

# CSAI March Community of Practice Call-20260327\_120020-Meeting Recording

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59m 41s

● **Robyn Skinner** started transcription

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 0:07  
Good morning, good afternoon, everybody.

**S** **Suzanne (Northgate)** 0:08  
No.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 0:12  
Hey, Stefan, good to see ya.  
Everyone's having a good Friday. My gosh, it's Friday.

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 0:27  
No.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 0:29  
Yay, it's Friday. For some of you, hopefully. Maybe some of you, this is, you know, Friday isn't a Friday, but good to see you nonetheless. Usually what I like to do in these calls, if, depending on numbers, is take an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves. Some of you may have been here on the call we had last.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 0:31  
Bye.

**J** **John Graham -Velo Cape Breton** 0:37  
Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 0:50  
spring and everyone took an opportunity to introduce themselves and it took the entire call, which was amazing. I loved it. But I want to make best use of our time

here today. So maybe what we'll do is we can, I can introduce myself first of all, if I haven't met you. My name's Robyn. I'm with Cycling Canada.

I'm going to introduce my colleague Giana, who's also on this call. She's working with us in the Community Grassroots Department of Cycling Canada, and she's based out of Montreal. And one really exciting thing about Giana is she worked a little bit with Golf Canada on their first tee program, which is really similar to Hop One.

So she's got some interesting background and success in the golf world with a similar program. So ask any questions you have of Giana. But Giana, if you wanted to say a quick hello, please go ahead.

**GV** **Giana Veneziano** 1:46

Hi, it's nice to meet everybody. I'll drop my name and e-mail in the chat. So if ever you guys have any questions or anything, reach out. But looking forward to working with you all.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 1:55

And Giana is also a much stronger, much stronger French speaker than I am. So if anyone does have any questions, en Francais, our friend Giana can certainly help. But great to see everyone. Why don't we just quickly take, if everyone's okay with it, quickly take

**GV** **Giana Veneziano** 2:00

Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 2:15

a couple minutes each to introduce ourselves. We can take 10-ish odd minutes to do this, and everyone can take an opportunity, if you're comfortable introducing yourself. Before we kick off, I'm just going to quickly give a land acknowledgement. And usually when we do a land acknowledgement at the beginning of these calls, it's based out of our...

I'm not based in Ottawa, I'm just north of Toronto in Ontario, but we base our land acknowledgement out of our Ottawa office. So I can do a land acknowledgement and then maybe we can kick off some introductions. So Cycling Canada respectfully acknowledges that we're meeting today on traditional territory of the Mohawk, Algonquin, and Anishinaabe Waukee peoples.

We acknowledge the long history of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and show respect to the indigenous communities. We're making the acknowledgement to further demonstrate our commitment to work together as a community and laying the foundation for reconciliation through sport. I'm going to talk a little bit more about some further work that we'll be doing later on in the call today. in regard to Indigenous relationships in sport. But as I mentioned, I'm Robyn. I'm with Cycling Canada. I'm in Toronto, just north of Toronto, and Collingwood just north of Toronto. My pronouns are she, her. And I actually did work on a hop on program here in Collingwood with our local YMCA.

**J** **John Graham -Velo Cape Breton** 3:32  
Mm.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 3:37  
We had 10 kids come out in September, October, and join us to learn how to ride bikes together in partnership with our local YMCA, which was an awesome success. And I've got some great pictures in the slide deck I'll bring up here in a moment. But I'll pass it on to you. I'm going to see who's off mute. I'm going to go directly to whomever is off mute.  
Joanna, you're off mute. Do you want to quickly introduce yourself? Like 90 seconds.

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 3:59  
Bike.  
90 seconds elevator pitch. Hi, Joanna Fox. I'm, yeah, I'm in Victoria, BC. My husband and I have a youth cycling program with the club Triple Shot Cycling. And we had a girls club last year and we're building on that and doing a tryout month.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 4:05  
That's right.

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 4:23  
in April.  
like next week.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 4:27

Thanks, Joanne.

Who's next? Maggie. I don't think I've met you before, so maybe you can introduce yourself, Maggie.

**MK** **Maggie Keenan** 4:36

Hi, yeah, I'm Maggie. I'm with the CNCB in Bromond, Quebec. I've been here a couple of years, but I'm not always doing the group chat with you guys. We had two years ago, we did a hop on hop off with the summer camps, which was great.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 4:40

Nice.

**MK** **Maggie Keenan** 4:55

but now with the whatever the suspension are, we are doing it with a different group. We had a adapted sports group that we did last summer, but I was on Mathieu, so I'm not quite up to date on all of this, but I booked the group and then I'm back.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 5:12

It.

The.

**MK** **Maggie Keenan** 5:14

To for the summer.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 5:17

Thanks, Maggie. Welcome. Stefan.

**SE** **Steve Ellefson** 5:21

Good morning. Nice to meet with you all. I'm in Calgary. We run a para sport club and in the summer we focus primarily on hand cycling. We are working hard to expand and reestablish our

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 5:29

BC.

**SE Steve Ellefson** 5:41

a competitive team and involved in a big recruitment program this spring. We also run a junior neurodivergent Cycling that is very interesting. We just see it as such an underserved population and it's coming together. It has gone on for several years. It is very gratifying.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 6:07

You.

