

# **KARATE CANADA**

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# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

# **FOR THE 2019**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL**

# **MEETING**



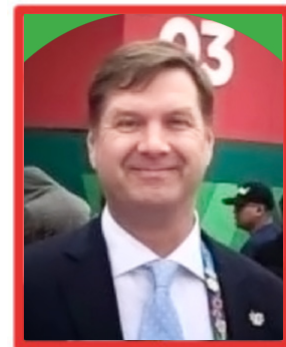
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018-19

Dear Friends in Karate,



The past year has been another stellar year for Karate Canada. The federation has continued its record of success from the previous 3 years, both in athletic performance as well as the success of the many programs that are managed by the staff and volunteers of Karate Canada. Canada claimed two silver medals at the Pan Am Games and various medals at Karate 1 and Pan American Karate Federation events. A silver and bronze in Para Karate were won at the past World Championships. This past June also brought the first ever World Karate Federation event to Canada, the Karate 1 Series A event in Montreal, which was an outstanding success. Most recently, Mr. Yaro Tarana was added to the PKF Referee Commission. This is just a sampling of the many successes for Karate Canada this past year.

The Series A event in Montreal was fantastic. With the support of the Government of Canada through Hosting Canada and Sport Canada, the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal, the event was financially viable and featured 800 participants from all over the world. Partnering with Karate Quebec to host the event ensured that local resources, expertise and logistics were in place. That the organizing committee went above and beyond in its treatment of all participants, particularly officials, was something that was continually mentioned to me in the many thanks we received after the event. I am very pleased that the legacy for this event is 8 full WKF authorized tatami that will be held by Karate Quebec for both their events and future Karate Canada events as well as the increased expertise and the many intangible dividends that are always present with a major event. While final reporting is in process, the WKF has advised that they were very happy with the event in Montreal.

This year, the Minister of Science and Sport for the Government of Canada, the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, placed a great emphasis on 'Safe Sport'.

*"All Canadians should have the opportunity to participate and excel in sport, regardless of age, ability, background, gender or sexual orientation, and they should be able to do so in an environment free from harassment, abuse, discrimination and maltreatment."*

*June 25, 2019, Heritage Canada release.*

The Safe Sport initiative has been endorsed and embraced by Karate Canada. All members of Karate Canada, including volunteers, have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive environment that is free of abuse, harassment or discrimination. This is independent of title, position, status, officiating license, coaching credentials, dan level, etc. Those who would contravene the principles



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of Safe Sport are not welcome in Karate Canada. I am pleased that Karate Canada has recently qualified for a number of grants to help implement further Safe Sport initiatives that coincide with the priorities of the Minister and Heritage and Sport Canada.

Karate Canada now has its first ever High Performance Director. This is an important step forward in the evolution of our HP programs and for the federation overall. The use of a competency-based approach to fill key positions remains a key focus and an important element to the success of Karate Canada. For example, the Board does not appoint coaches. The Board works with the HPD and the Executive Director, to carefully select the people who select the coaches. As High Performance is the most important program in Karate Canada it is important that good communication and reporting mechanisms are in place so that the Board has the feedback and information it needs to help set policy and direction. While 2019 has been a period of adjustment, I expect 2020 to better establish and follow the required communication protocols that exist between the HPD, the lead coaches, the ED and the Board. Overall, I am pleased with where things are going, and I look forward to their continued improvement.

The world needs more Canada. Part of the job of the President is to develop and maintain strong relationships with our national and international partners and to advocate for Canadians for positions on boards and committees, at home and abroad. These relationships take time to establish. Currently, I sit on the Safety in Combative Sports Federal, Provincial and Territorial Committee as the representative of the Canadian Olympic Committee member combative sports; the Pan American Karate Federation executive committee as the Assistant Treasurer; the Commonwealth Karate Federation as the General Secretary and I am a member of the North American Karate Federation by way of being the President of Karate Canada. I am pleased to report that Karate Canada has grown in recognition and respect from our many partners starting from January 2016 due to our positive change in culture and our stability as a national federation. Ms. Nassim Varasteh has been renewed by the World Karate Federation as a member of the Entourage Commission. I am also very pleased to announce that Mr. Yaro Tarana was recently selected onto the Pan American Karate Federation Referee Commission. These are well-deserved appointments. Members of Karate Canada bring a strong sense of ethics, professionalism and fairness to international committees and I believe we have made great strides in this area the past few years.

