2023-2024 Annual Report

Presented to the Members of CEC

Prepared by Christiane Marceau, Executive Director
On behalf of the Board of Directors
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2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Tuesday, September 26, 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OVERVIEW

At the 2023 AGM, members elected 11 directors to the CEC Board of Directors. We wish to acknowledge the vital support of our board members - thank you! The Board of Directors met monthly throughout the year.

Elected for one year (2023-2024):

- Carrie Croft – Quebec
- Joanne Carilli-Stevenson – US
- Michael Finn-Henry – British Columbia
- Michelle Ang – British Columbia
- Nicolas Valence – Quebec

Elected for two years (2023-2025):

- Babette Roy – Quebec
- Joachim Stroink – Nova Scotia
- Lesley Hillier – New Brunswick
- Mohammad Havaledar – Ontario
- Paul Dormaar – Alberta
- Rahul Sapra – Ontario

To note:

- a 45/55 gender representation on this board
- 63% of directors are considered independent, which surpasses the 40% target sets in our by-laws
- Two sitting Athlete Directors as per the new by-laws

BOARD COMMITTEES OVERVIEW

Executive Committee
2023-2024 Members: Joachim Stroink (chair), Paul Dormaar, Rahul Sapra, Lesley Hillier, and Michelle Ang

The Executive Committee continued to be a pivotal support system for the Executive Director, focusing on maintaining effective governance, financial oversight, and leadership. The committee acted as a sounding board and provided financial approval for daily transactions, thereby upholding the integrity of the organization's operations. Their ongoing support ensured that the organization's governance and financial systems remained in solid order.

Governance and Ethics Committee
2023-2024 Members: Rahul Sapra (chair), JoAnne Carilli-Stevenson, Babette Roy, Carrie Croft, and Nicolas Valence

In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the Governance Committee played a critical role in strengthening organizational policies to better support our athletes. Key updates included revising the appeal process and refining the notice of appeal form to ensure clarity, fairness, and efficiency. In parallel with these policy enhancements, the committee has been actively engaged in the foundational stages of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. This comprehensive planning process will kick off with a stakeholder survey in the coming weeks, ensuring that diverse perspectives from across our community are integrated into shaping the organization's future direction.

Audit and Finance Committee
2023-2024 Members: Lesley Hillier (chair), Paul Dormaar, Mohammad Havaledar, and Michael Finn-Henry

In the fiscal year 2024/25, the Finance Committee was crucial in ensuring robust financial oversight. The Audit Committee supported CEC's Executive Director in reviewing the audit process and appointed a new auditor, Baker Tilley, for the year-end audit and financial statements. Despite some unforeseen delays due to summer vacation schedules, the process was completed smoothly and was well-received by both the audit committee and the board of directors. The committee worked diligently to ensure the timely delivery of year-end statements and provided Christiane with the necessary support throughout the process, effectively addressing the minimal challenges.

Human Resources and Compensation Committee
2023-2024 Members: Michelle Ang (chair), Joachim Stroink, Michael Finn-Henry, and Lesley Hillier

In the fiscal year 2024/25, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee focused on redefining roles and responsibilities for CEC employees. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee supported CEC's Executive Director in hiring and onboarding an HPP Coordinator. Unforeseen circumstances resulted in the early departure of the individual in this role, and the Human Resources and Compensation Committee worked with the Executive Director to develop a transition plan for his departure. The committee also worked to review staff compensation and build a plan for future employee retention. The committee worked with Christiane to support ad-hoc issues throughout the year.

2023-2024 MEMBERS

This year, we were honoured to welcome two new members: Climb Nova Scotia and Escalade Sportive Nouveau-Brunswick / New Brunswick Sport Climbing. Welcome, and thank you for your commitment to sport climbing!

CEC can now count on the support of 9 members, including seven provinces and one territory. This is extremely important when considering the following Sport Canada funding eligibility: “be an organization that is national in scope whose mandate meets with the definition of sport for funding purposes”, and “The organization has reach across Canada’s sport system”.

CEC can also count on leadership in Saskatchewan, PEI, and Newfoundland, with the hopes of them joining as members in the near future.

SPONSORSHIPS

We extend our deepest gratitude to our main sponsors, the Government of Canada and Arc'Teryx, for their unwavering support and commitment to the growth of climbing in Canada. Their generous contributions have been instrumental in advancing our sport development initiatives, enhancing competition experiences, and supporting athletes at every level. We are proud to partner with organizations that share our vision for fostering a vibrant and inclusive climbing community across the nation. Thank you for helping us reach new heights!

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR FISCAL 2023-2024

The fiscal year 2023-2024 was a solid financial period for Climbing Escalade Canada, showing a budget surplus of $33,164, slightly higher than the original budgeted surplus of $25,520.

Key financial highlights:

- Revenues: $1,070,821 (Budgeted: $852,650)
- Expenses: $1,014,824 (Budgeted: $827,130)
- Surplus: $33,164 net prior year ($22,833) deficit in net assets (Budgeted: $25,520)
- Year End Cash balance of $121,684

Revenue Highlights

Increases in revenue mainly came from:

- Athlete Licenses: $106,830 (Budgeted: $81,000)
- Sport Canada Funding: $309,927 (Budgeted: $215,000)
- COC Grants: $80,206 (Budgeted: $30,000)

Expense Considerations

The primary expense changes were:

- General administration costs increased due to insurance, bank charges, and professional fees.
- HP salaries were not spent due to staff turnover.
- HP Program costs exceeded the budget by $92,505, indicating a need for better upfront budgeting.