**SE Steve Ellefson** 6:08

I need to say something has just come up that I'm going to have to deal with. My apologies, I can't avoid it. So I'm going to have to break away soon and I'll get back as soon as I can.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 6:20

Appreciate it. Thanks, Steve, for that. The Hop On program I worked at this past October and calling it, we had two or three neurodivergent participants and the YMCA staff was amazing with them. The skills that they had to work with that

**SE Steve Ellefson** 6:22

Okay.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 6:38

those kids in our community were amazing. So I'd love to hear more about that sometime, but thanks for sharing, Steve.

**SE Steve Ellefson** 6:45

Absolutely.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 6:47

Let's move on to John and Cape Breton.

**J John Graham -Velo Cape Breton** 6:52

Hello, I'm with a fellow Cape Breton. I'm A Hop-on volunteer. Last year we ran some

programs here in Cape Breton. This summer we've got some scheduled. We are also going to do some short track this summer, so introduce the competitive side of things and begin there with short track and then hopefully the following year we can have some

longer races. We also purchased some mountain bikes and a trailer. So this year we'll also be able to help kids or neighborhoods where or kids that show up without bikes will be able to support them. And we also bought repair equipment. So when the kids show up on site with their own bikes, we'll be able to adjust seats and brakes and those kinds of things as well.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 7:37

Great. Awesome. And John, do you bring out like a local bike shop to help with those adjustments or is that something the volunteers are versed in?

**J** **John Graham -Velo Cape Breton** 7:45

We've got a local bike shop that's going to train the hop-on people. Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 7:49

Amazing. Amazing. So great. Cool. Thanks for sharing. Stephanie, good to see you.

**J** **John Graham -Velo Cape Breton** 7:52

You're welcome.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 7:56

Hey, Robyn, how are you?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 7:58

Great. Tell us about you, Stephanie.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 7:59

Ohh...

Gosh. Okay, so my name is Stefan Sutton. My pronouns are her, she, and L. I'm from Ontario with Golden Horseshoe Cycling Hub and we're based out of Ancaster and we're part, we ride on the territorials of the Six Nations of the Grant.

Hop On has been super successful for us. We have eight kids now graduating from

Hop On into our Rally Riders program, which is a continuation of recreation riding, a bit of skills and trail riding for two hours. So really, really

Happy to have that continuation on, because, as we know, kids are going to grow out of Hop On, so it's really good to attract kids, have them for a while, and then to pass them on. We just acquired a fleet of Strider bikes, so kind of on the entry side of Hop On.

introducing our Strider Bike program in the fall of 2026, and then that will be a feeder into Hop On. So really having that base of Hop On and then building around it has been truly rewarding and seeing that it's working and growing is so positive.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 9:17

Thanks for sharing, Stephanie. I love the Rally Rider's name. What a great name. And it sounds, you know, very similar to what we've been trying to do with our Hop On program, right? Deliver something post a four, five, six week program. So that's great. Thanks for sharing. Stephen in the Yukon.

**SB** **Steven Biss** 9:36

Hello. Hi everyone. I'm Steve from UConn. My goal right now this year is just to continue to expand our hop on programming. Right now we're in three or four Yukon communities, depending on the year, and we're hoping to just expand to a couple more this year, get into a few more schools. That's been really successful, working with Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon to deliver some mechanical knowledge along with hop-on knowledge. and working with a local business to do some bridge programming this summer, which is pretty exciting for that next step.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 10:14

Amazing.  
Thanks, Stefan. Suzanne, good to see you.  
Okay.

**S** **Suzanne (Northgate)** 10:33

and the home of the Metis Nation. We are working with the Northgate Trail System, a little trail network on the edge of our national park here in Manitoba, Riding Mountain. And we have been working on a program with youth through the

Friendship Centre, which is a local Indigenous group. or Indigenous Resource Center. And so we've done a number of sessions through the fall and into the winter, and are planning to start up a weekly program starting probably mid-April and run weekly sessions rather than monthly, which we did last year. So we're hoping to expand a little bit and There's no other bike club in the community, so it's a badly needed resource here. So we're looking forward to it.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 11:22

Thanks, Susan. That's great. Appreciate it.

**S** **Suzanne (Northgate)** 11:23

Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 11:27

Liette, welcome. Good to see you. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your program?

**LP** **Liette Paulin** 11:33

Yes, I'm with the town of Shediac in New Brunswick. And we did a hop on, we did form some instructors last year and we're continuing this year. And we're looking, I work with the town, so we're looking at kind of transferring the instructor and the, not the burden, but the program to our local, our local association. So that's the plan for this year. But we're here to support and bring Hop On to the community.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 12:09

Thanks, Leah. Appreciate you sharing. Chris is going to talk a little bit more about the Felony Brunswick approach. I'm sure he'll speak to your program a little, so thank you. Aoife, welcome. Are you able to share a little bit about your program? I may not have pronounced your name correctly, so I apologize.

**AG** **Aoife Guilfoyle (she/her)** 12:30

Hi, I'm Aoife and I'm with Cycling PU Program Director. Jordan and johnmonette will be able to speak more on the programs as I'm very, very new, so I'm just being thrown in at the deep end here. And if you look backwards, it kind of

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 12:47  
It's okay.

**AG** **Aoife Guilfoyle (she/her)** 12:50  
to pronounce that way.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 12:53  
Thank you. Appreciate it. I tried. So I appreciate you correcting me. Welcome. Great to meet you. Jordan, why don't you speak a little bit about what you and you are up to in PEI?

