



Hello board members, club delegates, and representatives,

First of all I would like to thank all of the volunteers that took time out of their daily schedules to help our sport this past year. Numerous hours of work was done by our amazing volunteers and their continued commitment to our sport is what makes us a leader in New Brunswick.

The 2018-2019 season was a very busy one. The Canada Winter Games (CWG) were held this past season, and through our CWG program we held several camps throughout the summer and winter months, multiple trips to Halifax for our long track program, selection competitions for both short track and long track, and numerous meetings, emails and conversations around the CWG topic. It was all worth it to see how our athletes responded to the program and performed in Red Deer. Our Long Track Team skated to a Provincial record in the team pursuit on both the men and women's side, and our short track men's team took home a bronze medal in the relay. These accomplishments came alongside countless PB's and memories that will be had forever.

The Canadian Age Class Championships (CEST) were held this past year in Campbellton. The competition was a huge success and I wanted to give a big thank you to Melanie and the Restigouche club for all their tireless work! SSNB sent 25 athletes to CEST this year, and it was great to see that number of athletes hit our standards. We also had great success at CEST with our team bringing home several individual medals, as well as a relay medal. I continue to see our CEST standards as a great motivator for our athletes and I believe the standards currently in place are ensuring our athletes have a developmentally appropriate competition.

Provincially we held a passing camp for the second straight year, and had great turnout. We had 23 athletes participate in the camp and I hope that this camp will be offered yearly as it is a great introduction to passing and brings our athletes together from across the province in a friendly, teambuilding environment. Additionally we held a long track camp in Halifax and had a good number of participants. I would like to see SSNB continue to provide long track opportunities to our athletes in the coming years.

There are also several new initiatives from this past season. Most importantly we've created a Provincial Team program. The need for a Provincial Team was identified through a Quality Sport Initiative, and with the work of Derrick, Devin and myself we were able to secure a \$10,000 grant towards the new program. A Provincial Team bulletin was created outlining the programs details and put on our SSNB website. The Provincial Team is a much needed piece to our athlete pathway and gives a stepping stone for a club athlete to a High Performance athlete and beyond. Along with this, our organization also adopted a new Athletic Development/Coaching Committee terms of reference, which makes several changes to the document, which has been last updated in 2004. An update of our Competitions Bulletin is also currently being done and will be brought to the board before next season. Several changes are being brought forward in an attempt to innovate how our competitions are being ran and to make them more efficient, giving us the potential to run additional races such as relays on a regular basis, while still getting everyone home at a reasonable time. Finally, I'm happy to say that we are offering a provincial summer camp this year in

Quispamsis. This camp is open to younger athletes as well as older and will be great to once again offer to our membership.

I've listed only a very small snippet of what was a long list of successes by our organization last year. The strength of our organization is growing and it's due to everyone's efforts in and around our skating community.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, I will be stepping away from the SSNB Technical Director/Provincial Coach position at the end of the summer. It's been a pleasure working with all the skaters, coaches, and volunteers these past years. Although I am stepping down from this position, you will still see me around the rink and at competitions as I plan to stay active in the SSNB community.

With all the positives we have going for us, there are always areas that can be improved to strengthen our organization further.

Technical Director/Provincial Coach job description review: There are tasks of the TD/PC's job which would fall under an Executive Director role. These tasks will need to be completed regardless of who is in an SSNB staff position, and it would be good to identify these tasks as well as those which should be completed by a volunteer of the SSNB community to ensure we have the right person in place and performing the appropriate tasks. On another note, I believe the club visits of the TD/PC should be reviewed as well. The club visits are great to meet those in the SSNB community but they are time consuming and costly. I would like to see a review done to see what the goal of these club visits are and assess whether our current system is meeting these goals. As a potential recommendation I would suggest that club visits are requested by each club with a purpose behind each visit. These requests from the club could be to conduct a review of their coaches, run an example practice detailing the rationale behind each drill, give technical feedback to coaches on their athletes, assessing the Long Term Athlete/Participant Development model implementation at club practices, etc. In this format each club is able to assess their need of a club visit and have the visit fit into the needs of their club.

Fundamental Meets: I touched on these in my report last year and I would like to briefly speak on them again. Saint John ran a FUNdamentals meet last year and it was awesome for younger athletes to enjoy the sport while still fitting perfectly into their developmental needs. I would love to see more of these meets offered around the province each year. I have started an outline of how FUNdamentals meets can be ran so that any club could have a list of guidelines to follow, and I hope to have this completed over the summer.

It's been a pleasure to be the SSNB Technical Director/Provincial Coach, and I'm honored to have been surrounded by such great individuals around the skating community. Thank you to everyone and best of luck as we look towards the future.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Beamish

SSNB Technical Director/Provincial Coach