Hello Board Members, club delegates, and SSNB membership,

First off, I would like to thank all of the volunteers within our organization that help to keep speed skating a strong sport in New Brunswick. After another challenging year due to COVID restrictions affecting club practices, canceled competitions, and ever-changing guidelines, the speed skating community within New Brunswick has always stayed committed to the values held closes to our sport.

This past season, the Athletic Development/Coaching Committee consisted of Jeremy Martin, Ed Wasson, Miriam Verschoor, Steve Harris, Derrick Macleod, and Jamie Beamish. The committee was very active, holding 11 meetings and having ongoing email conversations throughout the year. It was a pleasure working with these individuals and I want to thank each of them for their commitment to the sport and their ongoing dedication to the development and growth of athletes and coaches in New Brunswick.

Through the ongoing changes due to COVID, the committee was able to discuss and quickly impose changes to various aspects of our Provincial Team Policy that ensured every athlete was given a fair and developmentally appropriate pathway for attending high level competition. The committee has also worked to develop and release the Canada Winter Games Guide, as well as developing the frame work for a Strategic Plan that will focus on the needs most commonly recognized from the clubs as areas to support.

This season the ADCC operated at $16,700 below the approved budget. This was mainly due to the cancelation of numerous competitions throughout the season. Over the past 3 years that I have been active with this committee, there has been budget surpluses totaling close to $50,000. This year the committee was able to approve some of the surplus funds going towards the financial support of purchasing CWG skinsuits, but it is my hope that the SSNB Board discusses additional productive ways to utilize this money. Coming out of the COVID pandemic, there is a true need to grow the SSNB membership as well as grow and support the development of coaches and officials in New Brunswick. I would ask that the new incoming SSNB Board schedule a special meeting to discuss the utilization of SSNB’s growing funds over the past 3 years.

This year I am stepping down as Chair of the Athletic Development/Coaching Committee, and want to wish the best of luck to all those involved with the ADCC and SSNB Board in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Beamish

SSNB Athletic Development/ Coaching Committee Chair & SSNB Vice-Chairperson