**AG** **Aoife Guilfoyle (she/her)** 12:56  
That's OK.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 13:08  
Yeah, sure. And I think you actually got Ava's name right the first time. So that was amazing. Probably the first person ever, right, Ava? Anyway, yeah, so I'm super happy to have Ava on board. So she's going to be, as the program director, she'll be really

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 13:17  
Well done. Okay, cool.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 13:28  
the main person in charge of our hop on, working alongside Janet, who's here as well, who's still our lead instructor and is going to be kind of heading up our school program.  
So yeah, this year, we're planning on getting into probably 3 schools, but really want to expand our community programming mostly through by partnering with more Boys and Girls Clubs. We did our first Boys and Girls Club partnership last year in Summerside, and that went really well. They want to have us back.  
And there are a few other towns in PEI that have Boys and Girls Clubs, and we just find it's so much more effective when we go to an organization that has the kids and, you know, wants to get them into an activity rather than plunging ourselves down somewhere and then trying to advertise it and fill up a course. So

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 14:24

Greg.

Yeah, nice.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 14:27

So we'll hopefully have a lot of success with that. And another thing that we're doing a little bit differently this year is, well, we started a, what we call Little Trailblazers as sort of a bridge program last year. We did it in Charlottetown. And this year, we're going to put it

At Brooke Vale, where we do our big rigid riders mountain Bike Club, so we have like 200 plus people that participate in rigid riders every year, and this will provide an opportunity for there to be like fluidity between the two, where depending on the skill level, if...

they need to work on fundamentals, then they'll be doing little trailblazers with our hop-on instructors, doing hop-on. And then, you know, when they're ready and their confidence is up, they'll be able to go into rigid riders and do more like trail riding, skill building that way.

And vice versa, if somebody's like in Rigid Riders and then they like, you need some more work on fundamentals, you know, go down and play some fun games. So those are our main things for this year.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 15:35

Love it.

That's great. That's a lot, Jordan. And I love the fact that we've got three folks here from Cycling PEI. That's amazing.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 15:47

Yeah, we always like to take over.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 15:49

I love it. It's great. Janet, it's good to see you. Thanks, thanks for joining.

**JL** **Janet Lauzon** 15:56

Yeah, so the third of the trifecta from Prince Edward Island. Jordan outlined it really

well. We've got it wonderful having Aoife here as well, so that's great. I have nothing really bad, except I think we're pretty enthusiastic. We've gotten a lot of good feedback.

and looking forward to the summer.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 16:18

Appreciate it. Well, one of my missions today is to, for Giana and I to walk away with some great content to share with our community. And Giana, Cycling PEI is, I mean, all the folks on this call, if they're willing to chat with us more, but I think Cycling PEI might be on our priority hit list.

**JL** **Janet Lauzon** 16:19

Yep.

Ohh.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 16:39

Great to see all of you. Thorsten, you are somewhere driving with cell service. If you want to take a moment, hopefully you're not actually driving and want to share what's happening in Cycling Northwest Territories. That'd be wonderful.

**T** **Thorsten (he/him)** 16:55

Yeah, thanks Robyn. Torsten here, my general pronouns are he and him. I'm normally on the lands of the Digagiti First Nations, where that's where I play, live, and work. Right now, we're driving through the winter Rd. for six hours in the middle of nowhere, and we luckily have star connection because we have a satellite here with us. It's A Satu region, we just did an outreach project.

program. We were lucky enough to get the funding last year. So we own a trailer, what is very exciting, and 24 mountain bikes. We have still training coming up with BC. So we had a huge support from BC, what was very great. And then this year is we're going to bring in someone to help us to actually run a hop on program, a training, and then we can work with who I'm driving right now with school sports. to get into the schools and do some more activities there. So definitely excited and say very grateful for everything. So thank you.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 17:46

Thanks, Reston. Thanks for taking the time to call in. Peter, it looks like you're at school, my friend.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 17:55

I am indeed. I'm in the pastry kitchen today. We just finished a practical. My name is Peter Duer. I am from Kendal, Nova Scotia, and I'm the founder and one of the coaches with Valley Devo, which is Annapolis Valley Cycling Development.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 17:59

Yeah.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 18:14

and programs. We're A four-year-old program and we primarily focus, we have a youth program that runs for 12 weeks that starts in two weeks where we do youth development and we use the hop-on model for that.

Two years ago, I recognized that the kids were getting a lot faster. So we also have a race team called the Devo Squad. And we meet two days a week. And we also run events. So we have the Valley Devo Short Track Race Series.

For youth and for adults, we run.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 18:56

Yeah.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 19:00

three provincial race series, XCOs. And this year we have a couple of programs in schools with girls run by April, who's my other coach. And also we have 4.

of our primary community events booked where we do free tunes and we set up kind of a mini hop on obstacle course for the kids. We usually have about 100 people come out to that.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 19:39

Yeah.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 19:41

And by far that is our most successful event. We set up with two communities, New

Minus and this year we'll also do Kendal. And we have everybody comes to that from new folks to the area.

Anybody who needs their bike fixed. And because of the hop on grants, we have tools, the trailer, we have bikes for the kids, and we're able to do that free of charge for probably maybe this year about 400 people.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 20:16

That's awesome.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 20:20

So, yeah.

Yes.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 20:36

Learning about the programming and get their bikes fixed and and try out, try it out.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 20:40

They come for the hop on, get their bike sticks. I think mostly they hear about its free bike tunes. So they come for that and then the kids stay and they play with some of our new coaches. We have some younger coaches who've graduated through our Devo programs.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 20:47

Yeah.