The next Commonwealth Karate Federation championships will take place in Birmingham, England during the first week of September 2020, a tight timeline after the PKF Jr Championships, but since it is not a Junior Worlds year it will hopefully be accessible to many. The Championship will consist of two events, an open 'Club' event, and an elite High Performance event that will have restricted entry per division per country. I have written to the High Performance Committee to ask them to consider this for their upcoming event calendar and to have the appropriate selection criteria. I do expect top athletes from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, South Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia, plus many other countries to attend. I would anticipate 18-22 countries to be represented and that this will be the largest ever Commonwealth Karate Event.



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I am expecting the initial bulletin to be out by the time you are reading this report.

The split national championships will again occur in 2020 as we finish a two-year pilot project. While final consultations need to be held with our Provincial and Territorial partners it seems more and more likely that we will need to come back together for future editions. While the timing is better for a separate national championship, the realities of the size of our country and the logistics involved will likely necessitate the change. There are a number of dates that could work very well for a combined event, so we will be examining this over the next several months.

Karate Canada, at its heart, is a High Performance entity. We are in the business of Sport and we measure our Return on Investment in athletic performance. Much of the success of the various HP programs is due to the continued development of dedicated coaches and programs for all disciplines of mainstream and Para Karate at both the senior and junior levels. In this regard, Karate Canada has come a very long way in a very short amount of time and 2018-2019 has seen good success for Canadian athletes. We have just come off a very good Junior Championship performance in Ecuador where we had more silver medals than last year and many more 5th place finishes. Two silver medals at the Pan American Games, good performances at the Pan American Senior event, and a number of K1 medals by our top athletes. We again boast two world medals in Para Karate from the last Senior World Championship in Madrid as well as continental medals in Para. Sport Canada has supported our top Olympic hopefuls with Enhanced Excellence Funding following a positive recommendation from Own The Podium. There are, of course, many other metrics for success, such as coaching, officiating, dan homologation, event hosting, etc. but at our core, our job is to put Canadian athletes on podiums. Many Canadians stood on podiums this past year.

At this stage of the game, it is highly unlikely that Karate will be making an appearance in Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games. This is very disappointing on many levels and we will need to be pragmatic and move ahead with the continued development of our governance, programs and management. Karate Canada will embark on a review of all programs and policies as well as its Strategic Plan in 2020. It will be a good opportunity to consolidate the many gains in the various programs that have been built and developed over the past three years. It is also no secret that our capacity as an organization has been severely challenged during this time. With the addition of the Series A event and the resources required to apply for and report on Enhanced Excellence funding, Pan American Games, multiple K1 events, etc. some obligations have taken a lower priority, such as reporting. This will need to be brought back up to standard in 2019-2020. I am pleased that the board Treasurer, Mr. Rivest, will be addressing a number of these items moving forward in the areas of his expertise. I would also like to take a moment and thank the staff for their dedication and professionalism in helping us achieve so much while juggling never-ending shifting priorities.

Karate Canada remains an athlete focussed national federation based on ethical decision making. I am pleased to say that all areas of our sport programs have improved, and I would point to the



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increased professionalism and success of our officiating program, starting in 2017, under the leadership of Mr. Tarana and with the support of an excellent committee, in particular. I would also congratulate all other committee chairs and volunteer members for their help and dedication this past year. Without volunteerism, Karate Canada would not be able to function.

This marks the end of my first full term as President for Karate Canada. It has been a fantastic experience, full of great achievements, and also many challenges. The mark of a good federation, and a good Board, is how it deals with challenges. I therefore want to thank my executive members, Mr. Ryan (VP), Mr. Rivest (Treasurer), for their help and counsel between Board meetings. I would also like to thank the Athlete Rep, Mr. De Sousa Costa, Directors at Large; Ms. Fidyk, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Ward, Ms. Foster, Mr. Morin, and past Director Ms. Trahan. It has been a pleasure to work with such an excellent and dedicated group of people.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Heritage (Sport) Canada and Minister Duncan for continuing to support Karate in Canada through the various support programs and the dedication of our program officer. The Canadian Olympic Committee and our President, Ms. Smith, which has made navigating through our first ever Olympic quad an amazing and game changing experience. The World Karate Federation President, Mr. Espinos, and the WKF staff for their support and trust in allowing Karate Canada to host the Karate 1, Series A event in Montreal. To the Pan American Karate Federation executive and President Maañoñ, for their support and camaraderie. To the Commonwealth Karate Federation President, Mr. Pillay for his trust and support for the position of General Secretary. To the Provincial and Territorial Presidents who continue to support a unified vision for our athletes and members. Finally, to the athletes, coaches, club sensei, volunteers and parents that tirelessly support our shared passion and love for Karate.

Sincerely,



Craig



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