



AthletesCAN – Athletes' Association of Canada
80 Mill Street
Toronto ON M5A 4T3
Canada

Since 1992, current sport leaders such as Minister Carla Qualtrough, Charmaine Crooks, Steve Podborski, Susan Auch, Lori Johnstone, Kris Burley, Curt Harnett, Janice Forsyth, Todd Nicholson, Claire Carver Dias, Alexandra Orlando, Nicole Forrester, Tom Hall, Craig Buntin, Trevor Hirschfield, Josh Vander Vies, our founders, Ann Peel and Dan Thompson, our current board and so many more – have started their leadership pathway with AthletesCAN.

If you are inspired by these leaders and would like to play a larger role within the AthletesCAN family, please consider joining the board of directors to help lead your association through 2024 and beyond.

AthletesCAN is inviting all interested persons to apply for or nominate an athlete for our Board of Directors. We are looking for athletes who are passionate about athlete rights and want to contribute to making the sport system more athlete-centred. Expertise in marketing, fundraising, finance, legal, or communications would be an asset but is not required.

2024 Call for AthletesCAN Director Nominations

AthletesCAN has; three (3) director positions available for election this year, each with 3-year terms.

Board Nomination Period: 9:00am ET Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024 to 5:00pm ET Wednesday, October 16th, 2024.

[Board Nomination Form](#)

[Board Nomination & Election Policy](#)

All interested candidates must submit the completed nomination form in the language of their choice within the above-noted Board Nomination Period. Candidates should review the organization's strategic plan ([link](#)) and Director Job Description ([link](#)) to fully understand the prospective role.

In accordance with the *Board Nomination & Election Policy* AthletesCAN shall translate all nominations to both official languages for the voting period.

2024 Election

The voting period will be open to all members at 9:00am ET, Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024, following the close of the nomination period. All members may review both the nominees and the current slate of directors to consider and cast their votes virtually. Details regarding access to the voting platform will be provided closer to the opening of the voting period.

Voting Period: 9:00am ET Wednesday, October 23rd – 5:00pm ET Wednesday, October 30th, 2024.

Successful candidates will be contacted following the end of the voting period and invited to virtually attend the next Board of Directors meeting November 25th. The newly elected directors will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on November 6th, 2024.

Dated in Toronto, ON this 2nd day of October 2024.





ATHLETESCAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Willson (She/Her) - President

Sport: Artistic Swimming

Term: 2023 - 2026

Erin is a retired artistic swimmer, representing Canada for seven years. While part of Team Canada, her team won gold at the World Trophy in 2009, bronze medals at the 2009 and 2011 World Championships, a bronze medal at the 2010 World Cup, and was part of the team that placed fourth at the London 2012 Olympics.

Since retiring from her sport, Erin has focused her attention on academics. She completed a Masters and PhD at the University of Toronto, focusing specifically on abuse in sport. She is passionate about ensuring athletes have a safe and inclusive environment while pursuing performance excellence.

Chris de Sousa Costa (He/Him) - Secretary

Sport: Karate

Term: 2022 - 2025

Chris is a former karate national team athlete, competing in the men's kumite +84kg category from 2004-15. During his athletic career, he was an 11-time Canadian champion, three-time Canadian male athlete of the year, three-time Commonwealth champion, two-time Pan-American champion, three-time North American champion, and winner of the US Open. Chris retired from competition after the 2015 Pan American Games in his hometown of Toronto, where he was team captain.

Chris has extensive experience in governance and advisory work, having been the Athlete Representative on Karate Canada's Board of Directors for nine consecutive years, and is an advisor on their High-Performance Committee. Chris also created and served as Chair of Karate Canada's inaugural Athlete Council. Chris' Board experience included leading the overhaul of the national team's athlete agreement, ensuring athlete rights were protected and striking a balance between the needs of athletes and the NSO.

Professionally, Chris is a Senior Underwriter at a publicly traded global property & casualty insurance carrier, providing risk transfer solutions for directors & officers of private and non-profit entities.

