

[View this email in your browser](#)



ALPINE ONTARIO ANNOUNCES 2026-27 ONTARIO SKI TEAM & ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT SKI TEAM

We are excited to see athletes continue progressing through the Ontario high-performance pathway, advancing from clubs to the Development Ski Team and the Ontario Ski Team.

We welcome new athletes and returning alumni who help strengthen our program culture and competitive environment.

Ontario Ski Team (OST)

Ontario's top provincial athletes are competing on the FIS and Nor-Am circuits, working toward national teams and international performance goals.

ONTARIO SKI TEAM

| 2026-27



WOMEN

Jillian Deeks – Craigleith Ski Club
Alexandra Houle – Camp Fortune
Emma James – Osler Bluff Ski Club
Isabella Nguyen – Green Mountain Valley School

MEN

Sawyer Jonasson – Devil's Glen Country Club
Max Miranda – Nat. Capital Outaouais | Mont Ste-Marie
Henry Podivinsky – Georgian Peaks Ski Club
Owen Wagner – Nat. Capital Outaouais | Mont Ste-Marie
Jasper Williams – Georgian Peaks Ski Club

Ontario Development Ski Team (ODST)

Emerging FIS athletes transitioning from club racing into high-performance competition, preparing for advancement to the OST and beyond.

ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT SKI TEAM

| 2026-27



WOMEN

Tiggy Chapman – Osler Bluff Ski Club
Anabelle Ellison – Osler Bluff Ski Club
Kylie Ferguson – Mansfield – Craigleith Ski Club
Zoe Mallins – Craigleith Ski Club
Delila McQuay – Osler Bluff Ski Club
Rachael Warll-MacMillan – Craigleith Ski Club

MEN

Harrison Brett – Devil's Glen Country Club
Jack Broughton – Craigleith Ski Club
Jake Jonasson – Devil's Glen Country Club
Oscar Leone – Georgian Peaks Ski Club
Jacob Mackey – Georgian Peaks Ski Club
Orran Nichols – Thunder Bay | Port Arthur Ski Club
Owen Pady – Osler Bluff Ski Club
Charles Pepper – Craigleith Ski Club
John Podivinsky – Georgian Peaks Ski Club
Jack Zolis – Craigleith Ski Club

Provincial Coaching Staff

The 2026–27 OST and ODST athletes will be supported by **High-Performance Director Joey Lavigne** and led by an experienced coaching team.

Head Coaches: Alex Lennox (OST-Men), David McNeil (OST-Women), Henry Yeigh (ODST)

Assistant Coaches: Candace Crawford, Mattia Casson, Tobias Porter

Provincial Program Focus

The OST & ODST pathway provides structured training, national and international race exposure, and a clear progression from provincial development to elite performance.