Financial Actions Taken by the Board

The board approved and implemented the following actions based on the financial surplus and recommendations:

- $50,000 of the year end cash balance has been allocated to the reserve account to address potential cash flow challenges in the future.
- A decision was made to accommodate a small deficit in the 2024-2025 budget to ensure full utilization of the funds received from Sport Canada in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This strategic move supports continued growth and program funding while leveraging available financial resources.

Key focus areas for 2024-2025 include improving event financial sustainability, enhancing staff working conditions, and securing sponsorship renewals.

HIGH PERFORMANCE REVIEW UPDATE

In 2023, CEC experienced an important turnover in HP leadership, with the departures of both Andrew Wilson and Malek Taleb. This change in leadership highlighted a need for better communications with, and input from, our community.

External review of the HPP

In the fall of 2023, CEC hired an independent consultant, Julie Steggall, to conduct a comprehensive review of our High Performance Program. Her mandate was to create a meaningful consultation process with our community, and submit recommendations to the CEC board of directors. From September to December 2023, Julie engaged in conversations with the following stakeholders:

- Community Survey: 76 respondents
- One-one-interviews: 12 leaders
- Athletes Focus Groups: 15 athletes over 2 groups
- HPP Lead Focus Group: 8 leaders
- PTSO Focus Group: 8 representatives

Julie's conversation focussed on the same high performance pillars used by Own the Podium (OTP) to evaluate National Sport Organizations (NSO): Coaching & Technical Leadership, Daily Training & Competition Environment, Performance Science, Research & Innovation, Podium Pathway, Athlete Pool, and HP Governance.

Julie submitted her full report in January 2024, an Executive Summary available here. Using the report, the CEC Board of Directors approved a 2 years Implementation Action Plan. We have outlined 64 actions that will take place in 2024 and 2025, to bring us closer to a World-Class High Performance Program that is athletes-centered and data-driven.

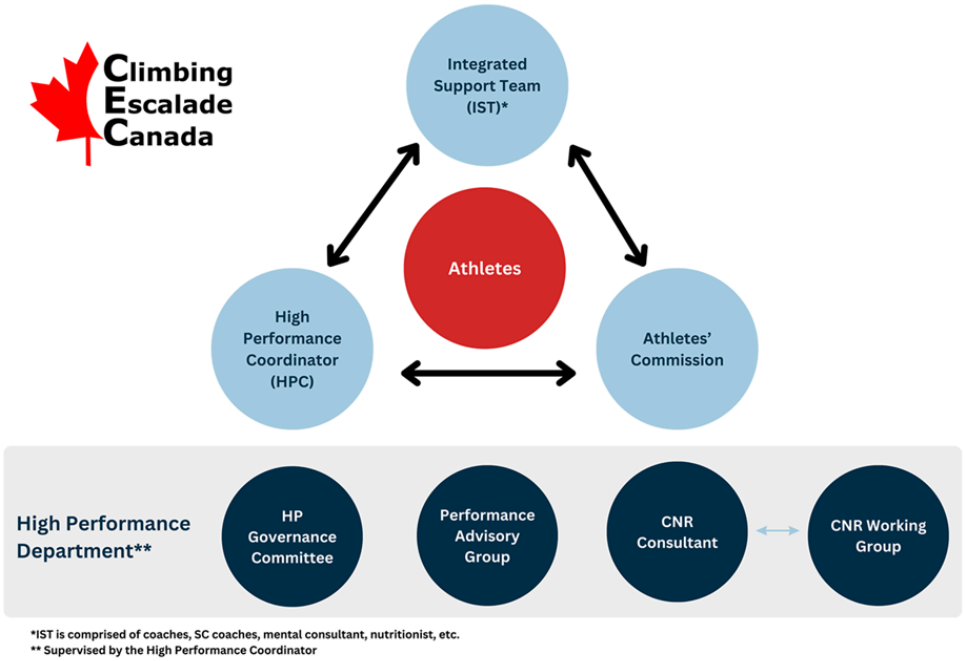
2024-2025 Implementation Plan

The 2024-2025 Implementation Plan was built in 4 phases, from high priority to longer term actions, summarized in 4 points per phase (see graphic below). At the time of writing this annual report, despite challenges along the way, we are well underway with Phase 1, and Phase 2 has also seen progression. Phase 3 and 4 will require more time, but are on target, pending funding, for completion by the end of 2025.

Phase 1 - HP Leadership

A very important recommendation from Julie's report was to restructure the High Performance Department, and hire a strong leadership team to take care of the program. This was the focus of the first half of 2024, which led to the hiring of Adrien Mayost as HP Coordinator, and the creation of 3 new HP Committees: HP Governance Committee, Performance Advisory Group, and CNR Working Group.

The Athletes' Commission has also been invited to play a crucial role in the new structure - providing a pathway for athletes to share their concerns and feedback directly with the Board of Directors.



Challenges

Unfortunately, Adrien has moved from his position with CEC, leaving the HP Department in need of new leadership. Through this process, we learned that onboarding an employee in the important role of HP lead is a challenging process, and slows down the activities and progression of the review.

