

Orienteering BC President's Report for AGM 2025

2025 saw the continuation of the growing challenges facing orienteering in British Columbia. Most clubs continue to struggle with volunteer resources and access to terrain.

The 2025 BC Orienteering Championships (BCOCs) were hosted by the Kootenay Orienteering Club (KOC) on Thanksgiving weekend and attracted roughly 100 participants to the sublime local terrain.

We look forward to next year's BCOCs hosted by Sage Orienteering Club (SAGE) on a date that is to be determined. If these also serve as the WCOCs is to be confirmed.

In 2025, the Junior Development Program evolved into a more general Club Development Program with the scope to support club projects aimed at developing orienteering in their area. Jeff Teutsch (*Navigation Sports*) provided advice and guidance to KOC for program development.

The Outreach Team continued to provide outreach orienteering activities in BC. A school mapping project was completed in Delta (Alton Ho). The annual WALK PG (Wild About Lheidli Keyoh / Prince George) festival in Prince George included an orienteering activity in their Connection to Land and Place track. A new orienteering map was produced (Bryan Chubb) and an online workshop was delivered (Linda Hildebrandt) to the local Prince George personnel who ran the activity.

In 2025, OBC applied financial resources to continue the Club Development Program, support Outreach Team projects, develop or update maps, fund club equipment purchases, and provide grants to clubs to cover a significant portion of the Orienteering Canada dues.

Orienteering BC is currently recognized by *viaSport* as an accredited Provincial Sport Organization. This means that we qualify for annual core grant funding from *viaSport*, which comprises the vast majority of OBC's funding. However, this recognition continues to be at risk. To continue to meet *viaSport*'s requirements, we will need to increase membership, further develop officials and coaches, and possibly work toward selecting a provincial team.

We need to increase participation and membership in orienteering in BC. We need to increase volunteer resources available to orienteering in BC. This chicken-and-egg challenge has faced orienteering for years as the sport has been on a gradually declining trajectory. Finding a solution and reversing this trend has proven difficult and we need to consider trying new approaches.

Thank you to all of the members of the Board of Directors for their time and contributions this year. Thank you to the retiring board members, Jackie Bonn, Bryan Chubb and Brian Ellis, for their many years of dedication, service and valuable contributions to OBC and the orienteering community in BC.

I need to step back now and look forward to working with and supporting a new President as we work to build orienteering in BC.

Kevin Matrosovs