Yeah, that's great.

**D** **Dewar, Peter** 20:59

So, yeah, we've started a great legacy in the area, I feel.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 21:04

That's awesome. Thanks for sharing. I think the last person who has their camera on, I'm not going to call out folks who don't have their camera on because they may be on lunch break or working. Nicola, thanks for joining. Nicola, I think you were also driving at the beginning of this call, but yeah, do you want to share a little bit about... about your program.

**N** **Nicolas** 21:25

Yes, so our program is in the Laval. I'm from a all Cycling Climate in Quebec, mostly about the road, and since 2021 we have a discovery program in schools. We reach around 4,500 kids a year in school. It's our own program, but we work with Upon and Cycling Canada since 2024 to deliver special weeks for kids with disabilities. So twice a year we have designated period where we have special bikes, adapted bikes, and gear to go in schools where kids have disabilities. So yeah, that's with open support. So we're super glad to have it on. Be able to offer it to as many schools as we can in Laval.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 22:32

Yeah, lots of great work over many years. Nicolas, so thanks so much for sharing. I think we've shared actually quite a few of the images from Espor Laval's programming over the years because you've been doing such great work for a while. One thing I just dropped into the chat is an information page we have set up on our Hop On website that profiles each one of your programs. So one thing I was going to ask for during this call is if you want to give us a new update, share some pictures, this is where we push everybody if they're curious about any of your programs. So some of the information might be missing for your program. That's okay. You can certainly send it to Giana and myself and we can get it updated on the website so we can brag about your programs. I wish everybody could hear the last 23 minutes that we just heard about all the really cool programs going on across the country. There's folks, of course, missing from this call that are also funded through this program. So I appreciate everyone taking the time to go through their programs because This is what I think gives each of us energy to continue to deliver this great work. I know how much work it takes, and all of you are appreciated in the efforts you're making in your provinces and territories to make this program happen. I think I got everyone, and if I didn't, and someone else wants to add something, please put your hand up or unmute yourself. Happy to hear about your program. Going to take the next 10 minutes or so, 5, 10 minutes. Chris Foster, who's the executive director of Bella New Brunswick,

and I are going to talk a little bit about his approach with how many programs, Chris? Two or three programs, I think, in New Brunswick. That's the first question.

**CF** **Chris Foster** 24:28  
Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 24:29  
How many programs have we funded in New Brunswick? Three? Okay, great. Great. So one thing I really like about these calls is, of course, learning about all your programs, but doing a little bit of a deeper dive into maybe one or two programs and learn a little bit about what they've learned, what maybe some of their challenges are, and what...

**CF** **Chris Foster** 24:30  
Three, we've had three programs, yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 24:50  
their upcoming plans look like, especially when they've had a year or two, or if not more, to deliver some programming. What changes are they making this year? So I'm going to ask Chris a handful of questions, and of course, if any of you have any questions for him, please ask. So.  
Chris, can you tell us a little bit about, you know, maybe a minute about what your programs looked like last year and maybe some of the changes you're making for the upcoming season based on some of your learnings?

**CF** **Chris Foster** 25:21  
So we had three unique programs run last year.  
Two of them were run by more what I'll call community groups, clubs, organizations, that sort of thing in the St. John and Fredericton area. And then Liette is with the town of Shediac, which is more of a municipality running, getting a program up and running in for their community. So  
very unique and different type of programs because whatever programs that we had running in the St. John area was designed for, and I heard it already, some neurodivergent children and other kids facing some difficulties that way. So 3 kind of

unique programs.  
locations and sort of targets as well.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 26:11

And Chris, of the three different types of programming that you're running, is one one or the other? I don't want to ask you to compare them, but... Which one has taken the longest, I suppose, for you to invest time in to help support and launch?

**CF** **Chris Foster** 26:31

I don't think anyone has been taking the longest. Thankfully, all of our programs are run by great individuals. So it's from my point of view, it's as a PSO, these programs are resources that we want to provide to the province, to You know, get more kids riding to get more people involved in. both a sporting side and a recreation side of Cycling. So I don't think there's anything that has taken longer or more or taken more care because they're all unique. They're all going to face different situations, and it's all about trying to find.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 27:04

Bike.

**CF** **Chris Foster** 27:15

solutions to those things. From our point of view, again, being a resource provider, it's making sure sometimes our round peg doesn't fit in the square hole sometimes, but you just got to whittle it down and help it work.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 27:31

I hope I'm not putting you on the spot with this question, but I'm going to ask it anyway. One of the big components of the Hop On program and why Cycling Canada, you know, invested in this with our provinces and territories was to increase membership. And that's one thing that we evaluate year to year, you know, has it had an impact on our ability to retain, attract and retain members? Can you speak to these programs specifically? You know, if they contributed to the membership at Bella New Brunswick and, you know, without having, you know, a formal bridge program in place, you know, do you have

a, do you have programs?

programming for kids when they're finished, hop on to be able to stay a member with one of your clubs.