With this in mind, the Board of Directors approved a temporary HR plan to ensure that the review process would progress within the approved timeline. Our Executive Director, Christiane Marceau, would take on the leadership of the review process, while contractors would be hired to manage the CEC events. This transitional situation would allow CEC to build the foundation of a better high performance program, with the hope of hiring a new HP leadership in the spring of 2025.

Some Phase 1 and 2 actions will not take place until a new HP leadership is hired, such as Creating a vision for the program, as well as identifying gaps for LA 2028. However, review of policies, National Team Ranking, and Selection Process will be completed under Christiane's leadership.

Next Steps

The work on the review continued in August and September, with 2 Consultation Meetings and a Community Survey. The Consultation meetings were well attended, and allowed for a sharing of ideas regarding best practices moving forward.

- Athletes' Consultation Meeting: 22 participants
- Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting: 16 participants

A Community Survey to help us direct the changes to the program is currently underway. The survey has been filled by 165 participants so far, and will be open until September 23rd. The results of this survey will support the work of the HP Committees in preparing recommendations for the Board of Directors. The result of these recommendations will be updates to the High Performance Program Policies in time for the 2025 Season.

2024 IFSC SEASON RECAP

High Performance Program - National Team
In 2024, the High Performance Program was composed of 24 athletes within the 3 disciplines:

Men's Team	Women's Team
Braeden Bossert (BC) - Speed Dylan Le (QC) - Speed Ethan Pitcher (BC) - Speed Guy McNamee (BC) - Boulder, Lead Jack Whitney (BC) - Speed Kindar McNamee (BC) - Boulder, Lead Matthew Rodriguez (ON) - Boulder, Lead Michael Finn-Henry (BC) - Speed Oscar Baudrand (SLC) - Boulder, Lead Sean McColl (BC) - Boulder, Lead Victor Baudrand (QC) - Boulder, Lead Zach Richardson (QC) - Boulder	Alannah Yip (BC) - Boulder, Lead Anna Kelly (SLC) - Boulder Babette Roy (QC) - Boulder, Lead Cedar Pidgeon (BC) - Lead Chloe Earle (BC) - Lead Erica Velev (QC) - Speed Evangelina Briggs (ON) - Boulder Indiana Chapman (ON) - Boulder, Lead Madison Richardson (QC) - Boulder Molly Dreher (ON) - Lead Rebecca Frangos (BC) - Lead Sophie Buitendyk (BC) - Boulder, Lead

Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS)
The 2024 Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS) was a two-part competition held in Shanghai, China, from May 16-19, and Budapest, Hungary, from June 20-23. This inaugural event aimed to secure the final spots for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in urban sports: BMX freestyle, breaking, skateboarding, and sport climbing. Over 450 athletes from more than 120 national federations competed for crucial ranking points, with 150 Olympic quota places at stake.

The OQS was designed not only as a sporting competition but also as a cultural festival, blending sport with music, art, and fashion, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere for spectators. The event's urban park venues were packed with fans who had the chance to participate in sports initiation activities, further amplifying the cultural and community-driven aspects of the series.

This series played a pivotal role in determining the final roster of athletes competing in these urban sports for Paris 2024. Canada had 3 athletes qualified for this series in Boulder & Lead, with two other athletes receiving last minute invitations, but declining attendance (Victor Baudrand and Rebecca Frangos):

	Shanghai Result	Budapest Result
Alannah Yip	41	24
Sean McColl	32	38
Oscar Baudrand	37	21

2024 World Cups Series

The 2024 season saw 16 different Canadian athletes compete across multiple World Cup events in Boulder, Lead, and Speed, with notable performances across different disciplines.

Boulder

- Madison Richardson achieved several top finishes, including 7th at Keqiao, 16th at Salt Lake City, and 29th at Innsbruck.
- Oscar Baudrand had a strong showing, placing 10th in Salt Lake City and 21st in Innsbruck.
- Guy McNamee consistently qualified for an event, with his highest placement being 31st in Salt Lake City.

Lead

- Oscar Baudrand excelled in Lead events, finishing 25th at Innsbruck and 39th in Chamonix.
- Rebecca Frangos placed 27th in Chamonix and 35th in Briançon, demonstrating her steady performance throughout the season.

Speed

- Canada had limited representation in Speed events, with the top finish coming from Ethan Pitcher, who placed 18th at Salt Lake City. Many quotas for Speed events were left vacant.

One World Cup event is left to the 2024 Season: IFSC World Cup Seoul 2024, all disciplines, October 2-10, 2024

All Canadian Results to date

	Keqiao, CHN	Wujiang, CHN		SLC, USA		Innsbruck, AUT		Chamonix, FRA		Briançon, FRA		Koper, SLO	Prague, CZE
	Boulder	Lead	Speed	Boulder	Speed	Boulder	Lead	Lead	Speed	Lead	Speed	Lead	Boulder
Alannah Yip				37									
Anna Kelley						70							41
Babette Roy							51	61		52			21
Cedar Pidgeon												45	
Dylan Le					29								
Ethan Pitcher					18								
Evangelina Briggs				40		DNS							
Guy McNamee	53	41		31		75	71						
Kindar McNamee		52					69						
Madison Richardson	7			16		29							31
Matthew Rodriguez													57
Molly Dreher												55	
Oscar Baudrand				10		21	25	39		30			
Rebecca Frangos							57	27		35			
Zach Richardson													41
Victor Baudrand	57	46											
Quotas left vacant	**2**	**3**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**0**

See Results here: https://climbingcanada.ca/hp-results/
And on the IFSC Vertical Life platform: https://ifsc.results.info/#/

Challenge

The 2024 season highlighted a critical issue for Climbing Escalade Canada: a total of 26 quotas across 8 World Cup events were left vacant, which represents 35% of all Canadian quotas across all 3 disciplines. The situation is amplified in Speed with a 88% unused quotas.

