
Report to the Community

2023 - 24

Canadian Adaptive Snowsports -
Alberta Association



Report to the Community 2023-24

Vision

Our vision is an inclusive Alberta in which adaptive snowsports are accessible to all.

Mission

CADS Alberta is a volunteer based provincial sport organization whose mission is to provide all Albertans recreational and competitive adaptive snowsport opportunities through a safe, inclusive learning and training environment; supported by strong leadership, advocacy, and partnerships.

Targets

- Individuals with Adaptive Physical, Cognitive and/or Sensory Needs (Long Term Athlete Development LTAD Active Start, Fundamentals)
- LTAD Learn to Train to Train to Compete Competition Stream Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Athletes
- Volunteers
- Partners / Stakeholders

Goals

- Leadership Development
- Volunteer Education
- Long Term Athlete Development (alpine skiing and snowboarding)
- Revenue Generation
- Developing Stakeholder and Partnership Relationships
- Advocacy and Outreach
- Governance

CADS Alberta – 2023/24 Provincial Board

President Becca Neels
Vice President Chris Holoboff
Treasurer Angela Schornstein
Secretary Adria Brochu
Member at Large Evan Profit
Member at Large Kirk Schornstein
Member at Large Edward Shaw
Member at Large Spencer Allen
Member at Large Kiera Davick
Calgary Zone Rep Chad Hohol
Edmonton Zone Rep Thomas Olsen
Red Deer Zone Rep Adam Karras

CADS Alberta – 2023/24 Provincial Staff

CADS National Rep.
Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director (Staff)
Ozzie Sawicki
Executive Coordinator (Staff)
Sharon Veeneman

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Key Partners



CADS Alberta: 2023-24 Highlights

Dear CADS Alberta Member:

The 2023-24 season saw CADS Alberta continue to focus on its four pillars that include:

- Development
- Education
- Equipment
- Competition

These will be expanded upon in this, our 2023-24 Report to the Community, following a review of 2023-24 highlights.

This was the first year of a new quadrennial cycle leading to the 2027 Canada Winter Games to be held in Quebec City, of which the competition pathway to 2027 is part of our responsibility as a Provincial Sport Organization funding through Sport, physical activity and recreation (SPAR) branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport.

Key focus areas for 2023-24 remained on volunteer instructional education, equipment acquisition for continued support to our zone programs, regrowth of our member numbers post-covid, and planning for an CADS Alberta Adaptive Snowsport Celebration Event for 2024-25.

We are excited with the new ideas and initiatives for the 2024-25 season, many of which were created as part of our 2023-24 season rollout.

Sincerely,



Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director



Becca Neels
President

Returning initiatives have taken place over the 2023-24 season including:

- The **second annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop**, organized and delivered in partnership with CADS Calgary. The workshop was a three-day event held from December 7 to 10, 2023 in which volunteer instructors from across the province took part in sessions that included on-snow self-improvement sessions, CADS training module sessions, level three course conductor evaluations, and an evening dinner/social so instructors had a chance to mingle and exchange stories and ideas between our many CADS Alberta zone programs.

- CADS Alberta was proud to see our Executive Coordinator, Sharon Veeneman awarded as the **CADS National Administrator of the Year**, and our Program Director, Ozzie Sawicki, inducted into the **Alberta Sports Hall of Fame as a Paralympic Builder**. Ozzie



was thrilled to see several CADS Alberta members attend the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony, and thanks Becca Neels, our CADS Alberta President, for having nominated him for the award.

- **Slide and Ride events returned:** Two events were hosted over the 2023-24 season including CADS zones in Red Deer (Canyon Ski Area), and Westlock (Tawatinaw Valley Ski Area).
- **Canadian and USA National Championships – Kimberley, BC March 2024.**
 - Both the Canadian and USA National Championships were held in Downhill and Super G competitions.
 - CADS Alberta athletes were focused on the initial season of development, competing in Alberta Alpine events, led by the competition program managed through the CADS Edmonton program.

- CADS Alberta attended its second **Canada West Ski Area Association (CWSAA) annual conference** hosted at Jasper, Alberta for 2024. Attending allowed CADS Alberta, in collaboration with BC Adaptive Snowsports (BCAS) to raise awareness as to our roles in



creating market opportunities for our resort partners and their snowsport schools for potential clients with adaptive requirements. Efforts to be part of the CWSAA Trade Show paid dividends in creating these relationships and have allowed a growing voice in this market community around accessibility and opportunities to be more engaged with our snowsport area partners.

CADS Alberta: Strategic Goals

We continue to follow our core goals which include:

- Leadership Development
- Volunteer Education
- Long Term Athlete Development (alpine skiing and snowboarding)
- Revenue Generation
- Developing Stakeholder and Partnership Relationships
- Advocacy and Outreach
- Governance

This year's Report to the Community, will focus in on our four pillars of activity, which include:

- Development
- Education
- Equipment
- Competition

Core Goals and Season Outcomes 2023-24

These goals remain the focus of our reporting to our CADS Alberta Membership as an indicator of the health and progression of the organization.

Development

CADS Alberta programs continued to stabilize in its member numbers for the 2023-24 season. A continued effort to recruit enough trained volunteer instructors to support our participant members in the various CADS Alberta zone programs continues, with fall 2023 presentations being hosted at post-secondary education institutes throughout the province with a goal to bring increased attention to CADS Alberta zone programs and volunteer opportunities.

Continued program support from all our zones remains essential to the success of CADS Alberta. Thank you to our zone leads who are the communication contacts for their programs.

Slide & Ride come try it events took place in 2023-24, with two events being hosted in Red Deer and Westlock. Both events were highly successful, with thanks to the local coordinators and volunteers who made these events a success.