**CF** **Chris Foster** 28:22

So yeah, so on the membership point of view, yes, it has. It's been growth in all three programs and kind of unique growth in each. So I'll use each of them are different. So program here in Fredericks, New Brunswick was designed as a bridge program. We've had a hop on program run for a number of years through the support of a local Bike shop. I'm involved with that. Another local club here in town said, hey, we need to get something else to help that transition. So that program, that hop on money and support.

created that and helped fill that gap in. So that means our members that we've always had with our original Hop On program are staying in longer as members and progressing through sort of a, I don't want to call it a lifespan because they are kids, and they still got many years to go, but

through that, through a number of years. The S program in Shediac is brand new. So those are all brand new members. But the other thing that we know in the southeast area of the province, there are some strong hop-on groups already running. So we see it as an opportunity that some of those programs

fill up with kids from not just the town of Diap, but from the surrounding area. So, you know, a program in Shediac, we're working with another municipality in the southeast. When you create these other opportunities, it lessens the burden on the Diap program and may open up space in the Diap program for called local kids, but also provides opportunities for those outside of the area to still have a hop-on program to participate in.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 30:13

Thanks, Chris. I know it's hard to be, you know, everywhere for everyone within a province or territory, but it sounds like you're making a good effort. A huge component of this grant funding with Sport Canada's focus on equity deserving groups and

you know, removing barriers and increasing accessibility for all Canadians. Can you speak at all to the approach with Bella New Brunswick and the focus on particular

groups? I think you talked about neurodivergent youth participants. Can you speak a little bit to that focus for your clubs and groups?

**CF** **Chris Foster** 30:54

So yeah, so the two sort of areas that our groups ended up working in was neurodivergent and the other one was newcomers. So I'll speak to a program I'm involved with here in Fredericton. It worked with the Multicultural Association. I think the term is settlement organization here in the province or in the city. that they connected with them and through the funding, purchased some equipment and provided that opportunity to kids from the MCAF programs. So it was really fun to see them, who some of them have never been on. a mountain bike and never been on. a bike of such quality of it. So working with them, just created some opportunities for them to participate in the sport, get involved. The plan here for 2026, you know, is a continuation of that. With funding, we're going to purchase a couple extra. bikes in the trailer to move the equipment around. So we're creating even more opportunities here in Fredericton to that newcomer population.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 32:03

Yeah.

Thanks for that, Chris. That's a great highlight of some of your programs. Does anyone have any questions for Chris about how maybe he approached a certain aspect of the program in New Brunswick or any best practice you were curious about?

You can put him on the spot just like I did, feel free.

**CF** **Chris Foster** 32:29

I.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 32:33

Thanks, Chris. And feel free to drop something in the chat too. I'm happy to connect anyone on this call, you know, after the fact to ask any questions or if you have any curiosities that someone's talked about, happy to share. Okay, so the focus of the rest of the call,

I was going to talk a little bit about the future of sport commission, which some of

you may not have a clue what that is, and that's okay. There was a commission that was created by the Government of Canada a couple of years ago to really take a hard and fast look at

the sport system within Canada. And it was certainly focused on the safe sport movement in Canada, but it's really focused on the whole sport system as well. And I wanted to highlight that with us today, and I'm happy to share in the chat and post-meeting.

information and where you can find more about the future of sport in their final report. But the focus of why I wanted to bring it up today is because there's a huge component of that final report that is focused on grassroots community programming for equity deserving groups, which is the work that everyone on this call is doing.

and the increased awareness of how necessary that work continues to be to benefit all Canadians. I think we all can agree that the more people that have access to sport and recreation in Canada, the more resilient and stronger communities will be. It's not the only component to building strong communities, but it certainly is a strong leverage point for all of us and we all live that and see that in our communities. But that continued awareness and prioritization of that being such an important part of Canadian culture is something this final report

prioritized. And that's something that over the next handful of years, we're going to see roll out. But the most important component is being able to continue to justify the need for our community to have funding like this. So currently,

the payments, the second payments for the second year will come out to all of you within the next week or so. I'm sure that's what a lot of you wanted to tune into this call to understand when those payments are coming. After those payments are submitted to you and you guys are able to execute your programming for this coming season, we have no insight.

currently into any more funding coming. So the one thing that I really wanted to ensure all of you understood today is that the work you're doing is really important to share publicly. You're probably doing that in your community. You're probably sharing that with the members of your clubs and groups, which is great.

The next piece is sharing it obviously with your province and territory, but sharing it with us so we can share it nationally. The more that our community and the community outside of Cycling and our government see the great work that's happening with this investment, the more likely it is that we are going to be able to access more funding in the future.

I'm not going to say that's a guarantee, but especially with this Future of Sport Commission final report being launched, I think eyes are even more so going to be on the NSOs like Cycling Canada, a National Sport Organization, and our provincial territorial Cycling Associations.

and whether or not we have a great system to invest in to increase accessibility, remove barriers, and provide access to our support for as many Canadians as possible. So all the work, all of you're doing is exactly what we need to share on like 100% repeat all the time. So we have monthly newsletters that we send out. We have lots of social media content that we would love to share that all of you have. One requirement of this funding is that you share some content with us and some of you are great at it.

And some of you we haven't seen anything from yet. So I really encourage you to share it with us. And one thing that Giana and I committed to before we got on this call is if it's easier for myself or Giana to call you for 10 minutes, talk about your program, you know,

and we can write something and share it, and you send us a photo or two, that would go a long way. And we're happy to help support that. We understand as so many of you are volunteers, this is, or it's maybe not part of your expertise. It's certainly not mine. That's why we've got a few communication specialists here at Cycling Canada where I'll take your information and

they'll help spin it into something fabulous. So we're here to help with that. And I think as a collective, we have a lot of power to be able to justify and rationalize why investing in Cycling in Canada is the right decision for our government to make.

And we compete with a lot of other sports and recreational activities in Canada.

