

Hello to everyone across this great province of Alberta,

It's been two months since the AGM was held in Red Deer and I finally found some time to send out a Presidents Message. It is my intent to send out these messages out on a quarterly basis going forward.

We have had a very busy 2019 so far and there are many, many items I could put in this message, unfortunately some will just have to wait until the next message. I know, I'm excited too 😊

As you all know we recently held both the winter games in Cold Lake and the summer games in Medicine Hat. In speaking with the organizing committees from both cities, all parties felt that both games were a great success. Together, there were over 1600 athletes and participants from the eight zones who partook in the 28 events that were offered. Be sure to thank your Zone Presidents and Activity Directors for the tremendous amount of work they put into making these games happen.

These numbers are very good, but one of my main focuses (as well as the entire Provincial Board) is to increase those numbers to over 2000 participants. Of course, we will require help at every level of our association. This means that our combined efforts to maintain and increase our membership numbers are critically important. We will need your assistance in getting this done.

The results from both games can be found on our website and our PC, Barbara Johnston, is ever busy updating those pages. We will be scrutinizing and correlating all the information from the games and will initiate a dialogue about what sports we are offering, which ones we shouldn't be, and what sports are out there that we need to incorporate. It will no doubt be an interesting conversation. We will be polling the membership for your ideas. (Some of you have already done so)

Since our time away from Alberta Sport Connection we, along with the assistance of Cold Lake and Medicine Hat, have now managed to host two Provincial games and admittedly have some things to improve upon. With each Provincial Games we offer, our plan is to strive to provide the best sporting and participatory environment we can. We are new to the administration side of things, but we are learning, and we are getting better.

I have heard from a myriad of members, Zone Presidents, Zone Activity Directors, and the general membership that we need to offer more local and grass root events. More local tournaments, scrambles, fun-days, demo-days, how to events...especially in the off-game years. We will continue to explore and dialogue on how best to accommodate these requests. Please continue to talk to the people in your respective zones about how to best accommodate these types of activities and events.

Great news on the sponsorship front. We have just recently signed on with a new sponsor called Trip Merchant, which is a membership based exclusive travel company. They offer a special travel website for members only which includes discounted ticket prices, tour packages, solo travelling options, and other member benefits. It is a password protected website that is for our members and is provided for you for simply being a paid up member of Alberta55plus. Stay tuned for information that will be found on our website on how to join (sign-up) into this sponsored website.

At the writing of this letter, we have reached out to over 40 communities across Alberta by way of letters and phone calls, to start the process of selecting the next host community for the 2021 winter and summer games. There have been no decisions made to this point but we are hoping to bring news in the coming months. Please stay tuned.

I wanted to offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to all participants who represented their respective zones in both Cold Lake and Medicine Hat. My hats off to you if you managed to earn a spot representing Alberta at the Canada55Plus Games being held in Kamloops, BC, August 2020. Good luck to everyone and let's do Alberta proud. I'm sure the experience will be an enjoyable one.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, there are many more items and projects that your Executive Board are currently working on, but that news will have to wait until the next message is crafted and sent out. Watch for it around the end of September or early October.

In the meantime, please continue to "beat the drum" and ensure that friends and family are aware that Alberta55plus is alive and well. We are (you are) doing great things for seniors in our communities across Alberta and we will continue to strive to provide opportunities and events for those seniors to stay active and involved.

Dave Finn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Finn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

President
Alberta55plus