

Athlete Report

November 1/2022

Annual General meeting

Heidi Mallett

Hi, my name is Heidi Mallett, and I am so happy to be presenting my final Annual report as your SOPEI Athlete representative. I have been an SOPEI athlete for 16 years. I enjoy participating in bowling, bocce, golf, and snowshoe. I am honored and blessed to serve on the SOPEI Board of Directors and the chair of the Global Athletes Leadership Council as North American region Athlete representative. This year saw me finish up my term as the PEI athlete representative on the Canadian

Athlete Leadership Council, but I am thankful that through my role on the GALC, I will get the opportunity to stay on the CALC to help mentor the new PEI athlete representative and the other athletes. This coming year I will help mentor and support Ellen MacNearney who is going to be the new PEI Athlete representative on the CALC and SOPEI board. I would like congratulate Ellen as she takes on these important roles.

Canadian Athlete Leadership Council

I would like to share a few highlights from the CALC over past year. This year the CALC elected a new chairperson, had four athletes complete their terms and were replaced by new Athlete representatives

from their respective provinces. We will be meeting in-person for first time in three years in Toronto later this month. The CALC also updated their terms of reference, created an on-boarding manual and PowerPoint presentation for new Athlete representatives and their mentors.

Athlete Leadership Academy

It is very exciting tonight as we will be honoring our first graduates from our Athlete Leadership Academy. These 8 athletes and their mentors put a lot of time and effort into their Athlete Leadership roles as athlete speakers and health messengers. Congratulations to all the Academy graduates tonight!

Every three months I meet with the SOPEI staff to review Athlete Leadership Academy reports and new applications. I highly recommend the Athlete Leadership Academy to my fellow athletes as the courses help build their leadership skills and self-confidence, they learn about leadership opportunities, and empower athletes to reach their potential.

We want to continue to grow our athlete leadership programs here on the Island so we will be hosting athlete leadership training sessions this fall and winter for both athletes and volunteers to learn more about what athlete leadership entails. We will provide an overview of Special Olympics and understanding Leadership, while

discussing the many leadership skills you have! Be sure to check it out and join Matthew and I for the training sessions.

Global Athlete Leadership Council

This past June, the Global Athlete Leadership Council met for the first time in-person in Orlando, Florida during the USA Special Olympic National Summer Games. I, along with my mentor Genna, had the honor of attending meetings with my fellow GALC members to discuss important topics and help plan for the Global Athlete Congress next year in Berlin, Germany. We also had the opportunity to have dinner with the Special Olympics International board of directors and staff. Through my

role as the chair of the GALC I had the honor of co-emceeding and bringing opening remarks to the dinner with Mary Davis, CEO of Special Olympics International. Genna and I are excited and looking forward to attending the Global Athlete Congress with the 12 athlete leaders from the North American region in June 2023 during the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

I would also like to congratulate the three SOPEI athletes who have been selected to the Team Canada Training Squad for the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Alyssa Chapman, Montague, Soccer

Keegan Waite, Summerside, Basketball

Jeremy Wall, Summerside, Athletics

This is an amazing opportunity and I know you will represent PEI and Canada very well. Good luck with your training as you prepare for the World Games.

In closing, I would like to take time to celebrate the accomplishments of our athletes, volunteers', coaches, and supporters in the community over the past year. To all the nominees and award winners, congratulations on your achievements! I would also like to thank the SOPEI staff and Board of Directors for their

guidance and support over the past year.

Thank you!