

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Camping Association of NS & PEI

Submitted by Mat Whynott

May 26 2022

Let me begin by saying thank you for the opportunity it has been to serve as President of CANSPEI. Prior to the pandemic, I have always said that "camp is needed now more than ever," and I believe that even more today. We all know that camp changes lives, not just of our campers, but of our staff, our volunteers and our alumnus.

I wish to thank each every board member of CANSPEI, Lara, Amelia, Jules, Matt, Janice, Russell and Tiffany for their time, commitment, passion and love for the camp industry in our two provinces. I wish to acknowledge and hold up Trent Raynard and Donna MacPherson. These two people have worked in camp for most of their lives and the impact they have had in lives of many campers and staff is beyond comprehension. Trent's time on our board ended in the summer of 2021 and Donna has finished out her full term on the board as of our AGM. On behalf of the Board and our member camps we say "Thank you".

Needless to say the last two years has been life altering in every aspect for our member camps operation and here we are, on the other side of what we hope will be somewhat of a "normal" summer for 2022. We know there are still challenges ahead but be rest assured we are here to work with our member camps to ensure the most success possible.

CANSPEI is a volunteer run organization of passionate camp people. On top of our monthly board meetings, each of our board members work within a committee structure. Each committee helps drive the agenda of the greater board. Here's a small summary of the work of each committee:

- Finance (Lara & Amelia)
  - Drafting our budgets and paying any bills we have
  - Coordination of collecting membership fees
- Education & Grants (Lara & Tiffany)
  - Coordinated any training opportunities
  - Recommendations for approval of any grants
- Health (Lara, Tiffany and Jules)
  - Worked on the significant recommendations for safe opening in 2021.
- Membership, Marketing and Awards (Mat, Matt and Donna)
  - Welcomed five new member camps
  - Facilitated six town halls
  - Communication with member camps
  - Discussions on a "Work at Camp" campaign

- Accreditation (Amelia, Jules, Janice)
  - Updating our accreditation standards based on industry changes
  - Moving all of our member camps for re-accreditation for summer 2023.

Finally, CANSPEI has received \$30,000 from the NS Department of Communities, Culture, Heritage and Tourism for each of the last five years through their Provincial Recreation Organization grant. We have recently been informed our 2022 allotment will be received shortly. This \$30,000 per year funding for five years was no small feat. We wish to inform you that we have applied again for this block funding for 2023-2028. Again this application process was very cumbersome and detailed however, we are hopeful we will receive some level of funding again.

Again, thank you for all of the work you do on behalf of the camp families that you serve. You're doing incredible work. You're changing lives.

Yours in camping,

Mat Whynott  
President of CANSPEI  
2020-2022