were awarded Nordiq Alberta Athlete Bursaries because of their participation and achievements at high level competitions

Program Development and Community Alignment

In 2023 - 2024 Nordiq Alberta's membership sits at 5856 which is 4.5% less than 2023 - 2023. This is likely due to the challenging winter and lack of snow across the province. Our membership is made up across 45 clubs around the province. Over 2000 kids 12 and under participated in our Skill Development Programs (Bunny Rabbit, Jackrabbit, and Track Attack) in 2023 - 2024.

- Nordiq Alberta hosted and supported three outreach try it days
- Five Town halls and webinars were hosted in 2023 - 2024. Topics included body image, eating disorder recovery, ski selection, and tier 3 event hosting
- A Zone 4 Training Clinic was hosted for organizing committees, club administrators, and officials to attend. 27 people attended
- Nordiq Alberta hosted our End of Season Bash to celebrate a fantastic 2023 - 2024 season. This event included the Ski Like Ole Carnival, dinner, and Nordiq Alberta Awards Ceremony. Our silent auction expanded this year to include an online auction, allowing a wider reach for bidding
- Fundraising continued to be a priority for Nordiq Alberta in 2023 - 2024. We held two 50/50 raffles with funds going towards the Club Development Fund. Six clubs across the province were awarded funding for projects focused on Trail and Grooming Enhancement as part of the Club Development Fund



- **Coaching and Officials Development:**

- During the 2023 - 2024 season, 7 Community Coaching Courses were hosted, training 84 coaches. A Learn2Train Dryland course was also hosted training 5 coaches at this level
- In partnership with Nordiq Canada, Nordiq Alberta hosted a Learning Facilitator Course and Update
- Two Level 2 Officials Courses were hosted, training 32 officials
- One Learning Facilitator (for Community Coaching courses) and a Level 2 Officials Course Conductor were trained through co-teaching opportunities
- 10 women across the province received funding support to complete Coaching and Official courses through the Women & Officials Grant in partnership with the Alberta World Cup Society
- 7 coaches participated in the Provincial Coaching Experience program and assisted coaching at the Alberta Development Ski Team Camp and the Provincial Open Rollerski Camp

Branding and Promotion

- In 2023-2024 our Instagram followers grew by 12% for a total of 1540 followers. Our average Facebook Page Reach was 2545. 36 Editions of our newsletter, Nordic News, were sent to our 5000+ subscribers. The Nordiq Alberta website had over 14,000 new users in 2023 - 2024, averaging 1182 new users per month. Our website pages are viewed an average of 3251 times per month. Our Race & Events Calendar page is the most viewed, following our homepage
- A number of products were added to the Nordiq Alberta Online Store, including branded ski ties, rollerski training skirts and visibility vests
- Nordiq Alberta hosted a Hoodie Design Contest to help us decide what to print on our Nordiq Alberta hoodies. We have 15 designs submitted, chose 6 finalists, and tallied over 700 votes to select two winners!

National Profile

- Team Alberta North attended the Arctic Winter Games in Mat-Su Valley, Alaska. In cross country skiing, Team Alberta North won 4 medals - Two Gold and one Bronze medal for individuals as well as a silver medal for the team relay!
- Alberta athletes demonstrated strong results at the Canadian National Championships. In the Divisions overall ranking, Alberta finished 4th!
- Nordiq Alberta continued their support as a project partner for Frozen Thunder, allowing early access to snow

Organizational Management

- The Nordiq Alberta staff continued to grow in 2023 - 2024. Through a variety of grant funding we were able to hire two part-time positions, an Outreach Coordinator and a Coach & Para Nordic Coordinator. Nordiq Alberta also had a University of Alberta student complete their practicum with Nordiq Alberta during the winter semester

Board Chair Report

First, I would like to thank you; our members and clubs for your dedication and passion for our beautiful sport of nordic skiing, despite an alarming lack of snow well into the season in multiple regions.

The first 6 Alberta Cups were well attended, and we were happy to see so many of you visiting Canmore to cheer at the World Cup. Grande Prairie did a fantastic job at hosting the Alberta Winter Games! It was, however, heartbreaking to have our Red Deer organizing committee and volunteers ready to go for the last AB Cups of the season having to forfeit and cancel the races at the last minute as it suddenly warmed up and the snow they had finally received melted away.

This season we welcomed Kirstie in the role of bookkeeping and admin support and she immediately blended with the Team. I'm sure you had the pleasure of meeting her at the Nordiq Alberta tent during the Alberta Cups. Together with Kyla, they increased our presence and contributed to fun events.

Our Director of Operations and Provincial Coach, Ivan Babikov, continues to brilliantly lead the Team, working relentlessly to ensure quality programming and build the visibility of Nordiq Alberta. He made sure that events ran smoothly and spent long hours helping to successfully plan these. Thank you to our Team for a wonderful 2023-2024 season.