There are three potential causes for this situation. These gaps are a key focus in the ongoing High Performance Review.

- 2024 was a post-Olympic year, and many high performance athletes took a break from competing;
- limited funding prevented many athletes from competing internationally;

- there are not enough athletes on the National Team to offer quotas to, and the Athletes' Readiness clause in our policies is too subjective.

World Rankings

As of writing this report, Canada could expect extra quotas in Boulder in 2025, thanks to Madison Richardson and Oscar Baudrand!

	WORLD RANKING		
	BOULDER	LEAD	SPEED
Alannah Yip	69	72	
Anna Kelley	98		
Babette Roy	62	107	
Becca Frangos		70	
Cedar Pidgeon		124	
Dylan Le			70
Erica Velev			78
Ethan Pitcher			46
Evangelina Briggs	100		
Guy McNamee	84	115	
Kindar McNamee		133	
Madison Richardson	21		
Matthew Rodriguez	128		
Michael Finn-Henry			99
Molly Dreher		140	
Oscar Baudrand	28	55	
Sean McColl	90	100	
Zach Richardson	106		
Victor Baudrand	128	132	

World Ranking can be found here: https://www.ifsc-climbing.org/rankings/index

2024 PARA-CLIMBING NATIONAL TEAM
Our Biggest Team Yet!

This year, Climbing Escalade Canada proudly fielded its largest para-climbing team to date. The team has continued to grow, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and excellence in para-sport.

- Male Athletes: 7 (up from 4 in 2023 and 3 in 2022)
- Female Athletes: 3 (consistent with 2023, and up from 2 in 2022)
- Support Personnel: 4 (an increase from 3 in 2023 and just 1 in 2022)
- World Cup Participation: 13 athletes participated, maintaining the same level as in 2023, but significantly higher than the 8 athletes in 2022.

This growth demonstrates the rising engagement and development within para-climbing, marking an exciting trajectory for the program.

Men's Team	**Women's Team**
Chaz Misuraca (B3) Jeremy Ritchie (AL2) Jesse Speed (AL2) Kevin Bolusi (AL2) Nicolas Sabia (AL2) Shamus Boulianne (AU3) Terry Hoddinott (B1)	Carlie Proppe (AU2) Emily McDermott (AU3) Miranda Scott (RP2)
Support Team (volunteers): Patti Hoddinott (caller), Jaz Watson (caller), Lauren Mountain (aid), Vanessa Trudel (coach), Wayne Gearey (manager)	

2024 Para-Climbing World Cups Series

Our team of 10 athletes attended 3 Para-World Cups this season - the 3rd one taking place at the end of September. Congratulations to Shamus Boulianne for his Bronze Medal in Salt Lake City!!

Name	Class	SLC, USA	Innsbruck, AUT
Carly Proppe	AU2	5	
Chaz Misuraca	B3	4	
Emily McDermott	RP3	7	
Jeremy Ritchie	AL2	11	21
Jesse Speed	AL		10
Kevin bolusi	AL2	7	12
Miranda Scott	RP2	7	
Nicolas Sabia	AL2	12	
Shamus Boulianne	AU3	3 - Bronze	
Terry Hoddinott	B1	6	5

See Results here: https://climbingcanada.ca/hp-results/
And on the IFSC Vertical Life platform: https://ifsc.results.info/#/

World Participation in Para-Climbing

In the 2024 Season, with 3 World Cups, there were 25 countries who participated in Para-Climbing. In terms of unique registrations, Canada ranked 12th.

	SLC	Innsbruck	Arco	Total / country	Rank
USA	74	36	25	135	1
GER	8	23	22	53	2
ITA	4	20	19	43	3
FRA	4	17	16	37	4
GBR	6	16	13	35	5
SUI	2	15	12	29	6
ROU	5	12	11	28	7
JPN	9	10	8	27	8
AUT	5	9	8	22	9
ESP	4	6	10	20	10
AUS	6	5	6	17	11
CAN	9	4	3	16	12
NOR	2	8	5	15	13
SLO	1	5	5	11	14
BEL	1	3	2	6	15
NED	0	3	3	6	16
IND	2	2	1	5	17
SVK	0	5	0	5	18
ISR	0	2	2	4	19
CZE	1	1	1	3	20
DEN	1	2	0	3	21
POR	1	1	1	3	22
BRA	2	0	0	2	23
LUX	0	1	0	1	24
POL	0	1	0	1	25
	147	**207**	**173**		

Inclusion in the Paralympic Games

Para climbing has officially been added to the Paralympic Games for the first time, debuting at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. This decision marks a historic moment for the sport and the Paralympic movement, as the LA28 Organizing Committee became the first to propose a new sport to the Paralympic program. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) approved the inclusion in June 2024 after an extensive evaluation of the sport's global reach and impact.