Skiis & Biikes

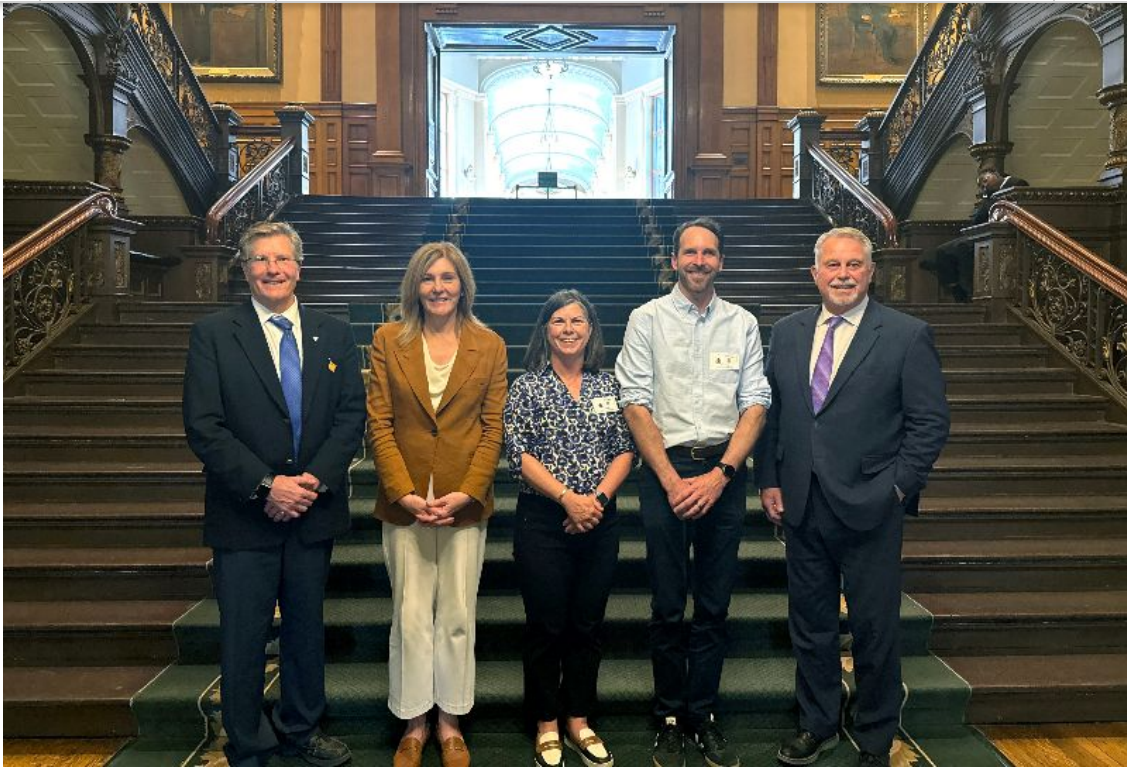
KARBON

FASKEN
Own tomorrow



Normerica
Timber Homes





AOA MEETS WITH ONTARIO'S SPORTS LEADERS TAKING SKIING TO QUEEN'S PARK

Last week, Alpine Ontario had the opportunity to meet with some key provincial representatives: **Hon. Neil Lumsden, Ontario's Minister of Sport, Natalie Pierre, MPP for Burlington and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Sport, and Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey.**

Patrick Biggs, our Executive Director, and Stephanie Warner, Chair of the Board, represented Alpine Ontario in what turned out to be a genuinely engaging and productive conversation.

At the heart of the discussion was an **innovative new program** we're developing — one designed to support and strengthen the alpine ski racing community right here in Ontario. While we'll be sharing more details soon, we can say that the interest and feedback from all three representatives was encouraging.

We're grateful for their thoughtful engagement and commitment to the future of sport in this province.

Stay tuned — more to come.



CAREER SPOTLIGHT KRIS MAHLER

SKI CROSS • CRAIGLEITH SKI CLUB • WORLD CUP COMPETITOR

We're proud to celebrate **Kris Mahler**, an Ontario racer who grew up at **Craigleith**, who made it twice to the top step of the **World Cup podium** and finished with a bang in front of his hometown fans.

On March 22, 2026, Kris stepped onto the World Cup podium one last time — and he did it at Craigleith, the Ontario hill where his love of ski racing first took hold. Racing in front of family, friends, and the community that shaped him, he **finished third in the FIS Ski Cross World Cup**, earning his first podium since 2022 in the most meaningful setting possible. *"The most special feeling in the world."* - Kris Mahler, on racing his final World Cup at Craigleith

A career defined by comebacks

Kris's path to the podium was never a straight line. After suffering a broken neck in a crash at Arosa, Switzerland, many wondered if he would race again, let alone return to the World Cup circuit. His comeback stands as one of the most inspiring stories in Canadian ski cross, a **testament to the determination** and character that defined his entire career.

Raised in Ontario and **coached at Craigleith by Bebe Zoricic**, Kris trained in both alpine and ski cross before moving west to pursue the sport at the highest level through the Alberta Ski Cross pathway. His first **World Cup victory came in Val Thorens in 2019**, and he went on to represent Canada at the **Beijing Olympics**, and with distinction on the international stage until 2026.

A Few Words from Kris

I've been fortunate to experience so many different parts of the sport throughout my career, from local clubs and provincial programs to the national team and international competition. Looking ahead, I'm excited to find ways to give back to the community that helped shape me as both an athlete and a person.

A big part of my focus moving forward will be supporting athlete development and exploring new ways to strengthen the pathways that help young athletes progress through the sport. There is incredible work already happening across Canada, and I'm excited by the opportunity to help connect those efforts, share what I've learned from my own journey, and contribute to the long-term growth of skiing in this country.