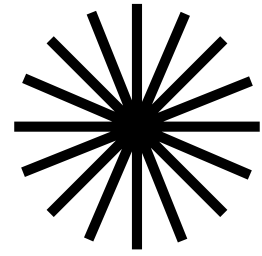
The Board of Directors held another strategy retreat in September and focused on strengthening our vision and mission and finding ways to increase community engagement. The Nordiq Alberta Development Fund is growing through multiple fundraising efforts and we are happy to be able to give grants to our member clubs to help them bring their projects to life, whether it is to contribute to better trails and lighting, or offering more programming and coaching, for example. We want to do everything we can to help our clubs attract more recreational members and provide a thriving environment for our National Team athletes of tomorrow.

This Spring we met with the Minister of Tourism and Sport of Alberta and presented a province-wide ski-at-school program, in the hope to get provincial financial commitment in the years to come to provide opportunities for all the children in Alberta to try cross-country skiing. We also continued to hold outreach camps and we had introductory sessions for newcomers in the Edmonton region. I encourage you to reach out to us if you are interested in contributing to any of these initiatives for the upcoming season!



I would like to thank our NSO, Nordiq Canada, for their continued support, as well as our key partner at the Government of Alberta, SPAR, and all our partners, sponsors, and donors.

Membership Committee Report



- A membership contest was held this season as an incentive to attract more members to our clubs. Prizes were given according to the percentage of new members gained. Clubs were divided into categories based on the size of the club
- The second annual End of Season Bash was held in Red Deer at the Sports Hall of Fame on March 23.. Young skiers participated in various games, a silent auction was held, and a dinner/awards ceremony was held
- Posters were created and distributed to increase awareness of the benefits of membership in Nordiq Alberta
- Nordiq Alberta received another Community Sport Initiative grant. This grant also included our participation in the Ski Playground which was held at Strathcona Wilderness in March. The playground offered participants the opportunity to try cross country skiing, biathlon, slalom, and ski jumping. Due to weather conditions we have asked for an extension until March 2025

Governance Committee Report

The Governance Committee is pleased with the work done to strengthen the governance principles required to ensure correct and efficient lines of communication with the staff. Our Board Member dynamics have been excellent, and we are becoming a more solid organization.

The Governance Committee continues to address matters such as staff performance reviews, risk management, human resources management, policy management and compliance, board governance training and grant opportunities.



From a financial standpoint, we still need to find ways to foster a more sustainable economic future for our organization. Our intention is to stimulate the Alberta ski community to increase our member numbers, as well as to find new – and increase existing – funding sources.

Our efforts to create the Nordiq Alberta Development Fund have shown that we are able to secure funds, which are destined to member clubs' projects to improve their infrastructure, program development and other initiatives. We will continue our fundraising towards this Fund and as it grows, we are excited to be able to make a difference for many of our clubs.

Technical Committee Report

This past season Nordiq Alberta was able to host, in conjunction with local clubs, 6 Alberta Cup races. Unfortunately one Alberta Cup in Red Deer had to be canceled due to weather and snow conditions and one race weekend had to change dates due to weather. Nordiq Alberta also oversaw the racing at the 2024 Alberta Winter Games in Grande Prairie. I want to thank the Nordiq Alberta Staff, Technical Committee and all the Officials, Clubs, coaches and athletes for creating a successful season that had some very challenging conditions.

Nordiq Alberta, along with the host communities and communities (Foothills Nordic, Canmore Nordic, Edmonton Nordic and Red Deer Nordic Ski Club) successfully hosted 3 out of 4 weekends of racing that resulted in 6 total races. As mentioned, Red Deer Nordic Ski Club was unable to host their race weekend. Thanks to Foothills Nordic who hosted the Western Championships this past season. Their original race weekend in early January was moved to late January due to cold weather.

Grande Prairie hosted the 2024 Alberta Winter Games, thanks to Wapiti Nordic Ski Club for hosting the cross country event. The overall theme of skiing this year was the challenging conditions, Grande Prairie certainly wasn't immune. Their volunteer crew did an amazing job in creating a course that allowed for a full weekend of racing.

During the summer and fall of 2023 the Alberta Development Ski Team and the Alberta Ski Team were able to have a full of training camps. Highlights included a Camrose and Jasper ski camp for the ADST while the AST did some initial testing in the spring followed by a ski camp in Montana Team selections and invites for the 2023/24 teams were sent out in late April with a full schedule of training over the spring, summer and fall.



A full race calendar is planned for the 2024/25 season that will include Alberta Cups and a loppet series. Please consider volunteering.