Para climbing, which has been growing steadily since 2006, will now join 22 other sports in the Paralympic lineup, offering para athletes the opportunity to compete on the world's largest stage. This inclusion reflects both the sport's dynamic nature and the Paralympic Games' commitment to showcasing diversity and innovation. CEC will be officially approved as a member of the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) at their AGM on September 26, 2024, marking an historic milestone for our organization.

Next Steps:

With the Paralympic Inclusion, it is imperative that CEC develops a strong Selection Policy for the National Team. An initial consultation with the Para-Climbing community took place on July 4th, and we are looking forward to hosting our first ever Para-Climbing National Championships in February 2024! More details to come shortly.

2024 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Climbing Escalade Canada proudly sent 32 athletes and 4 coaches to Guyiang, China, for the 2024 Youth World Championships, taking place on August 22-31. Our athletes competed across three disciplines—Speed, Boulder, and Lead—achieving remarkable performances and setting new milestones for Canada on the international stage.

Key Achievements:

- 10 semi-finalists (or Speed Top 16 placings) across all disciplines:
    - 3 in Speed
    - 3 in Boulder
    - 4 in Lead
- 4 new Canadian Speed Records:
    - Dylan Le (Junior Male) – 6.14
    - Elise Villeneuve (Junior Female) – 8.64
    - Sienna Chow (Youth A Female) – 8.56
    - Bruce Kong (Youth B Male) – 7.11
- Best individual results:
    - Bruce Kong – 11th in Speed
    - Jacqueline Ho – 11th in Boulder
    - Ian Tan – 17th in Lead

Full results available here: Congratulations to Team Canada at the 2024 Youth World Championships! - Climbing Escalade Canada (climbingcanada.ca)
IFSC Event Page: https://ifsc.results.info/#/event/1396/

Comparative Performance:
While the overall results in 2024 were slightly lower compared to previous years, several factors likely contributed to this. The location and complex logistics of the event in Guyiang, China, posed significant challenges for both travel and preparation. Additionally, the high financial commitment required from athletes may have affected participation levels and overall performance.

- 2023 – Seoul, KOR: 36 athletes, 16 Semis or Top 16 finishes.
    - Best results: Matthew Rodriguez (final in Lead), Dylan Le (10th in Speed), Reena Gao (10th in Speed).
    - All results: https://ifsc.results.info/#/event/1304/
- 2022 – Dallas, USA: 38 athletes, 17 Semis or Top 16 finishes.
    - Best results: Ethan Hoffman (7th in Boulder), Dylan Le (8th in Speed), Indiana Chapman (12th in Lead).
    - All results: https://ifsc.results.info/#/event/1246/

Despite these challenges, our athletes delivered commendable performances, including several record-breaking results in Speed.

Next Steps:

Following the High Performance Program (HPP) review, we will initiate a comprehensive evaluation of the Youth Program. This will include an in-depth review of the selection process, team support, and logistics of the Youth World Championships. Additionally, we plan to establish a Next Gen program aimed at identifying and supporting emerging athletes as they advance through the High Performance Pathway.

2023-2024 DOMESTIC EVENTS RECAP

Despite a very challenging year regarding Human Resources and Capacity, CEC ran a successful 2023-2024 Competition Season, including the following events:

- 2023-2024 Senior Boulder National Championships (Boulder & Lead) - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE
- 2023-2024 Speed National Championships - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE
- 2023-2024 Youth Regional Championships (Boulder) - East & West - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE
- 2023-2024 Youth National Championships (Boulder & Lead) - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE
- 2024 NACS Boulder - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE
- 2024 NACS Lead and Speed (to be held October 4-6, 2024) - EVENT CENTRAL PAGE

2023-2024 Senior Boulder National Championships (Boulder & Lead)

The 2023-2024 Senior Boulder and Lead National Championships were successfully hosted at The Hive Surrey (Boulder) and the Richmond Olympic Oval (Lead) in British Columbia. The event saw a strong turnout with 165 participants in the Boulder category and 120 in Lead, marking a 15% increase in participation compared to the previous year. CEC is proud to maintain consistent gender equity across its events, and this season also saw a broader range of provincial representation than in previous years.

GENDER	Boulder	Lead
Men Participants	56%	53%
Women Participants	44%	47%
Total Participants	165	120

AGE	Boulder	Lead
Oldest participant	44 years old	44 years old
Youngest participant	16 years old	16 years old
Average age	21 years old	19 years old

PROVINCE	Boulder	Lead
BC	30%	43%
QC	21%	17%
AB	19%	19%
ON	18%	18%
MB	5%	0%
NB	2%	1%
NS	2%	1%
SK	1%	0%
NL	1%	0%
Foreign Nationals	1%	1%
Total	165	120

Congratulations to host province British Columbia, which dominated the team rankings, securing the top spot in all but one category. Ontario claimed the top position in the Boulder Male category. For a complete overview of team rankings, please visit CEC Results.

Athlete satisfaction was a focal point of this year's event, with 71.65% of survey respondents indicating they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with the overall quality of the competition. This marks an improvement from the 68.33% satisfaction rate recorded in 2022-2023. However, CEC acknowledges there is room for growth and is committed to enhancing athlete services to achieve an 80% or higher satisfaction rate in future events.