There's only a handful of national sport organizations that were funded in this community sport for all cycle. We happen to be one of them. And it's because of all the great work that all of you do. But I think we have an opportunity now to really take it another step further and ensure that we have grassroots funding like this for many years to come. So that's one action that I'd like to take out of this meeting is that we all commit to whether or not, as I said, myself or Giana takes 5, 10 minutes to call you and chat about your program so we can share it with our community.

or please send us some paragraphs and some photos and we will share it in a variety of different ways. That website page that I put in the chat is 1, but as I said, we have a monthly newsletter at the beginning of each month. I would love to have a profile of each program so we can

we can drop one or two of those into each one of our newsletters, as well as share on social media throughout the year. So I'm not going to create necessarily a schedule where it's Stephen's month in the Yukon this month, and it's Maggie's month next week in Bromont. But if I have to, I might.

That might not be a bad idea. Maybe that is what we do. Hold everybody accountable to sharing, because I think this is going to be really important for the future of programs like this. So I'll share a link for the future of Sport Commission to all of you in a note after this meeting. It's an incredibly lengthy document.

I have not gotten through it all. I don't know if I ever will. But it's a lot of government. It's a lot of governance. It's a lot of, as I said, focus on the safe sport community and why safe sport is so important for the health of the sport community in Canada. But there is focus on community grassroots programming and that

So often a lot of our funding in Canada has been focused on high performance and a healthy sports system needs not be siloed in high performance and community development grassroots programming. There needs to be focus on the whole thing as one. So that was some great content.

that I saw out of the report this week and wanted to share with all of you.

I feel like I rambled there for about 10 minutes. Does anyone have any questions about the Future Sport Commission Report, what it is I'm talking about, or have any ideas on how to really collectively invest in a message of, you know, 27 clubs and groups that we funded through this program, how we can use that to our advantage and opportunity.

And don't feel like you have to add anything, but I wanted to stop talking for a minute and take a drink of water.

What?

**SB** **Steven Biss** 41:12

Maybe I'll just get like totally blasted for this, but I actually think if you wanted to do a schedule of sharing, I think that would be really nice because I think Cycling Canada has done a tremendous job getting my organization funding. So of course I should give you something back.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 41:29

Sure. I appreciate that, Stefan. We will do that. Giana, note that. We will hold everybody accountable and it doesn't necessarily have to be the people on this

phone either, Stefan. Like I hope you would pass that task off to someone else you work with. It doesn't need to be these folks, but that's a...

**SB** **Steven Biss** 41:30  
Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 41:49  
If you're in support, Stefan will do it. Thank you. Joanna.

**SB** **Steven Biss** 41:52  
But.

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 41:57  
I agree with sharing images if possible. It is sometimes difficult with children, obviously. But, you know, in a distance, kids doing some skills or whatever. And I think the, you know, a picture is worth 1000 words. And if it can be, you know, CCCC is

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 42:03  
It is, yes.  
Yes.

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 42:16  
Um...  
tagged, then it's painless for them. It just, and I just can't, not that, you know, we all don't want to be on social media all the time and we don't want kids there, but it's okay for bureaucrats to be on. So there you go. They can have a look.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 42:21  
Yep.  
Yes.  
There you go. That's right. That's right. And you make a great point too about sharing images of children to Joanna. I mean, obviously, most, if not all of our provinces and territories have got a waiver that includes, you know, photo consent. So obviously encourage that with anyone that's participating in your programs. If you

do intend to use images, make sure you have a photo consent.

And a lot of programming where we do use photos, we try to, as you say, use images from afar. You can't necessarily see the kids' faces, but also from behind as well is another one, another best practice in regard to youth images. We try to

**J** **joanna fox -victoria bc** 43:09  
Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 43:16  
to implement, but that's a really great point. Stephanie, go ahead.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 43:22  
I think getting testimonials from the participants that attended our, like our sessions. So I have that like already readily available because I want to hear what like people have to say, like what we're doing well, what we may need to change or consider for the future. So.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 43:26  
Huge.  
Yeah.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 43:41  
I don't know, like, you know, passing on those testimonials like from our people or setting some something up nationwide for people like across Canada who've participated in one of our programs to provide that feedback, I think is really powerful because like you hear from us like through our reporting and stuff, but I think like,

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 43:52  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 44:01  
hearing from like the user is super powerful and would help with your argument for more funding. Because they're the ones that benefit from it like directly, right?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 44:08

Yeah, I agree.

For sure. And that's the impact. You know, I think we can, we have a collective report, as you say, that we submit to the government, but those personal anecdotes and sharing is actually what is most impactful, I think. So I agree, Stephanie, if that's a situation too where we set so often, you know, when all of you have seen my face, you've seen Giana's face, you know we exist at the end of these e-mail addresses, but I always hesitate to create, you know, a blank form where you send people to to share their experience, right? Sometimes coming.

through you is people feel safer that way, which I understand. But we can create a couple different ways in order for people to share that. So if it's through you, Stephanie, in your club, or you direct them to a forum where they can give us a testimonial directly, yeah, however they're comfortable giving it.

We're happy to set it up, but that's a great idea. I agree.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 45:17

So, twofold to that too, we could have people go to our MPPs, right, and say like, wow, like you approved this amazing funding for us, right? Like, this is what happened. So giving a list, a list of that too, right? So attacking it from the decision maker side of things to like say like, wow, I heard from Joe Smith that like,

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 45:26

Mm.

Love that.

I love that.

