





## 5. Government Consultant Update

### a. Regional Funding

- i. Hillary Pineau, Scott Willis, and Cameron Rogers all spoke with Christine Powers Thompson, the new Government Consultant for the organization. Discussed the organizations structure and governance model, funding opportunities, Canada Games, priorities and current gaps.
  1. From this conversation with Christine, Hillary Pineau recommended to the Board of Directors that Regional Directors no longer will be required for the management of funds for their respective regions. More emphasis will be placed on the clubs to apply for funding directly through the Go NB programs to accomplish their identified goals and projects (Ex. Umpire recruitment, Women & Girls, etc.). Regional Directors will still have an opportunity to apply for funding, should a regional level project arise, but it is not required to apply for it annually. This should lead to easier access for clubs to access funds, as well as lead to more money overall given to softball around the province.
  2. A notice to all clubs from Softball NB staff will be circulated in the new year to inform them of these funding opportunities.

## 6. Softball Canada Annual General Meeting

### a. Update

- i. Scott Willis, Cameron Rogers, and Hillary Pineau attended the AGM in Niagara from Nov 8-12th
- ii. It was a good weekend reconnecting with the other P/TSO's and Softball Canada.
- iii. Sessions including a staff forum, slo pitch, minor male, jays care, B5, etc workshops were held. A substantial amount of feedback from Softball NB staff has been submitted to Softball Canada following the conference for future events.
- iv. At the AGM, there were a substantial number of motions reviewed. Staff is awaiting for the final copy of the minutes from Softball Canada and will circulate the newly passed motions to the Board for review once received.

## 7. Financial Update

### a. Ken Cogswell

- i. 2021-2022 Audit finally completed. Hillary Pineau is awaiting for it to be dropped off to the office

### b. CEBA Loan

- i. Hillary outlined that the deadline to repay the CEBA loan is January 18th, 2024 without accumulating interest and receiving the \$20,000 in loan forgiveness



- ii. Motion to return the \$40,000 CEBA loan prior to the January 18th, 2024 deadline

First: France Bourque

Second: Matt Whipple

Carried

- c. The discussions regarding more frequently (Quarterly) financial updates are preferred for the Board of Directors. Scott Willis agreed and outlined that as the Treasurer, Ellen F., streamlines the chart of accounts, that will be possible.

#### **8. Timbits Softball**

- a. Hillary Pineau presented the initial draft proposal for a restructuring of the Timbits Community Caravan Program for the upcoming season. She indicated that she will share the draft early in the new year for the Board to review prior to the February meeting (in person) for final recommendations and approval.

#### **9. Coaching Update**

- a. Competition Development
  - i. Course being planned for early 2024
  - ii. Cameron is in the process of finalizing dates, locations, facilitator
  - iii. Will be partnering with Nova Scotia and potentially other Atlantic PSOs
- b. Competition Introduction
  - i. Course scheduled for April 2024
- c. Community Stream
  - i. Interest from the Board in offering this course for the first time in several years
  - ii. Will plan a date for closer to the start of the season

#### **10. Provincial Teams**

- a. Cameron Rogers provided an update regarding the NB Selects program
  - i. U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women's, and U20 Men's just completed their 3rd identification camp indoors at Fredericton High School in November
    - 1. Overall good attendance by athletes
    - 2. Office staff plans to touch base with Head Coaches in the new year to revisit details and plans for upcoming season
    - 3. U15/U17 Girls programs opted not to release any players at this time to give more opportunities for exposure and evaluation
  - ii. Cameron indicated she is currently working on a program budget for the upcoming season to propose to the Board in February. This budget will include coaches costs (flights, accommodations, etc.) to ensure we're supporting them from day one for their commitment to the program.

#### **11. Canada Games**

- a. Handbook Timeline



- i. Cameron Rogers has been finalizing the first draft of the team guide and will be sending it to GNB for an initial review before the Christmas holiday
- ii. Once the review and recommendations are received from GNB, staff will present a final draft to the Board for approval in February.

#### **12. Board Governance**

- a. As a follow up on the discussion in October, Scott Willis presented a draft proposal on a restructured Board of Directors. This comes from consultation with Christine Powers-Tompson and similar organizations existing structures. He indicated that more research and refinement of the proposal will be done in the new year, and there is potential to bring this forward for the 2024 Annual General Meeting, so long as the Board supports.

#### **13. Next Meeting**

- a. February 3-4th, 2024
- b. Meetings will be held in person in Fredericton. Location is TBA
- c. Hillary Pineau will plan for a social activity for the Board of Directors

#### **14. New Business**

- a. Jeff Whipple
  - i. Jeff Whipple has recently finished as NDU with Softball Canada
  - ii. Hillary Pineau is recommending to the Board to purchase him a gift card for his preferred restaurant in the city for his time and contribution to the sport of softball provincially and nationally
  - iii. Motion to purchase a gift card in the amount of \$100.00 for Jeff Whipple for his contribution to the sport of softball and time as National Director of Umpires.  
First: Stacy Blois  
Second: Darleen Sobey  
Carried
- b. Jeux de l'Acadie
  - i. France Bourque brought forward her interest in revitalizing the relationship with Jeux de l'Acadie. Often the organization align with Olympic sports, so with the reintroduction of softball for 2028 Olympics, this is a prime opportunity to propose a reinstatement of the sport into the games. This may generate new interest in the French communities around the province.

#### **15. Old Business**

- a. Hall of Fame / Annual Awards
  - i. Darleen Sobey inquired with staff about if any additional steps for the planning of the newly combined Hall of Fame and Annual Awards banquet for the fall have been made.



1. Hillary Pineau informed the Board that a motion was carried in October to combine the Hall of Fame and Annual awards into one event. While no additional planning had been completed since then, several options are being explored and the board will be consulted for the preferred delivery.

**16. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn  
First: Dan Mersereau