2023-2024 Speed National Championships

The 2023-2024 Speed National Championships were held at the Calgary Climbing Center in Alberta, attracting 110 participants across four categories: Youth B, Youth A, Junior, and Senior. This represents a modest increase from the previous season. While gender and provincial representation remain areas for improvement in Speed, the discipline continues to face challenges in terms of infrastructure and coaching support. Addressing these needs will be a priority for CEC in the upcoming Olympic cycle.

GENDER	Youth B	Youth A	Junior	Senior
Men Participants	50%	62%	71%	65%
Women Participants	50%	38%	29%	35%
Total Participants	30	26	17	37

PROVINCE	Youth B	Youth A	Junior	Senior
BC	33%	15%	29%	35%
AB	13%	23%	29%	11%
ON	23%	31%	18%	27%
QC	30%	31%	24%	27%
Total	30	26	17	37

Due to specificities of the competition wall at the Calgary Climbing Center, Canadian Speed Records were not officially recorded at this event. However, we are thrilled to report several new Canadian records achieved at the 2024 Youth World Championships, showcasing the exceptional talent and progress of our athletes:

- Dylan Le (Junior Male): 6.14 seconds
- Elise Villeneuve (Junior Female): 8.64 seconds
- Sienna Chow (Youth A Female): 8.56 seconds
- Bruce Kong (Youth B Male): 7.11 seconds

Athlete satisfaction for this event was notably lower than expected, with 77.14% of survey respondents indicating they were "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied"—a decline from last year's satisfaction rate of 85.72%. Challenges with capacity and staffing constraints impacted the quality of this event. CEC acknowledges this shortfall and sincerely apologizes to the community. We are committed to delivering a significantly improved experience at the 2024-2025 Speed National Championships, making it an event not to be missed!

2023-2024 Youth Regional and Nationals Championships (Boulder & Lead)

The 2023-2024 Youth Series was a remarkable success, marking the largest and most exciting season to date!

The events took place at the following venues:

- 2023-2024 Youth Eastern Regional Championships (Boulder) – Beta Bloc, Montreal, QC
- 2023-2024 Youth Western Regional Championships (Boulder) – Bolder Elevated, Calgary, AB
- 2023-2024 Youth National Championships (Boulder) – Bloc Shop Chabanel, Montreal, QC
- 2023-2024 Youth National Championships (Lead) – Canyon Escalade, La Prairie, QC

With high participation across all events, our technical and routesetting teams demonstrated exceptional skill in managing these busy competitions. A total of 389 athletes competed in the Regional Championships, while 309 participated in the Boulder Nationals and 277 in the Lead Nationals. These numbers reflect a positive trend in engagement, with increases across most events compared to last season, except for a slight 3% decline in Lead Nationals participation.

GENDER	EAST	WEST
Men Participants	51%	54%
Women Participants	49%	46%
Total Participants	195	194

GENDER	Boulder	Lead
Men Participants	50%	50%
Women Participants	50%	50%
Total Participants	309	277

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 season, there will be significant changes to age eligibility and the categories included in Regionals. For more details, please refer to our blog post: [Changes Coming in 2025 to the Youth Categories - Climbing Escalade Canada (climbingcanada.ca)]

We are thrilled to report that athlete satisfaction for the Youth National Championships reached an all-time high, with 86.15% of survey respondents indicating they were either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied." This is an outstanding result, and we are committed to continually enhancing the experience for our youth athletes on the national stage.

Domestic Series - Financial Recap

Managing the financial sustainability of a full competition season is always a challenge. The primary expenses for National Events include Gym Hosting Fees and Routesetting Fees—both of which are essential investments to maintain the high quality of our events. To balance the budget this year, we opted not to include livestream coverage, which allowed us to achieve a modestly profitable outcome.

	Senior Nationals		Speed Nationals	Youth Regionals		Youth Nationals	
	Boulder	Lead		East	West	Boulder	Lead
Registration Cost	$190.00	$205.00	$85.00	$175.00	$175.00	$210.00	$225.00
# of Registrations	165	120	110	195	194	309	277
Revenues	$33,950.00	$27,150.00	$11,285.00	$34,125.00	$37,562.00	$64,890.00	$61,875.00
Expenses	$27,602.74	$38,253.84	$13,500.00	$37,887.33	$36,066.97	$60,479.29	$49,017.54
Surplus (Deficit)	$6,347.26	-$11,103.84	-$2,215.00	-$3,762.33	$1,495.03	$4,410.71	$12,857.46

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 season, CEC is committed to enhancing the athlete experience through strategic financial adjustments, including:

- **Increased Gym Hosting Fees**: To attract top-tier facilities and ensure exceptional event venues.
- **Addition of International Setters**: Bringing in international setters to enrich the setting teams will provide greater exposure for both athletes and Canadian setters.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities**: We are exploring partnerships to potentially reintroduce livestreaming, adding value for the entire community.

We are pleased to confirm that there will be no changes to athlete registration fees, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

2024 NORTH AMERICAN CUP SERIES

The 2024 North American Cup Series (NACS) faced significant challenges with participation numbers, prompting CEC to reassess the objectives and scheduling of the series to ensure its future success. The Boulder event saw 103 participants, while the Lead and Speed categories recorded lower registration numbers, with only 47 and 17 athletes, respectively, at the time of this report.