**SS** **Stephanie Sutton** 45:38

The funding that we gave to this program was really awesome. I think we need to look at that again, right? So.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 45:42

I love that. I love that. And something we did do in...

In Collingwood, when we had our Hop On YMCA program, as at the final session, we did invite out some local bureaucrats, you know, had them come out and witness it

themselves. And we have some images of that, which I've yet to get permission from a photographer to use, but we will. But

That's a great, that's a great example, Stephanie, of, you know, letters of support to your local MPMPPs. And because I think even the one thing about the Future Sport Commission report was the importance of not only more collaboration between community groups and their province and territories, but that entire system, you know, even though this is federal funding, the importance that provincial funding is aligned as well, because right now it's not. The way sport is funded across our country by each province and territory is drastically different. And my PTSO colleagues on this call know that to be true.

It's incredibly different in Ontario versus the Yukon versus Quebec versus PEI. It's very different. So that conversation along the whole chain, I think, is really important. And this is political. This is a political issue. And, you know, the more focus we can put on that.

with our politicians, that's important. So that's another take away for us, Stephanie. Maybe there's even a template we can write to share with all of you that if you have coaches, participants, parents that want to share with their local politicians, we could provide that as a template for sure.

That's a great idea.

We only have about 10, 13-ish minutes left. I know most of you, some of you are on your lunch break, so I don't want to take too much more time. I wanted to take an opportunity to go through a few deadlines and resources we have. But Jordan, what did you want to add? He is our resident, experienced politician, actually.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 47:49  
Just.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 47:52  
not politician himself, but he's worked on political campaigns. So he may have a great idea. Go ahead, Jordan.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 47:59  
Well, no, you're right. Contact your MP, that's for sure. But I had a quick question about the profiles. Did you say those were supposed to be on the [hoponcanada.ca](http://hoponcanada.ca)

website? Because I was just looking on there to see if I could like find them, because I...

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 48:13

Yeah, just in the chat.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 48:18

didn't remember like seeing a profile for us and I can't find where there's profiles of provinces or hop on programs right now on the website. Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 48:21

Mm.

Yeah, I just dropped it in the meeting chat, Jordan, the link to our website. So you can jump on there. And there is a Cycling PEI component, but it'd be great to get a photo on there. So certainly jump on there.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 48:31

Ohh.

Okay.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 48:47

And...

If you guys have something, and we may have, you may have shared photos with us in the past, but now that we've got Giana Giana here on the team, we can get a lot of that stuff updated, which is awesome. Very.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 48:53

Yeah.

I actually sent Giana a bunch of photos a couple weeks ago, so...

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 49:01

Amazing. There we go. Wonderful. So there we go. We've got it started.

Okay, so as I mentioned at the beginning of the call, we're going to have Roger.

Sorry, go ahead, Roger.

**RK** **Roger Koert** 49:13

Yeah, hey, sorry. Just to talk about what Jordan was saying there. So it is kind of buried like from the Hop on Canada main site. It's buried under the news. Like maybe you should bring that like a lot easier to click on it right away, like maybe on the splash page right away to help marketing ourselves, right?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 49:21

Yep.

Yeah.

Yeah, no, for sure. And I, we've never had the best, we've tried to implement like a banner of some sort for, you know, latest information in regard to hop on somewhere. So that's why we put it in our news. But I think there's probably a better way, Roger, we can try to highlight it.

**RK** **Roger Koert** 49:33

Yeah.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 49:51

But thanks for that because it is buried. You don't, it's not intuitive. Good to see you, Stefan. Have a good rest of your day.

**SE** **Steve Ellefson** 49:55

We're good. This is the second meeting, so it's...

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 50:01

Go ahead, Steve.

**SE** **Steve Ellefson** 50:01

I was on your phone, but I just missed it. OK.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 50:03

Oh, I think Steve came off mute. Okay, so did anyone else have a question? I think there was another hand raised there. Well, Roger. No, okay, great. So payments for the second round are going to come out within the next week. So I just need to send

all of the confirmations to our accounting and they take.

you know, anywhere from five to seven days to send it out. So your patience is appreciated, but it's going to be activated before March 31st. The money has to be on the way out the door from Cycling Canada by March 31st. So that's the timeline we're working on. So you should see that shortly. And I think there's a handful of folks on this call where we issued checks just because we didn't necessarily have your payment information.

Information and time, so the same process will be followed if we did issue you a check last year, Jordan.

Mhm.

Pam.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 51:12

our finances and it's like...

We could qualify for the public service bodies rebate.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 51:16

Yeah.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 51:21

If the CSAI funding was included, and that's kind of not a direct, because with the CSAI, it's like if at least, or sorry, with the public service bodies rebate, you qualify if at least 40% of your funding comes from government sources. But from what I understand, for...

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 51:36

Got it, got it.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 51:40

flow through funding, that's kind of going from the government through Cycling PEI to us, there may be some kind of like a GST, like certificate of government funding that we would need to have on file in order to include that in our.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 51:52

N.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 52:00

you know, as part of our qualification for the public service body rebate. So I'm just wondering if that's something that Cycling Canada has ever dealt with before. Is that something that you're able to provide?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 52:03

Pam.

Yeah, I'm sure it's not my realm of expertise, Jordan, but that could be something that we have dealt with in the past. I'm sure we have. So that would be a question probably for Meiko and Mathieu. So you and I can take that one.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 52:28

Okay.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 52:31

Let's take that one offline.

