

# FENB Board of Directors Report

FENB AGM Saturday, September 30, 2023

## *2022-2023 Season*

Our 2022–2023 season looked more like our pre-COVID years, with participation and NB tournaments reaching pre-pandemic levels.

Our highlight of the year was the Canada Winter Games in PEI, with our best showing ever, with three medallists, and three 5th place finishes, along with a 4th in team.

## Participation

### Membership

	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19	2017–18
<b>Provincial</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>1st time / Rec.</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>182</b>

## Strategic Plan 2020–2023

Our current strategic plan has just finished its cycle. Once our new board and ED are in place, we will review and create our next strategic plan. But a review at our goals:

3.1 Improve awareness and increase promotion of fencing in New Brunswick: *Develop a communications plan to promote fencing and grow membership.*

3.2 Increase the number of recreational and competitive fencers: *Build successful athletes, both recreationally and competitively.*

### 3.2.1 Athlete Development Opportunities: Competitive

- ❖ Continue to strengthen the provincial team; three athlete development training events per year.
- ❖ Encourage athletes to participate in provincial, intra-provincial, national, and international events.
- ❖ Support athletes at national and international events.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for athletes to train together regardless of club.

### 3.2.2 Athlete Development: Recreational

- ❖ Provide opportunities for recreational fencers to build their skills, such as the armband program.
- ❖ Host two tournaments with greater emphasis on recreation (e.g, Knappe).

## 3.3 Effective Leadership: *Develop strong leaders to support the sport now and in the future.*

### 3.3.1 Provide Certification Opportunities

- ❖ Have a recognized learning facilitator in the province to evaluate coaches at the Community Initiation level.
- ❖ Depending on demand, host at least one event per year for coaches to earn certification.
- ❖ Depending on demand, host at least one event per year for referees to be evaluated.
- ❖ Facilitate at least one training opportunity per year for coaches to maintain their current certification.

### 3.3.2 Identify and Develop Referees, Armourers, and Secretariat

- ❖ Promote, recruit and identify potential referees, and armourers from among membership and within the community.
- ❖ Coordinate mentors and mentees among the coaches, referees, armourers, secretariat, and any other roles that may benefit from this.

## 3.4 Effective Membership: *Increase awareness of the sport and look for opportunities to grow our membership base. Maintain what we have.*

### 3.4.1 Retain and Grow our Membership

- ❖ Provide information, at minimum, once per year on how members can get more involved with fencing.
- ❖ Connect organizations, event planners, and other contacts requesting an introduction to the sport with local clubs.
- ❖ Work with clubs and the school boards to add fencing into their PE curriculum or after school programs.
- ❖ Grow membership in the clubs that we have.
- ❖ Determine main reasons why members leave fencing and work with clubs to provide solutions.

- ❖ Host annual coaches and club leader forum to discuss challenges, share ideas, and propose solutions.

#### 3.5.4 Foster a Safe and Quality Environment

- ❖ Conduct inventory at least once per year of all FENB assets.
- ❖ Establish a maintenance process and replacement schedule for FENB equipment.
- ❖ Ensure that FENB-approved events are held to a high standard and are run in a safe manner.

## Excellence

### Athlete Development

In conjunction with the Canada Winter Games, many of our athletes travelled to out-of-province competitions this season, including to the Boston RJCC in Boston, the Cobra SYC in New York, and to Ontario Youth Circuit and Quebec Youth Circuit competitions. Our main part of the season was dedicated to training and selecting our Canada Winter Games team, with less focus on our development team.

### Athlete Performance

#### Canada Winter Games

##### **Congratulations to our 2023 CWG team:**

Graham Goodwin, SILVER, men's epee  
Claire Han, BRONZE, women's epee  
Dominique Richard, BRONZE, women's foil  
Michaël Robichaud, 5th, men's foil  
Rowan MacDermott, 5th, men's sabre  
Clara Richard, 5th, women's sabre

#### Provincials

##### **Congratulations to our 2023 provincial winners:**

Cadet Sabre: Flynn Stevens  
Cadet Epee: Graham Goodwin  
Cadet Men's Foil: Vir Singh Ranger  
Cadet's Women's Foil: Dominique Richard

U13 Sabre: Ashelin Stevens  
U13 Epee: Sammy Singh-Ranger

U15 Sabre: Flynn Stevens  
U15 Epee: Cruz Muzuku

Open Foil: Ryan Downey  
Open Epee: Jon Wright

Team Sabre: Beaches Right (David Drysdale, Luke Xerxa, Wendy Yano)  
Team Epee: Fundy (David Collins, Sebastien Fournet, Patrick Craig)  
Team Foil: La Résistance (Ryan Downey, Valentin Franco, Émilie Murphy, Michaël Robichaud)