Despite these challenges, the Boulder NACS event was executed seamlessly and received an 80.96% satisfaction rate—the highest ever for a Senior event. Our focus for NACS remains on providing the strongest field of play for athletes by securing top-notch facilities and exceptional setting teams. This goal was realized at the Boulder event, thanks to our outstanding host, Altitude Kanata, and a highly skilled setting team:

- Head Setter: Hayden Jones
- Assistant Head Setter: Kaleb Thomas, IFSC Level 2
- Setters: Victor Fleutre, Corinne Baril (IFSC Level 2), Jeremy Ho (USAC), and Annabelle Spingler (USAC)
- Apprentice Setters: Hubert Catimal, Raven Martin

Several structural improvements were also introduced to the NACS series this year, which were well received by athletes:

- **Free Entry** for National Team athletes at Canadian NACS events.
- **Increased Cash Prizes** for podium finishes ($1,000 for 1st, $500 for 2nd, and $250 for 3rd).
- **Boulder Qualification in Isolation Format** to better prepare athletes for World Cup competitions.
- **Enhanced Routesetting Quality** with international setters contributing to the event.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to providing an optimal competitive environment and ensuring the continued growth and success of the NACS series.

NACS - Financial Recap

CEC views the North American Cup Series (NACS) as a crucial investment in supporting athletes on their pathway to podium success. However, it's essential to evaluate the cost-benefit ratio to ensure the sustainability of this investment. The question of where to draw the line between investment and return will be a key topic of discussion at the board level as we plan for future seasons.

	NACS		
	Boulder	Lead*	Speed*
Registration Cost	$250.00	$250.00	$125.00
# of Registrations	103	60	25
Revenues	$25,750.00	$15,000.00	$3,125.00
Expenses	$37,781.53	$30,000.00	$10,000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	-$12,031.53	-$15,000.00	-$6,875.00
		*projected / estimated	

2023-2024 SEASON PODIUMS

2023-2024 SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
BOULDER	**LEAD**
Female: 🥇 Anna Kelley, AB 🥈 Emilia Callanan, QC 🥉 Madison Richardson, ON	Female: 🥇 Cedar Pidgeon, BC 🥈 Sophie Buitendyk, BC 🥉 Molly Dreher, ON
Male: 🥇 Zac Richardson, ON 🥈 Guy McNamee, BC 🥉 Hugo Dorval, QC	Male: 🥇 Kinday McNamee, BC 🥈 Guy McNamee, BC 🥉 Matthew Rodriguez, ON

2023-2024 SPEED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
Youth B	**Youth A**	**Junior**	**Senior**
Female 🥇 Iyla Behrns (AB) 🥈 Maxime Laurin (QC) 🥉 Avery MacDonald (BC)	Female 🥇 Sienna Chow (BC) 🥈 Inès Ferrarini (QC) 🥉 Grace Lukasik (ON)	Female 🥇 Reena Gao (ON) 🥈 Kameryn Carroll (AB) 🥉 Elise Villeneuve (AB)	Female 🥇 Sienna Chow(BC) 🥈 Reena Gao (ON) 🥉 Elise Villeneuve (AB)
Male 🥇 Bruce Kong (BC) 🥈 Ryan Bou(QC) 🥉 Henri Cowan (QC)	Male 🥇 Lucas Peters (ON) 🥈 Olivier Turgeon (QC) 🥉 Colby Gaine (AB)	Male 🥇 Dylan Le (QC) 🥈 Jack Whitney (BC) 🥉 Adrien Lévesque (QC)	Male 🥇 Ethan Pitcher (BC) 🥈 Dylan Le (QC) 🥉 Adrien Lévesques (QC)

2023-2024 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EAST			
Youth C	**Youth B**	**Youth A**	**Junior**
Female 🥇 Norah Kelly Bou (QC) 🥈 Salomé Trahan (QC) 🥉 Erin McDonald (ON)	Female 🥇 Avery Ingram (ON) 🥈 Vanessa Ramer-Clark (ON) 🥉 Kate Nash (ON)	Female 🥇 Ella Vohle (ON) 🥈 Grace Kam (ON) 🥉 Charlotte Richards (ON)	Female 🥇 Anais Cotinghi (QC) 🥈 Laurence Cassivi-Pelletier (QC) 🥉 Paige Scott-Burch (ON)
Male 🥇 Jax Lledo (ON) 🥈 Nicolas Arteau (QC) 🥉 Gaston Baudin (QC)	Male 🥇 Yuli Ma (QC) 🥈 Zach Thomas (ON) 🥉 Alexis Levasseur (QC)	Male 🥇 Olivier Turgeaon (QC) 🥈 Dylan Shintani (QC) 🥉 Matthieu Bonneville (QC)	Male 🥇 Hugo Fortier (QC) 🥈 Emerson Harris (ON) 🥉 Owen Lang (NL)