Yeah, let's do that. And it might actually, I don't know if, I guess Steven's not on the call anymore, but Chris, if that's something that's ever come up for you in New Brunswick, but yeah, so I'll set my realm of expertise. So Jordan, let's take it offline and see what we can do to help with that.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 52:36

Sir.

Okay.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 52:53

Thanks for that. I'll rip through our deadlines and all that, and we'll have about five-ish minutes, hopefully, for questions here. But I'm happy to stay on after 1:00. So don't worry, I'm not going anywhere if anyone has a burning question that they don't get to ask before 1:00 Eastern.

If you haven't submitted the final reporting, which was due on the 17th, please send that through. So that's, as Stephanie mentioned, we sort of collate all of your reports and that's what goes to Sport Canada. And again, it's really critical for rationale for further funding for us, the better and higher quality the information.

And the, you know, the impact is obviously is important. The number of participants we have participating is a piece of criteria, but the quality of the information from your participants is really what matters here. So if you haven't submitted the reporting, please do that sooner than later.

As I said, payments will be coming out within the next week. If you have questions about how, when, please certainly reach out. And then I mentioned about ongoing content. So there is that web page that Roger, rightfully so, mentioned is buried on our website. It's not visible to many people. So we'll do a better job trying to get it more front and center.


But it'd be great the more information you can share with us about your program to update on that website is critical. And I'm going to action that concept of, you know, allocating some content to each of you every month. Not every single month, but one or two of you every month. So we can pull.

some great content to share with our communities over the next year. So that would be wonderful. One thing that I'll continue to share with all of you is this information page we did create last year. I'll just drop it in the chat. This is where the history of all of our calls are.

the history of all of our emails. I'll share my screen here briefly as well. I had a whole PowerPoint deck created, but I prefer seeing your faces than having a PowerPoint on the screen. But this is the page where I just dropped this in the chat. This is where the history of a lot of our calls are.

A lot of the resources are logos, templates for social media that if you want to share, please remember this is always live, so you can come back to here if you have a question. And a lot of the information you need is on this page. And we'll update it as well with today's call.

as well as some of the resources, including that Future Sport Commission report, which I'm sure you're all desperate to start reading after I talked about it today. It's a long one. So I'm actually wondering if they could make, I listen to a lot of podcasts. I think it'd be wonderful if it was a podcast, but I'm sure there's technology that could turn it into a podcast, but that's not my realm of expertise.

 **Jordan Bober** 56:02  
There is.

 **Robyn Skinner** 56:04

Yeah, I knew Jordan was going to say there is because he is much better with technology than I am. So Jordan's going to create it in.

**JB** **Jordan Bober** 56:10

Not, not that I, not that I've used that feature, but I'm aware that it exists.

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 56:12

Oh, I thought you were going to offer to do it for me, but that's okay. I'll figure it out. Okay, 4 minutes. I wanted to leave the opportunity to ask some questions, but I'm going to stay on after 1:00 Eastern if you have any other questions that you needed answered, sort of more one-on-one.

Does anyone have any questions for myself or Giana today?

And feel free to just ask it. You don't need to put your hand up or anything. Just unmute yourself or anything you want to add.

**A** **Andy** 56:47

Hi, Robyn, this is Andy. Oh, did I interrupt someone?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 56:48

before we sign up.

Hey, Eddie.

**A** **Andy** 56:52

Just what you mentioned about the funding coming up next week. So we were when we submitted you a budget and stuff like that, will you be sending some information saying that, yeah, it's all good approved based on what we had planned on spending the money on or how does that work?

**RS** **Robyn Skinner** 57:08

So your province or territory has, because the funding amounts will be a little different than last year, just because Saskatchewan, yay, Saskatchewan is participating this year. Last year they didn't participate. So they are participating in launching HopOn in their province this year for the first time, which is exciting. So each province and territory allocated the funding for all other groups. So, I mean, I have the numbers as well of what everyone's receiving, but your province and

territory would know as well. So I was not planning on sending out 27 unique emails with what the amounts are everybody's getting.

I know you're unique in Newfoundland, Andy. I can certainly share with you after talking to Kim what you'll be receiving, but I encourage you to talk to your PTSOs first, and then you'll see the funding in your bank accounts or checks next week. Hope that answers your question, Andy.

**A Andy** 58:08

Yeah, it does. And unfortunately, I may need you to share just because, like you said, how things are going here and it is a bit slower and things. So yeah, if you don't mind sharing, that'd be great. If not, I'll start trying to track people down.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 58:18

Yeah.

Sure.

Thanks, Suzanne. Good to see you.

I will stay on if anyone has any other questions, but I appreciate all of you. The next call we'll have is scheduled in April. So when we send out notes after this call, we'll send out another Doodle poll and identify a time in April that's going to work for everybody. And probably the next e-mail you get will be from our good friend Giana. So not that you won't hear from me, but I want to get Giana to help with a lot of the actions we made in this call. So appreciate all of you. Thanks for taking the time in the middle of the day on a Friday to connect with us and talk about getting more kids on bikes.

This is really energizing to hear about all of your programs and sitting alone by myself in my house in Collingwood, it's sometimes hard to see the impact of this really important work. So it gives me a lot of energy to hear about what all of you are up to. So thanks for sharing. Thanks for your time.

And you'll hear from us shortly on some of our next steps.

**JB Jordan Bober** 59:36

Thank you. Good weekend. Thanks, guys.

**RS Robyn Skinner** 59:36

Have a Greg.

Have a great weekend.

● **Robyn Skinner** stopped transcription