### **2023 Nationals**

Veteran's Men Sabre: Jim Stevens: SILVER, David Collins: 8th  
Cadet Women's Epee: Claire Han: BRONZE  
U13 Men's Sabre: Flynn Stevens: 7th  
U13 Men's Foil: Sammy Singh-Ranger: 17th; Ethan Han: 24th  
U13 Men's Epee: Sammy Singh-Ranger: 25th; Ethan Han: 27th  
U15 Women's Foil: Breea Daigle: 28th  
U15 Women's Epee: Breea Daigle: 35th  
U15 Men's Sabre: Flynn Stevens: 24th  
U15 Men's Epee: Thomas Johnston: 47th; Alex Fulton: 52nd; Henry Goodwin: 54th  
Cadet Women's Sabre: Claire Han: 20th  
Cadet Women's Foil: Dominique Richard: 15th; Claire Han: 16th; Clara Richard: 27th  
Cadet Men's Epee: Michael Robichaud: 41st; Vir Singh Ranger 48th; Guanxun (James) Lu: 66th;  
Graham Goodwin: 78th; Gabriel Strickland: 88th;  
Cadet Men's Foil: Vir Singh Ranger: 32th; Michael Robichaud: 57th  
Junior Women's Foil: Dominique Richard: 30th; Clara Richard: 36th  
Junior Men's Epee: Graham Goodwin: 14th; Vir Singh-Ranger: 30th; Guanxun (James) Lu: 78th;  
Sebastien Fournet: 82th; Gabe Strickland: 98th  
Senior Women's Foil: Dominique Richard: 15th; Clara Richard: 24th  
Senior Men's Epee: David Collins: 15th; Patrick Craig: 19th; Graham Goodwin: 59th; Sebastien Fournet: 102th; Gabe Strickland: 129th  
Veteran Men's Epee: David Collins: 13th

### **Tournament Committee**

Alfred Knappe: The Alfred Knappe Team tournament ran in January with a variety of Open and U15 team events. Thank you to UNB Fencing for helping support this event.

East Coast Games: The East Coast Games ran as a tournament oriented towards beginning fencers, with many youth categories, including team events. Continuing the tradition of using the tournament for referee development, FENB brought Michael Ivankovic down to run a referee development clinic and to mentor developing referees in the province.

NB Provincials: The provincials were held in Moncton, with several out-of-province participants and several returning fencers/referees.

## **Coach Development**

At the nationals Jim Stevens conducted the initial stages of coach evaluation for Marc-Andre LeBlanc and Martin Stoev for certification at the level of Competition Development.

Barbara Daniel conducted a series of surveys and feedback sessions in order to gauge future coach needs.

## **Officials Development**

Alexis Lague was identified as a prime candidate for referee development, and worked with the OFA for training/mentoring. Mike Ivankovic was brought in for the East Coast Games in order to mentor other potential referees, and run an introductory workshop for them.

## **Awareness**

Beaches Sabre Club East, Damocles Fencing Club, Fundy Fencing Club, and La Resistance Fencing Club all ran school/community programs in order to spread awareness and recruit members.

The provincial team/Canada Games training squad conducted a successful fundraising and promotional event at Fredericton's Saturday farmers market, giving out sword balloons and asking for donations. We would like to especially thank Tinsel the Clown for providing us with extra balloons and balloon-creating expertise!

With the success of the Canada Winter Games, fencing was promoted through various interviews with our team, highlighting their successes at the CWG.

## **Capacity**

### **Funding**

Our government funding stayed stable from previous years.

### **Board, Staff, and Volunteer Recruitment**

Annette LeBlance has decided not to renew her contract as Executive Director at the end of this season. We would like to thank Annette for her hard work and commitment to FENB this past season.

FENB would like to thank the people who served on the Athlete Development Committee this past year: Marc-Andre LeBlanc, David Collins, Mathieu Paquet, and Jim Stevens for the work they have done in developing the Canada Winter Games Selection program. We would also like to thank Barbara Daniel for serving as our Coach Developer.

As always, we are grateful for the many people, coaches, parents, community members, and many more, who give their time and expertise to support FENB's events and activities. We could not operate without these individuals, much less thrive, without all of this generous support.