2023-2024 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WEST

Youth C	Youth B	Youth A	Junior
Female 🥇 Lily-Anne Tagoe (AB) 🥈 Neve Fessenden (AB) 🥉 Brielle Decosse (AB)	Female 🥇 Sylvie Robert (AB) 🥈 Lexi Johns (AB) 🥉 Lilah Kolber (AB)	Female 🥇 Lucy Baker (AB) 🥈 Claire Villeneuve (AB) 🥉 Sophia Bowles (AB)	Female 🥇 Caiya Taylor-Ainslie (BC) 🥈 Kameryn Carroll (AB) 🥉 Sophie Trottier (SK)
Male 🥇 Tomas Korvin (BC) 🥈 Quinn Farrell (AB) 🥉 Cassidy Horst (BC)	Male 🥇 Jasper Selda (BC) 🥈 Asher Johnson (YT) 🥉 Lukas Veljacic (BC)	Male 🥇 Tyce Renneberg (AB) 🥈 Dominic Enns (MB) 🥉 Theo Enns (MB)	Male 🥇 Ben Tonnos (AB) 🥈 Guy Patterson (AB) 🥉 Aidan Kwong (AB)

2023-2024 YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - BOULDER		
Youth B	**Youth A**	**Junior**
Female 🥇 Amari Bourbonnais - BC 🥈 Avery MacDonald - BC 🥉 Hillary Tourigny - AB	Female 🥇 Sienna Chow - BC 🥈 Lana Slipicevic - BC 🥉 Brooke White - AB	Female 🥇 Jacqueline Ho - ON 🥈 Caiya Taylor-Ainslie - BC 🥉 Alexa Vanier - AB
Male - Event Podium 🥇 Evan Rajan - ON 🥈 Félix-Antoine Provost - QC 🥉 Mitchell Boyer - SG Male - Canadian Podium 🥇 Evan Rajan - ON 🥈 Félix-Antoine Provost - QC 🥉 Connor Ohuchi - AB	Male 🥇 Evan Lau - AB 🥈 Maxime Thérien - QC 🥉 Christian Chan - ON	Male 🥇 Ian Tan - ON 🥈 Mykhailo Lynovytskyi - BC 🥉 Dylan Le - QC

2023-2024 YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - LEAD		
Youth B	**Youth A**	**Junior**
Female 🥇 Avery MacDonald - BC 🥈 Amari Bourbonnais - BC 🥉 Claire Bennett - BC	Female 🥇 Sienna Chow - BC 🥈 Jordyn Scarola - ON 🥉 Brooke White - AB	Female 🥇 Cedar Pidgeon - BC 🥈 Molly Dreher - ON 🥉 Jacqueline Ho - ON
Male - Event Podium 🥇 Mitchell Boyer - SG 🥈 Jack Vanderheide - BC 🥉 Evan Rajan - ON Male Canadian - Podium 🥇 Jack Vanderheide - BC 🥈 Evan Rajan - ON 🥉 Noah Schwartz - BC	Male 🥇 Evan Lau - AB 🥈 Maxime Thérien - QC 🥉 Eliott Robert - QC	Male 🥇 Dylan Le - QC 🥈 Benjamin Tonnos - AB 🥉 Adam Edwards - AB)

2024 NORTH AMERICAN CUP SERIES	
BOULDER	**LEAD & SPEED**
Female: 🥇 Lucy Drury (USA) 🥈 Reena Gao (ON) 🥉 Babette Roy (QC)	TBD
Male: 🥇 Zach Richardson (QC) 🥈 Dylan Smith (ON) 🥉 Matthew Rodriguez (ON)	TBD

SPORT DEVELOPMENT – 2023-2024

National Coach Certification Program (NCCP)
This year marked a significant milestone for Climbing Escalade Canada with the successful launch and conditional approval of two new National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) courses: the Community Initiation and Competition Introduction streams. These programs were developed in partnership with Sport Canada and the Coaching Association of Canada, providing tailored training and certification for climbing coaches across Canada.

- **NCCP Community Initiation:** This 1-day workshop is aimed at coaches working with beginner climbers. It focuses on fostering a safe and inclusive environment while teaching fundamental climbing skills at the early stages of athlete development.
- **NCCP Competition Introduction:** This 2-day workshop targets coaches working with athletes transitioning from the fundamentals to more advanced stages of development. It covers principles of effective coaching, skill development, and performance analysis, preparing coaches to support competitive athletes.

Creating these modules was a considerable achievement. CEC managed to develop both modules within six months, thanks to the dedicated efforts of their coaching committee and consultants. This initiative will be pivotal in strengthening the coaching framework nationwide, enhancing the quality of coaching, and ultimately supporting athlete development across Canada.

If you need further information or wish to access these courses, please refer to the CEC website or contact your Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization.

National Routesetting Program
In 2024, CEC launched the National Routesetting Pathway to support the growth and standardization of routesetting across Canada. This pathway includes a structured certification process, allowing routesetters to be evaluated and ranked based on their experience and skills. The program will be rolled out in three phases over the next few years:

- Phase 1 (2024-2025) focuses on evaluating setters' experience and assigning them a level in the new system.
- Phase 2 (2025-2026) will introduce quality evaluations, including specific criteria such as routesetting skills, teamwork, and professionalism.
- Phase 3 (2026-2027) will implement an educational program with workshops and certification to further develop the skillsets of Canadian routesetters

These initiatives represent significant steps in CEC's commitment to developing the sport, ensuring high-quality coaching and competition standards, and providing clear pathways for athlete and professional growth in the Canadian climbing community.