



April 8, 2014

Dear Biathlon Ontario Membership,

It's hard to believe that the 2013/2014 seasons is coming to an end... And what a season it has been. There are so many success stories to share that I am almost afraid to start naming them for fear of missing one. Ontario athletes are shooting straighter, skiing faster, and have shown great support and mentorship to one another throughout the season. I am proud to have had Ontario athletes standing on the podium locally, nationally, and on the world stage! Way to go everyone!

Biathlon is not just for the athletes. I have been so impressed by the Coaches, Officials, Volunteers, Parents, and Club support. The caliber (no pun intended) and quality of our supporters is something to be applauded.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the Biathlon Board of Directors for the incredible commitment, dedication and high quality work they have done. I would like to share with you a "behind the scenes" look at their work. The Board of Directors meet every month or two depending on the season to carry on the responsibilities of finance and operations (including financial reporting as a provincial sports organization), communication (including Website), membership and club relations, high performance, and competition. We put together grant submission, carding adjudication, Ontario Team Coaching support, and correspondence with Federal and Provincial sport funding programs. We facilitate coach and official training opportunities, and we are currently preparing for Canada Winter Games. On the athlete side we manage equipment, inventory, travel, uniforms, and athlete conduct concerns. Finally, we draft and revise policy and procedure for the betterment of BION and our sport in general... some of which has been adopted in other provinces.

I hope as you read the above you appreciate the scope of work and responsibility the BION Board has... now here is the catch. For the last year, this has all been handled by four committed volunteers. With all my heart I wish to thank Tim Hurley, Louise Paul, and Daniel Guay for their unwavering commitment! I appreciate you more than you will ever know.

That being said... BION cannot continue to operate with this minimal number of volunteers. For all the good that we have done there is still so much we can do moving forward. At our AGM coming up on May 25<sup>th</sup> we will be sharing our successes, sharing feedback, and looking for dedicated people to fill the vacant and opening positions (Daniel will be sending those available positions shortly).

Filling our board with dedicated people isn't what we want or what we would like... this is what we need. A more formal invitation will follow and I am hoping to have maximum attendance at this year's AGM on May 25<sup>th</sup>... Can't wait to see you there!

Please consider putting your name forward to make Biathlon Ontario better.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Scholte, President Biathlon Ontario