
Report to the Community

2025 - 26

Canadian Adaptive Snowsports -
Alberta Association



Report to the Community 2025-26

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
- Safe Sport

CADS Alberta – 2025/26 Provincial Board

President	Becca Neels
Interim President	Chris Holoboff
Vice President	Chris Holoboff
Treasurer	Angela Schornstein
Secretary	Adria Brochu
Member at Large	Spencer Allen
Member at Large	Kiera Davick
Member at Large	Adam Karras
Member at Large	Kirk Schornstein
Member at Large	Edward Shaw
Calgary Club Rep	Tony Crook
Edmonton Club Rep	Noel Ponton
Red Deer Club Rep	Alan Dreeschen

CADS Alberta – 2025/26 Provincial Staff

CADS National Rep
Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director (Staff)
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Executive Coordinator (Staff)
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Key Partners



ALPINE CANADA



ALBERTA ALPINE



Cochrane Foundation



CADS Alberta: 2025-26 Highlights

Dear CADS Alberta Member:

The 2025-26 season saw CADS Alberta continue to focus on its four pillars that include:

- Development
- Education
- Equipment
- Competition

These will continue to be expanded upon where it best fits the CADS Alberta mandate for the future.

This was the third year of our 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 funded through Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport.

Our key focus areas for 2025-26 continued to include volunteer instructional education, equipment acquisition for continued support to our club programs, continued growth of our member numbers, and the establishment of both a restricted and unrestricted reserve investment fund.

Planning also remains important as we move into the final 2026-27 season of our existing quadrennial plan and begin to build strategy towards our 2028 to 2031 Long Term Plan. This includes planning for CADS Alberta event and growth opportunities for 2027, the creation of closer partner relationships, stronger and clearly defined relationships with our club programs, and planning that includes the addition of CADS Alberta adaptive cross-country skiing programming for the 2027-28 season.

We are excited with the new ideas and initiatives for the 2026-27 season, many of which have been initiated as part of our 2025-26 season.

Respectfully submitted,



Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director



Becca Neels
President

2025-26 Key Initiatives:

The **fourth annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop**, organized and delivered in partnership with CADS Calgary was the lead in event of our season. The workshop was once again a three-day event held from December 12 to 14, 2025 in which volunteer instructors from across the province took part in sessions that included:

- On-snow self-improvement sessions held at Mt. Norquay as the first education focused mountain trip to take place as part of our annual Education Workshop,
- CADS training module sessions that included the Tessier team from France who continue to strengthen our sit-ski knowledge base,
- Instructor certification
 - Level 1 CADS Alpine Skiing (7 passed)
 - Level 1 CADS Snowboard (4 passed)
 - Level 3 CADS Alpine Skiing (2 passed)
- Finally, an evening dinner/social so instructors had a chance to mingle and exchange stories and ideas between our many CADS Alberta club programs.

Slide and Ride events returned: Three events were hosted over the 2025-26 season including CADS clubs in Cold Lake (Kinosoo Ridge), Red Deer (Canyon Ski Area), and Westlock (Tawatinaw Valley Ski Area). A huge thank you to these CADS Alberta club programs for running positive and educational events.

Continued Growth of the CADS Alberta Equipment Lease Program, in which we continue to provide the equipment to support our participants in all our club programs across Alberta. Our present focus is on building a supply of Tessier equipment for our members.

CADS Alberta Competition Camps were hosted at Red Deer's Canyon Ski Area, and a national para-alpine skiing camp held in Kimberley, BC in 2026. The camps are intended to increase competition training, education, and growth of interest, and form part of our planning towards building a team for the 2027 Canada Winter Games.

The camps will continue into 2026-27 and will be an integral part of the selection process for creating our Alberta Para Alpine Team who will attend the 2027 Canada Winter Games in Quebec City.

CADS Alberta: How We Invest in Clubs

2025-26 Budget Breakdown – How We Distribute Resources

Our goal is to support our club programs and the initiatives they value in support of the people in programs. We do this through:

1. Direct Funding – Education Workshop (instructor development), Course Conductor and Club instructor training support, Pre-Course Funding support, equipment supply
2. Programs Through Clubs – Slide & Rides (Club run, CADS AB funded), Club competition program funding, equipment support (lease program)
3. Competition support (part of our required mandate as a Provincial Sport Organization) – CADS Alberta camps, equipment support, coach development and training.

Budget Expenditures (Direct Budgeting Towards Club and Member Support)

- Education Workshop	\$ 26,157.80
- Slide & Ride and Outreach	\$ 6,969.35
- Club Grant Support	\$ 9,182.50
- Equipment Purchase	\$ 125,342.82
- Competition support (Club Direct)	\$ 10,000.00
- Competition CADS AB Camps	\$ 6,601.76
Annual Total	\$ 184,254.23

How We Accomplish This

What we access

- Core funds – received as a Provincial Sport Organization (CADS Alberta) through the Government of Alberta (Sport, Physical Activity, Recreation (SPAR) Branch)
- Grant funds – Various levels of grants, including Alberta government grants (some of which are only available to PSOs), community fund grants, foundation funding, federal grants
- AGLC funds – Staff support and other program support (targeted funds)
- Membership fees – \$15 of each CADS membership remains with CADS Alberta
- Investment for the future – We have built a combined restricted and unrestricted investment fund (reserve fund). The restricted fund requires we spend this on specific areas, most of which are Club directed such as equipment and education. The unrestricted fund are monies we wish to invest and keep in reserve. This would support various longer-term projects, downturns in which typical funding levels drop, program expansions, and related goals.