Chris completed his Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Communication Studies from York University, his Graduate Diploma in Business (GDB) from Queen's University through a scholarship between Game Plan and the Smith School of Business at Queen's, and his Master of Business Administration with a specialization in innovation and entrepreneurship, also from Queen's University. During his MBA, Chris was the CEO of the Queen's University Alternative Assets Fund – Canada's first student-directed portfolio of alternative strategies, which holds over \$600,000 in assets under management.

Colin Hodgson (He/Him)

Sport: Curling

Term: 2023 - 2026

Colin Hodgson is a retired curler, who threw lead stones for Team Mike McEwen, Team Reid Carruthers, and Team Darren Moulding. During his career, Hodgson represented Manitoba and Northern Ontario at a total of six Brier Championships, finishing a career-best fifth in 2019. At their peak during the 2016-17 season, Hodgson's team ranked second in Canada. Colin also curled mixed doubles with Chelsea Carey,





winning bronze at the Canadian Championships in both 2017 and 2018 and is a 2007 Canada Winter Games Gold Medalist.

In addition to his work in sales, Colin gives back extensively to the community. He works as a volunteer firefighter in his home community of Red Lake, is a Classroom Champions athlete mentor, a former KidSport Ambassador, a volunteer coach at Red Lake District High School and various youth and Indigenous sport initiatives. Colin is a trained chef and has attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Colin, who is proudly Métis, has been on several AthletesCAN committees dating back to 2022, and has been a member of our board since 2023. He first learned of AthletesCAN when he came to us for support with a Safe Sport complaint. Colin has faced discrimination and many other forms of maltreatment as part of his experience in sport.

Cynthia Appiah (She/Her)

Sport: Bobsleigh

Term: 2022 - 2025

A standout shot put and hammer throw athlete at York University, Cynthia was introduced to bobsleigh in the summer of 2011 when she attended a testing camp. Within two years of deciding to make bobsleigh her prime athletic pursuit, she was competing on the North American Cup circuit as a breakwoman, and by 2015 would qualify for the World Cup circuit. Cynthia was named an alternate for the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, before shifting to the pilot position for the next quadrennial where she would compete at the 2022 Games in Beijing (finishing eighth in both competitions).

Cynthia has also played a significant role on behalf of her peers, becoming one of the more vocal athletes demanding change and a new-athlete centred approach within Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton, that eventually led to the election of a new President. She currently sits as an athlete representative on the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada's (SDRCC) Athlete Advisory Committee for the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). Cynthia holds a Bachelor of Arts in History along with a minor in psychology from York.

Greg Stewart (He/Him)

Sport: Para Athletics/Sitting Volleyball

Term: 2022 - 2025

Greg is a multisport athlete, having competed in para athletics, as well as both the sitting and standing para volleyball national teams for the past 20 years. Over the course of his career, Greg represented Canada at three Para Pan American Games – winning a bronze medal in both the 2007 and 2011 sitting volleyball tournaments, before earning a silver in 2019 in para shot put F46. A few months later, Greg finished second again at his World Athletics Championship debut. Following the pandemic postponement, Greg was selected to represent Canada for his first Paralympic Games at Tokyo 2020, where he threw a record of 16.75 metres to become Paralympic champion. Shortly after Tokyo, he chose to retire from sport. Two years later he came out of retirement and qualified for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. There, he defended his title, becoming the first-ever Canadian to defend a Paralympic title in shot put.

Off the track and court, Greg is a motivational speaker. Sharing insights on Trust, Ownership, and Integrity. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration majoring in Human Resources Management from Thompson Rivers University, where he also played for the men's basketball team and was named U SPORTS Defensive Player of the Year. Greg is excited and looking forward to continuing to give back to sport.





Julian Smith (He/Him)
Sport: Cross Country Ski
Term: 2023 - 2026

A veteran member of the National Team Development Centre (NTDC) Thunder Bay and the Canadian ski scene, Julian Smith has represented Canada at the World Junior Championships, U23 World Championships and Senior World Championships. He currently serves as one of Nordiq Canada's two Athlete Directors, representing the voice of cross-country ski athletes from across the country to the organization's Board of Directors. Outside of competition, Smith spent five years on the NDTC Board and volunteers with The Urban Abbey, a Thunder Bay-based not-for-profit.

