



Coming out of the 2020 AGM and leading into the 2020-2021 year the Nordiq Alberta Board was optimistic that a race season would be held and that member clubs could resume to something similar to pre-COVID programming. That assumption seemed to hold until very late in the fall when an outbreak led the Canmore Nordic Centre to cancel all events thru the end of 2020. That decision proved to be the first of several such announcements as the Provincial Government announced increase restrictions and organizing committees to eventually follow suit.

Through this period, however, we saw increased opportunities to collaborate across the province between organizing committees and Provincial Organizations. The Nordiq Alberta Technical Committee hosted several calls between Alberta Cup host committees and the Canadian Birkebeiner Society to discuss preparations, protocols and differences in approach between local health authorities. Across Nordic sports there was also increased communication leading ultimately to joint releases from Nordiq Alberta and Biathlon Alberta staff to ensure that common messages were delivered to our respective memberships; particularly where we have common members.

In a more formal way, a Nordic sports working strategy group comprised of Biathlon Alberta, Alberta Nordic Combined, Alberta Ski Jumping, and Nordiq Alberta to maintain dialog across the sports and a platform to explore any opportunities to capitalize on synergies.

A major theme of the 'year that was' included significant effort to revise the Nordiq Alberta Governance model and policies. In October 2020 we learned of a grant funding available through Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities that included streams for rebuilding from COVID with emphasis on governance. Nordiq Alberta was successful in receiving a grant that afforded the ability to hire a consultant.

After a brief vetting process, Stephanie Lemyre was hired to facilitate Board discussions, work with staff and work on documentation to allow us to complete the transition to a Governance Policy Framework. The model, based largely on the Carver Model adopted by Nordiq Canada, leveraged existing materials that were adapted to a Provincial Context.

Most significantly the transition to this model clearly outlines the responsibilities of Directors and the Board related to Governance and the duties and authority delegated to staff generally and, more particularly, to the Senior Staff Person. This is a significant



move forward for the organization and is a culmination of the efforts initiated in 2019-2020 when the bylaws were updated.

Peter Lougheed Park - Kananaskis Grooming Parking Lot initiative. Through the summer and into the early fall a working committee, largely spearheaded by Ken Hewitt was in active discussions with Alberta Environment and Parks personnel to galvanize Ministerial support for what would later be known as the Kananaskis Grooming Parking Pass Program.

The effort that was required to have the program ready to go cannot be overstated. The official confirmation that the Kananaskis Grooming Project was to be launched came in an announcement from the Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks on October 30, 2020. That same day the system was ready for sales.

In addition to the huge success that was achieved to secure grooming in Kananaskis for the 2020-2021 season, the effort provided significant value in promoting the Nordiq Alberta brand and increasing visibility across the ski community.

I would like to include a few acknowledgements to some key individuals for their contributions and efforts over the past year.

To Ken, Julia, Anthony, Michelle and Heather, the Kananaskis Grooming Organizing Committee, your professionalism and expertise were the key reason for the success of the program and the legacy of continued grooming in the Kananaskis Region.

To Ivan Babikov and Idan Wolach, Nordiq Alberta Staff that were pulled in a number of new and different directions this year. Both of you showed courage and tenacity in tackling the challenges of a season that never occurred but that we continuously planned for amidst the dynamic of an ever changing Board through the past year.

Jo Wolach – Jo has tirelessly and passionately given of herself to the sport of Cross Country Skiing through the Nordiq Alberta Board, as Chair of the Division Chairs Council with Nordiq Canada and in a number of other areas, including the Nordic Strategy Working Group, Trails YYC and others. This past year, when the Chair was left vacant, Jo accepted the task from the Board to serve as interim



Chair thru the AGM. With the 2021 AGM she marks the end of her role as Past Chair after having served two terms as Chair and a Director prior. Jo has made an indelible impression on the Board and the Organization setting Nordiq Alberta up for success into the future.

A final note we would be remiss to not recognize the resilience, capacity and character of the member clubs of Nordiq Alberta. The membership of Nordiq Alberta grew from 4,963 in 2019-2020 to 7,283 in 2020-2021; a staggering 47%! We recognize that our growth is first your growth. Your commitment to your communities and memberships to keep outdoor activities as an integral part of an active community, active lifestyle and – particularly this year – a necessary component of humans dealing with the most trying of circumstances. THANK YOU for your hours, your energy your passion, most of it volunteer, and your desire to keep our sport active.

Looking ahead to 2021-2022 there is, again, optimism that we can prepare for another season, including a race calendar and more historically recognizable programming for our members and member clubs.