2023 - 2024

Alberta Ski Team

Kaisa Lemyre

Teo Wadsworth

Sabine Comeau

Noah Weir Chaba

Lily Guss

Felix Clement

Amelia Custodio

Ben Field

Allyson Thain

Jonas Rolseth

Sophie Jensen

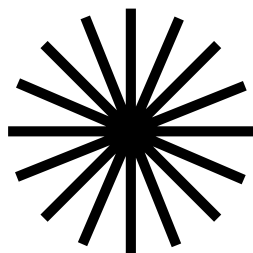
Anders Evanson

Leanne Gartner

Aiden Armstrong

Lauren Ybema

Lukas Seubert



2023 - 2024 Alberta Development Ski Team

Jonah Myers
Isabella Quintilio
Lincoln Meekins
Rhea Verhulst
Calean Baine
Leah Taylor
Felix Arnold
Lily Lynch
Torin Comeau

Jayda Grant
William Armstrong
Ava Heie
Alex Lo
Gabrielle Tessier
Liam Bate
Aislin Simson
Joel Reitz
Naomi Schmitt

Aria Grandi
Olin Baergan
Jenna Konoff
Justin Konoff
Rylan Chevalier
Raya Rolseth
Nathan Mackie
Maya Stork
Alexandra Thain



2023 - 2024 Arctic Winter Games Team Alberta North

Lily Sundholm
Claire Reitz
Sara Martin
Miriam Lynch
Mika Richter
Lauren Gaultier

Kail Sundholm
Markus Reitz
William Atamanchuk
William Armstrong
Joel Reitz
Troy Martin

Coaches:

Claire Richter (head coach), Shannon Armstrong, Chris Reitz



Nordiq Alberta Awards

Nordiq Alberta is proud to recognize valued members of the Nordic community for their contributions, hard-work, efforts, and continued excellence. Join us in recognizing and congratulating those whose commitment to our sport ensures longevity and continued success.

Volunteer of the Year - Jamie Grant, Foothills Nordic Ski Club

Coach of the Year - Andy Pohl, Space Dogs Ski Club

Male Athlete of the Year - Sam Hendry, Canmore Nordic Ski Club

Female Athlete of the Year - Leanne Gartner, Canmore Nordic Ski Club

Official of the Year - Kelly Bogle, Red Deer Nordic Ski Club

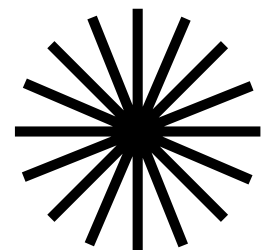
Race Organizer of the Year - Wapiti Nordic Ski Club

Ski Like Ole Award

The Ski Like Ole Award was created in collaboration with the Heie family in honor and memory of Ole Heie.

Will Armstrong & Justin Konoff

New this year, the Ski Like Ole Award recipients also received a scholarship. This funding can be used for travel expenses, ski equipment costs, or an Ole-riffic adventure!



Nordiq Alberta Aggregate Award Winners

U14 Girls Alina Custodio, Foothills Nordic Brynn Wadsworth, Canmore Nordic Vera Heal, Canmore Nordic	U14 Boys Calvin McMann, Foothills Nordic Troy Martin, Wapiti Nordic Reuben Kolesov, Foothills Nordic
U16 Girls Isabella Quintilio, Foothills Nordic Leah Taylor, Foothills Nordic Naomi Schmitt , Parkland Cross Country	U16 Boys William Armstrong, Wapiti Nordic Olin Beargen, Canmore Nordic Lincoln Meekins, Canmore Nordic
U18 Girls Lauren Ybema, Edmonton Nordic Aria Grandi, Canmore Nordic Amelia Custodio, Foothills Nordic	U18 Boys Teo Wadsworth, Canmore Nordic Ben Field, Canmore Nordic Torin Comeau, Canmore Nordic
U20 Women Sophie Jensen, Foothills Nordic Alison Mackie, Edmonton Nordic Maeve Lindsay, U of A Nordic	U20 Men Jonas Roseth, Canmore Nordic Lukas Seubert, Edmonton Nordic Noah Weir Chaba, Canmore Nordic
Senior Women Natalie Thain, Camrose Nordic Ski Club	Senior Men Adam Walker, Edmonton Nordic Max Stark, U of A Nordic Ethan McGhan, U of A Nordic
Para Nordic - Sit Women Angela Oakley, Strathcona Wilderness Centre	Para Nordic - Standing Women Denyse Dawe, Strathcona Wilderness Centre
Masters Women 1 & 2 Lindsay Adam, Hypersonic Racing Ski Club Maryann Moore, Fast Trax Run & Ski	Masters Men 1 & 2 Jan Rossiter, Hypersonic Racing
Masters Women 3 & 4 Kelly Guss, Foothills Nordic Colleen Curtis, Foothills Nordic Jennifer Hinnell, Edmonton Nordic	Masters Men 3 & 4 Anders Lax, Edmonton Nordic Charles Curtis, Foothills Nordic Shawn Bunnin, Hypersonic Racing
Masters Women 7 Judy Buchanan-Mappin, Canmore Nordic	Masters Men 5 & 6 Alaric Fish, Canmore Nordic Jason Proche, Hypersonic Racing Pablo Adames , Foothills Nordic
Master Men 7 Noel Warkman, Space Dogs Ski Team Robert Savin, Hypersonic Racing Henrik Asfeldt, Athabasca Nordic	

Large Club Aggregate Award
Canmore Nordic Ski Club

Small Club Aggregate Award
Hypersonic Racing Ski Club

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