



DBC AGM 2021 – June 29th - President's Report

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent dragon boat paddlers from across Canada throughout the past year. I look forward to being a part of positive changes in the years ahead. The passion and engagement Dragon Boat Canada (DBC) has from paddlers, coaches, administrators, and supporters is outstanding. This is our greatest asset and what we wish to continue to highlight.

First and foremost; we must continue to be leaders in diversity and inclusivity. Our sport represents inherently positive values of teamwork, togetherness, and respect. We must now more than ever maximize these strengths. We must demonstrate through our paddling community what an inclusive and diverse sporting community can achieve. We must encourage and welcome everyone of all ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations. We must be as diverse and inclusive as we can be.

DBC has endured two pandemic shortened seasons. DBC is thriving in many ways, by way of example: increased international impact, revamped and expanded National Team programs, strong and engaged regional representation across the Board of Directors and the most active volunteer committee activity in our history. Additionally, DBC is creating valuable content for our national community such as: technique guidelines, return to dragon boat guidelines, drum beat podcast, youth town halls and lots of social content. These are just some representations of DBC's desire to support its membership no matter the circumstances.

The pandemic has been extremely financially challenging to DBC. We are in a unique business circumstance (through no fault of our own) that has resulted in no government support throughout the pandemic. We are operated by an Executive Director (Chloe - she is our chief cook and bottle washer). All other contributions to DBC are completely volunteer based; most notably the nine regional directors, festival director, treasurer, secretary, and me as President. Despite these fiscal challenges DBC continues accelerating towards its goal of being the best national dragon boat federation in the world.

At a time that many of us acknowledge the importance of supporting small businesses in our community DBC is asking for specific support from our member clubs in two ways:

1. Register every single member of your club with DBC every single year. Even during a pandemic (especially during a pandemic). The \$25 per person is going towards the betterment of our sport. If your club has 100 athletes actively doing zoom calls, boot camps and small boat training, do not register 20 to minimize athlete costs. Prioritize supporting your national governing body. Know that we are working energetically to navigate our sport through its greatest challenge.
2. Support the Canadian Dragon Boat Championships (CDBC's). Support this event every year in qualifying and non-qualifying years. Prioritize this event and give us feedback and suggestions regarding this event. Continue to make this event the world's best regatta because that's what it is. CDBC's produce the fastest crews 1-10 at all ages of any regatta in the world. This is a credit to you the clubs, and your crews. This is what we as paddlers strive towards at every training session;

to measure ourselves against the best. That is the magic of CDDBC's, the highest level of competition, of emotion, of paddling ability.

It is critical to the sustainability and success of us as a paddling nation that as many clubs and crews as possible continue to support CDDBC's into the future. Your support of DBC in these two ways will help fiscally re-set DBC to thrive and grow, to provide more fun, creative, and innovative programs and events to enrich the Canadian dragon boat community.

In conclusion I would like to thank DBC's volunteer Board of Directors for all that they do and specifically our Executive Director, Chloe Greenhalgh for her passion and professionalism in leading our federation.

Sincerely and more than ever before, I am looking forward to seeing you all on-the-water in dragon boats as soon as possible.

Paddles Up!

Scott Murray

President, Dragon Boat Canada