

President's report 2021

To state the obvious, the past year has been very difficult not just for orienteering but all sports. However, with the vaccination program rolling out, I hope I'm not going too far out on a limb by saying that there is now hope we may be able to hold group events in the late summer or Fall.

During this difficult period, I want to acknowledge the extra efforts both clubs have made to organize individual orienteering activities that conform to the ever-changing public health measures. The AOA thanks all the volunteers who have kept orienteering alive in one form or another during these times of pandemic.

Strategic Plan

At the end of 2020, we completed our three-year strategic planning cycle. The main three elements of this were to establish orienteering programs in at least two sport "zones" outside of Calgary and Edmonton, diversify our revenue streams and thirdly to develop sport policies in line with Orienteering Canada and provincial government requirements. These priorities were chosen to fulfill conditions set out by the provincial government in the "Funding and Accountability Framework" for provincial sport organizations. I'm pleased to report that with the exceptional efforts of Bogi and support from the clubs, we have succeeded with all three priorities and so far, have continued to receive our Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) grant from the province at similar levels to previous years.

Our new three-year strategic planning cycle will focus on maintaining the outreach programs established in Airdrie, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Rocky Mountain House as well as Crowsnest Pass which has been delayed due to Covid. With these locations, we meet our requirement to be active in at least four sport zones and thus, we will not be actively seeking any more outreach locations. Mapping will also be a focus area where we hope to rejuvenate or create new maps in the area between Edmonton and Calgary with the plan of holding events that attract new members from Red Deer. I hope we can create a new orienteering club in Red Deer by the end of this three-year strategic plan.

The full plan is available on AOA's website for anyone to read.

I want to finish by thanking Andree Powers, who is leaving the board after this meeting. Andree has been a much-valued member at large of the board, being knowledgeable on matters such as human resources, finances and management – as well as orienteering. Whenever I have got myself stuck on a particular subject, it has been reassuring to know that Andree was there to provide sound advice. But Andree isn't completely leaving – she's continuing to help both FWOOC and Kimberley Orienteering Club where she now lives.

This is also my last AGM as president, having completed three-and-a-half years. It has been a privilege to work with the other board members and Bogi and I think we have always managed to work well together to develop the sport of orienteering in Alberta. I will be continuing as past president. For those who don't already know, Kim Kasperski has agreed to be nominated for the position of president so I know we will be in good hands going forward.

I finished last year's report by saying "I hope you all stay safe and healthy and look forward to meeting you at an orienteering event whenever they start up again". This year it is still the same, but I'll add "please get vaccinated as soon as you can so we can all be together and put this pandemic behind us. The end is now in sight!"

David Campden / AOA President