I may be stepping away from competition, but I'm energized by the opportunity to help build what comes next."

AOA couldn't be more excited to see what Kris brings to the next chapter, and something tells us the ski community hasn't seen the last of him!



NEW ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Information for Student-Athlete Families

The Ontario Ministry of Education has announced a new attendance policy that allows schools to include attendance as part of a student's final grade. While details are still emerging, many families have expressed concern about how this could affect student-athletes who miss school for training, racing, travel, and competition.

We believe athletic training and competition offer significant educational value. Student-athletes develop independence, time-management skills, resilience, goal setting, teamwork, self-advocacy, and responsibility. These experiences help prepare students for future success in post-secondary education, the workplace, and life.

At this time, we encourage all families to proactively contact their schools, guidance counsellors, principals, and school boards to seek clarification on how the policy will be implemented and whether accommodations will be available for students participating in high-performance sport.

[Read the full statement](#)

[Join the Parent Forum – Stay up to date with the most current information](#)



This information was compiled with input from members of the Ontario ski community, including Stephanie Reingold (Glacier Ski Club Admin/Parent and owner of Reingold Tutoring).



AOA ALPINE FUND 25_26 IMPACT UPDATE THANK YOU TO PATH TO THE PODIUM

The **Path to the Podium** fundraiser has been a key contributor to **AOA's Alpine Fund** – the charitable arm delivering investment and impact to Ontario ski racing.

The Alpine Fund has directly fueled our four key priorities this past **2025–26 season**.

Athlete Development

The Alpine Fund supported the hiring of additional Assistant Coach **Candace Crawford** for the **Ontario Development Ski Team**, ensuring our emerging racers have the coaching support and depth they need to continue to grow.

High Performance Pathways

The Alpine Fund's Bridging the Gap Bursaries are removing financial barriers for Ontario's most promising athletes. These bursaries supported athletes like **Kyle Blandford**, an Ontario Ski Team alumnus and CAST Development Team member, who delivered outstanding performances at Nor-Am competitions on the legendary Birds of Prey track in Beaver Creek, finishing 4th and 5th. We also secured coach **Mike Janyk**, CAST alumnus and World Championship bronze medalist, to support final preparations for the World Junior Championship qualifiers, made possible directly through donations.

Coach Development

The **Women in Coaching Initiative** reached over 30 women through on-hill training and online webinars. **Coach Up Mentorship Program** connected coaches like **Ali Dandy**, U16 Head Coach at TSC, and others with Provincial Team coaching staff and athletes for first-hand high-performance experience, enabling professional development for emerging coaches and female leaders. We also doubled our **coach workshop days** from 12 to 26 this season.

Community & Sport Growth

This season marked the launch of the **Skills & Drills Program**, which targets U12 and will be expanded next year, bringing structured skill-building to communities, clubs, and athletes. The companion **Skill Up Patch Program** rewards athletes with patches as they achieve and master new skills, giving each of them tangible milestones to work toward and celebrate.

The Alpine Ontario Alpine Fund exists because of the commitment of our entire community and the **contributions from events like Path to Podium**. We look forward to seeing everyone at the **Path to Podium Event this fall, Nov 21 2026**, where every attendee and contribution helps build on this season's momentum and strengthen the future of alpine ski racing in Ontario.

Together, we're building something lasting, and we're just getting started.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

The Path to the Podium
Supporting Escarpment Excellence on the World Cup!
NOV 21 '26



**ALPINE
ONTARIO
ALPIN**
Alpine Fund

**DONATE
TODAY**

[CURRENT INDUSTRY JOB OPPORTUNITIES HERE](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)



ALPINE
ONTARIO
ALPIN

GEAR FOR GOOD

AOA SUMMER CLEARANCE - SHOP NOW!



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

*Skiis
& Biikes*

Ontario 

PLATINUM PARTNERS

KARBON

FASKEN
Own tomorrow



Normerica
Timber Homes


WHITE RAVEN
ENERGY INC.

PROUD PARTNERS



XSPEX

NZ
NIK ZORICIC
FOUNDATION

Copyright © 2026 Alpine Ontario Alpin (AOA), All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Alpine Ontario Alpin
39A Stewart Road
Collingwood, Ontario,
L9Y 4M7

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list