



*Fostering Excellence in Leadership • Program Development • Safety in Camping Since 1941*

## **Executive Director's 2018-19 Annual Report**

### **By Derek Mitchell**

2018-19 was truly a benchmark year of great accomplishments for the Association and for our Member Camps. Our success stories for 2018-19 include:

- Over 60 staff from Member Camps participating in 7 CANSPEI facilitated or managed certification training courses - our highest number ever!
- All of our Member Accredited Camps Credit camps have now completed their Re-Accreditation through the new documentary review process. And in 2018-19 all our Accredited Camps are working or have now worked through completing their Annual Accreditation Report filing - most for the first time. I have spent a lot of time working with so many of our Member Camps over the last few years, in helping them through the demands of the Accreditation process; and hopefully providing them good mentoring, advice and support to their Camp operations and programs. As everyone says, "it's a lot of work!", but hopefully all can see and appreciate that our Member Camps are now running better and safer programs as a result of our increased focus on health and safety for our campers and staff.
- A BIG increase in funding support from the NS Province with our annual core funding increasing from \$16,000 per year to \$30,000 per year. This was a huge focus of my effort over the last year. The Funding Submission really showcases all the work we have done over the years and the amazing impact and outcomes our Member Camps and the Camping Association has had for so many children and teens. Just click [here](#) to see a PDF of our Funding Submission to the Province and please take a few minutes to scan through the document. I am so pleased that all that work bore such good results for the future funding of the Association.
- Another successful Strategic Planning Retreat in January where your Board developed exciting new plans and directions for our increased Provincial funding support. Look for more exciting info on all that in the coming months.



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2018-19 will also mark my last year on the Association's Board of Directors. I first joined the Board in 2012 as your Treasurer; then became your President in 2014 and then finally your Executive Director in 2017. And as I look back I think a lot of great accomplishments over the years, including the development of our new website, our new CANSPEI logo, updated By-laws, improved Accreditation due diligence and verification with the introduction of the documentary accreditation review process and a lot of passion for excellence in communicating with our Members through all the many e.newsletters. As well as all of Canoe Instructor courses over the years with Bob Howell and Russell Prime, both great canoeists and amazing camp leaders from Johnston Christian Park. Thank you both for your dedication and friendship.

So after 7 years I think it is now time that I move on and make room for others to express their views, develop their leadership skills as well as to experience and enjoy the collegial fellowship and satisfaction of working on your Board.

In closing, I would like to say a heartfelt really *Big Thank You* to so many of you at so many Camps for your friendship and all your support and commitment to the work of the Association and to all those that have served on our Association's Board of Directors and volunteer committees over the last 7 years!

Wishing you all and all your campers and staff a fantastic summer for 2019 and Happy Trails!

Yours In Camping,

Derek Mitchell