

VP PARTICIPATION

It has been a learning year for me as my first year as VP of Participation. I would like to thank the membership for this opportunity to serve on the Executive. I would like to thank Paul, Tanika, Bob and Janine, as well as the entire executive for their guidance this year. A special thank you to Paul and Tanika for their hard work during the year and for their written reports and summaries. I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Janine on her retirement and officially welcome Laura to the office staff. The organization is in great hands.

Some highlights from 2019:

The Run, Jump, Throw, Wheel program continues to be a driving force for Sask Athletics and growing the sport in our province by offering instruction to schools, community associations and civic groups. This year, the program reached 13,166 children and youth, exceeding the target of 12,000.

The SOLE-stice Classic continues to be a great success in providing fitness and competition opportunities for our youth. This was the 5th year of the SOLE-stice Classic and 23 year that Sask Athletics has held this provincial program. This year, a total of 1041 youth participated in the program and 209 of those athletes braved some very poor weather on June 22nd on the new track in Saskatoon for the Provincial Meet.

The Aboriginal Indoor Championships were held April 5-7 and involved 520 athletes from the province – the most ever for this championship! The Tony Cote First Nation Summer Games also took place this year in Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation from July 14-20. 13 Tribal Councils and Independent First Nations were represented at the Track.

In total, 2019 saw a total of 8 races in the Saskatchewan Road Racing Series involving a total of 9122 runners, which increased by over 8% compared to 2018.

The Spring and Legion camps continue to be a great success for Sask Athletics. The Spring camp was held April 13-14 and included 27 athletes learning from 5 event area coaches. The always popular Legion Camp was held July 2-6 in Regina and included 167 athletes, which is the highest total in the past 5 years. 25 athletes and 2 coaches were selected to attend the National Youth Championships in Sydney, Nova Scotia in August.

Sask Athletics also continues to support coaches as 32 clinics were offered throughout the province in 2019.

I would encourage everyone to get online and check out the Sask Athletics website, as well as following the Twitter and Instagram social media accounts. Personally, I look forward to reading about the latest news and highlights from our programs on Twitter. The staff do a great job of keeping these platforms up to date and relevant.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve on the Executive and I look forward to seeing the organization rise to new heights in 2020.