Education

CADS has an education and certification pathway which CADS Alberta implements with its Zone programs. The goal of which is to annually provide a CADS training block early season to prepare both returning instructors (refresher training or to take advancement levels of training) and new instructors (base training) followed by end of season evaluations that lead to level 1 and 2 certifications of instructors (for those who wish to pursue this).

The education requirement is focused on the safety of our participants. The CADS training and certification process provides training on the various ability areas (physical, sensory, and neurodiverse), preparing instructors to understand the nature of the ability first, followed by applying knowledge around the equipment being used (sit-skis, outriggers, etc.).

Every Zone is expected to participate in a training process early season. The larger Zones such as Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Red Deer have created their own internal training schedule, while smaller Zones such as Cold Lake, Tawatinaw Valley (Westlock), etc. rely on CADS Alberta to provide a course conductor that comes to their Zone to deliver the CADS training and evaluation education process. CADS Alberta generally supports the small Zones in covering the cost of this training, as it is in the best interest of our PSO to ensure a level of expected quality of education delivery.

The second annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop was hosted in partnership with CADS Calgary at WinSport (COP) December 7 to 10, 2023. The workshop, described earlier in our highlights section, was a successful delivery, with a huge thank you to CADS Calgary knowledge leaders who ensured the event ran smoothly. Plans are already underway to run the third annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop December 2024.

We will also explore additional strategies to support our volunteer instructors, who are so important to our programs. This includes offering opportunities for access to CSIA, CASI and ACA coaching courses to further advance knowledge in areas such as pedagogy and self-improvement on-snow.

A final area of education for all our CADS Alberta members will be that of Safe Sport, and strategies to providing education options continue to evolve in partnership with CADS National.

Equipment

Having established a central CADS Alberta equipment pool, in which Zones can lease what they need annually (<https://cadsalberta.ca/adaptive-equipment-lease/>), we have successfully completed our most recent CIP grant that allowed us to grow our equipment pool significantly, with the goal that no individual who wishes to be participating should be limited by lack of access to the equipment they require to participate.

The goal is to have an ability to outfit any participant that needs equipment with proper sizing and ability of equipment required. This allows our smaller and newer Zones the ability to access equipment in a cost-efficient lease process, that eliminates high costs in establishing zone programs.

To engage our Zone programs, we are providing the opportunity for CADS Alberta Zones to purchase equipment through our equipment order, which provides the opportunity to receive discounted pricing through reduced shipping costs and other offers of the equipment suppliers we deal with.

To provide additional equipment education to our zones, we brought a Tessier representative to our Education Workshop in 2023-24 to provide an expert knowledge resource to work with our participating volunteer instructors, as this provided a broader knowledge sharing of the equipment usage to ultimately benefit our participants.

CADS Alberta also secured a Calgary Parks Foundation Amateur Sport grant, and an Alberta-Sport Canada Sport Participation grant, both with the intent to secure additional adaptive equipment and competition equipment for the 2023-24 and future seasons.

Competition

The 2023-24 season was the beginning of a new quadrennial plan and pathway leading to the 2027 Canada Winter Games in Quebec City. Our goal was to see growth in our zone programs towards engaging advanced participants into a competition stream. CADS Edmonton has been the Alberta leader in this process, with athletes attending Alberta Alpine competition events.

We hope to see this trend continue for the 2024-25 season, and with additional zones creating these options for participants.

CADS Alberta has invested in equipment support to ensure each zone has access to the necessary equipment resources to operate competition programs. The goal is to create ease of access to competition opportunities for our advanced participants.

CADS Alberta has established an annual budget area to support competition programming and growth opportunities, focused on coaching quality, and an active start, to basic Learn to Train opportunity at the zone level. This will be a foundation element of the CADS Alberta 2024-2027 quadrennial plan leading to the 2027 Canada Winter Games, a goal for CADS Alberta zone advanced participants and athletes.

Membership

The Zone programs in Alberta include (as of 2023-24):

- Alliance (Valley Ski Hill)
- Banff (Mt. Norquay) – Partnered through CADS Calgary
- Calgary (Canada Olympic Park - WinSport)
- Cold Lake (Kinosoo Ridge)

- Crowsnest Pass (Pass PowderKeg)
- Edmonton (Rabbit Hill)
- Grande Prairie (Nite Hawk)
- Lethbridge (Castle Mountain)
- Medicine Hat (Hidden Valley)
- Nakiska – CADS Alberta's primary competition training base.
- Red Deer (Canyon Ski Area)
- Tawatinaw (Westlock)

CADS Alberta participant membership is made up of people with spinal cord injury; amputees; spina bifida; cerebral palsy; visually impaired; hearing impaired; brain injury; cognitive impairment and many others.

The **2023-24 Membership** is presented below:


- Female Volunteer (Various types) – 252
- Female Participants – 117
- Male Volunteers (Various types) – 338
- Male Participants – 205
- Non-Binary Volunteers – 2
- Non-Binary Participants – 2
- **Total Count - 916**

Summary

The above work was made possible through a highly innovative and dedicated CADS Alberta Board, without whom the above work and provincial support would not have been possible, and the exceptional support of Sharon Veeneman, the CADS Alberta Executive Coordinator. CADS Alberta continues to have a goal as being a Provincial Sport Organization leader in sport delivery in Alberta and for all Albertans in an inclusive and safe setting.

Thank you to our many long-standing and new partners, stakeholders, and collaborators, and thank you to our CADS Alberta Zones for their exceptional collaborative spirit that continues to make CADS Alberta a social community that is as important as the sport and recreation activity it represents.

Respectfully submitted,



Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director, CADS Alberta