



April 2014

To: All PTOA Presidents

Orienteering Canada has been running at a deficit for the last year and the budget for 2014/15 also projects a significant deficit of almost \$20,000. There are several reasons for these deficits:

1. Increased expenses related to implementing our Strategic Plan. This includes the High Performance Program, website, newsletter, coaching, officials and LTAD.
2. We have not received any funding from Sport Canada. The board is continuing to apply and meet the requirements to be eligible for funding but this a long process and even after meeting the eligibility requirements there is no guarantee of funding.
3. Increased staffing costs. Charlotte has been our Executive Director/President for the last 9 years in a volunteer capacity but she has decided to transition out of this role. Some of the work that Charlotte has done will be done by the various committees and some of it will be done by paid staff or contractors. Finding an individual to take on the role of Executive Director on a volunteer basis is not realistic and we are aware of how fortunate we were to have Charlotte take on that role as a volunteer for so many years.

For several years we have shown some funding from Sport Canada in our budgets. In 2013, we were quite certain that we would receive Sport Canada funding, but ultimately the Minister of State for Sport denied our funding request even after it had been approved by Sport Canada. The process to re-apply for this funding is time consuming and we should not be including this money as income until we have confirmation that we will receive it. Running at a deficit each year cannot continue indefinitely. We either need to find additional sources of income, cut back on the expenses or some combination of these. The Board is extremely reluctant to cut some of the programs which have potential for significant benefits to Orienteering in Canada, particularly the High Performance activities, the communications efforts including the newsletter, and the curriculum development activities.

We will be devoting time at this year's AGM to discussing this issue and are sending this to you now so that you will have time to discuss this with your board and member clubs before the AGM. Some areas that you may want to discuss are:

1. What would be the impact to your association if the annual membership fees were to increase significantly (say 25% to 100%)? Would this have an impact on how you structure your membership fees charged to individuals (which may have the impact of decreasing the number of members signing up and would be defeating the goal of having as many members as possible) or would your association/club seek to cover a higher PTOA fee by increasing revenue from event fees or other events.
2. Would you prefer we cut back on expenses (reduced HPP funding, reduced officials and coaching services, reduced staffing, no newsletter)?
3. What fundraising could you do? For example special events or extra event registration fee for certain events.
4. What are other sources of income that are realistic and achievable?

We look forward to having a meaningful discussion at the AGM on this topic.

Sincerely,

Dave Graupner  
Treasurer