The Behind-the-Scenes Support

This includes staff contracts for the team that:

- Manage grant writing and fund pursuits
- Coordination of events
- Management and distribution of equipment resources
- Competition training, coaching, equipment management and distribution
- Safe Sport implementation and management
- Administrative support, including registration and snowline support, fiscal management, event coordination, management and tracking
- Representation of CADS Club interests at a provincial and national level

Building Better Club Relationships

- CADS Alberta is a Club partner, not simply a funder
- CADS Alberta reports on the members in Alberta, as required by the Government of Alberta and our SPAR partner. We keep our key funding and governance partners aware of our operations, and those of our Clubs to ensure a healthy relationship with the province and the opportunities that they make available to us.
- The success of our Clubs is the most important measurable of the success we have, as we continue to be viewed as a strong adaptive sport PSO in Alberta and amongst the Snowsports PSOs in Canada.

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
- Safe Sport

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 2025-26

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 grow in its member numbers for the 2025-26 season. A continued effort to recruit enough trained volunteer instructors to support our participant members in the various CADS Alberta club programs continues.

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

Slide & Ride come try it events took place in 2025-26, with three events being hosted in Cold Lake, Red Deer and Westlock. These events remain focused on each of the Club's desire direction, with CADS Alberta supporting the events through funding and coordination. Thank you 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 Club 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 or higher for instructors (those who wish to pursue this). Our core goal is establishing a “trained” instructor pool as our baseline.

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

The fourth annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop was hosted in partnership with CADS Calgary at WinSport (COP) December 12 to 14, 2025. 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, and to the many leaders and instructors who attended and contributed to the learning environment. Plans are already underway to run the fifth annual CADS Alberta Education Workshop December 11 to 13, 2026.

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, PSIC, CASI instructional development, and ACA coach development 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, which is now a program directly managed and funded through the Government of Alberta. The new program is formally live as of June of 2026 for CADS Alberta and their Club members.

Equipment

Having established a central CADS Alberta equipment pool, in which Clubs 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 and now have additional funding resources to continue expanding these resources. The goal is that no individual who wishes to be participating should be limited by lack of access to the equipment they require to participate.

CADS Alberta believes that we should outfit any participant that needs equipment with proper sizing and ability of equipment required. This allows our smaller and newer Clubs the ability to access equipment in a cost-efficient lease process, eliminating high costs in establishing club programs.

To engage our Club programs, we are providing the opportunity for CADS Alberta Clubs 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 clubs, we will continue to build our relationship with Tessier and look to other equipment providers as needed.

Competition

The 2025-26 season was the third year of our quadrennial plan and pathway leading to the 2027 Canada Winter Games in Quebec City. Our goal was to see growth in our Club programs towards engaging advanced participants into a competition stream if they choose to do so. CADS Edmonton has been the Alberta leader in this pathway, with athletes attending two CADS Alberta competition camps this season at Canyon Ski Resort in Red Deer, and a national competition camp in Kimberley, BC. We also have athletes training with Alberta Alpine Clubs who are now part of the CADS Alberta competition program.

The programs, camps and Clubs that are supported are developing the pathway of athletes who will represent Alberta in para-alpine skiing at the 2027 Canada Winter Games.

Our FIS Para alpine athlete, Spencer Allen, and his guide, were also successful in 2026 at events in the USA, as he continues his journey towards higher levels of competition internationally.

CADS Alberta has invested in equipment support to ensure each club 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 developing coaching talent and resources, and an active start, to basic Learn to Train opportunity at the club level.

Although competition remains a very small percentage of CADS Alberta's Club and program audience, competition remains a key part of our mandate as a PSO in providing the full adaptive pathway of opportunity leading to provincial and national competition levels. This target audience also raises the marketable awareness of CADS Alberta and its programs allowing for increased access to fund and other resources that ultimately benefit all participants in CADS Alberta Club programs.

Membership

The Club programs in Alberta include (as of 2025-26):

- Alliance (Valley Ski Hill)
- Banff (Mt. Norquay) – Partnered through CADS Calgary
- Calgary (Canada Olympic Park - WinSport)
- Cold Lake (Kinosoo Ridge)
- Crowsnest Pass (Pass PowderKeg) – Limited activity
- Edmonton (Rabbit Hill)
- Grande Prairie (Nite Hawk) – Limited activity
- Lethbridge (Castle Mountain)
- Medicine Hat (Hidden Valley) – Limited activity
- Nakiska – CADS Alberta's primary competition training base.
- Red Deer (Canyon Ski Area)
- Tawatinaw Valley (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 **2025-26 Membership totaled 1072 members**, an increase of 81 members from the previous year.

We anticipate membership growth continuing and estimate over 1100 members for the 2026-27 season, hence the importance of continually finding new ways in which to attract volunteer instructional and coaching support. As we expand into adaptive cross-country skiing, we also anticipate a large membership increase, hence the plan for implementation is a multi-year strategy, in which the upcoming season is one in which we build the operational capacity and develop the leadership necessary to run these programs.

Summary

CADS Alberta programming was made possible through a highly innovative and dedicated Board, without whom provincial support would not have been possible. Operations would also not run effectively without the exceptional support of Sharon Veeneman, the CADS Alberta Executive Coordinator.

CADS Alberta is also highly appreciative of our core partners in SPAR (Government of Alberta), as well as our many stakeholders and sponsors.

CADS Alberta continues to have a goal as being a leader as a Provincial Sport Organization in adaptive sport delivery in Alberta, so that all Albertans can experience an inclusive, fun, educational, and safe snowsports experience.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Ozzie Sawicki
Program Director, CADS Alberta