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LATEST NEWS



ONTARIO SKI TEAM MEN SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

What a season.

Stepping into the Head Coach role this year was smoother than I expected. That's **thanks to the athletes, the parents, and the steady support of Joey, Pat, and the Ontario ski community.**

I would also like to extend a special **thank-you to my colleagues** at Alpine Ontario — **Henry Yeigh, Dave McNeil, Mattia Casson, Candace Crawford, and Tobias Porter** — whose cooperation throughout the season made everything possible. I cannot thank everyone involved enough for their patience and support during such a transition year.

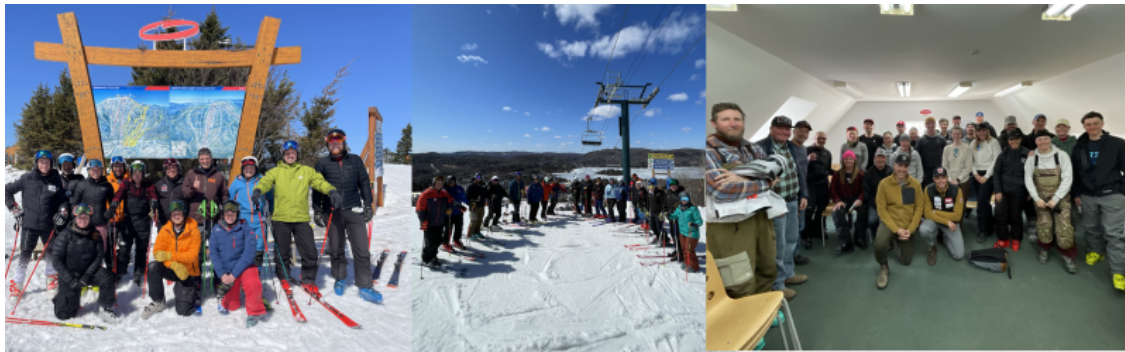
It wasn't an easy year. Hill closures hit us at key prep windows. Severe frostbite. Athletes returning from injury. A lot was working against us, yet we **managed some truly standout results.**

We ventured to the slopes of Sweden, battled for first points and second runs at Nor-Ams, and closed the season with one of our own — **Jasper Williams** — standing as the **best slalom skier in the nation** and **ranking 12th in the world** among athletes his age and younger.

We are currently building out our program for the upcoming season, and I could not be more excited to head into it with this incredible group of athletes, families, and coaches.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate **Colton Bartholomew for his acceptance into the University of New Hampshire.** As our senior veteran, Colton led by example and provided guidance and encouragement to the younger athletes on the team. He'll truly be missed. **We wish you the best of luck** in your next chapter as a **Wildcat!**

- Lenny OST Men's Head Coach



GROWING STRONGER COACHES ACROSS ONTARIO PL COACH DEVELOPMENT

Since stepping into the role of AOA Coach Development Manager, one of our **key goals has been to grow enrollment in the Performance Level (PL) Coaching Course**. I'm pleased to share that, over the past four years, participation has **steadily increased**.

In partnership with **Ski Québec Alpin (SQA)**, we've delivered a joint PL course each April, sharing resources and hosting at premier venues like Mont Tremblant and Mont-Sainte-Anne. This collaboration continues to strengthen coach development across our regions.

The **PL Course is the highest level a coach can achieve** before entering the Advanced Coaching Diploma program. Over five intensive days, candidates apply performance analysis in real coaching environments with high-level ski racers, an experience that is both demanding and highly rewarding.

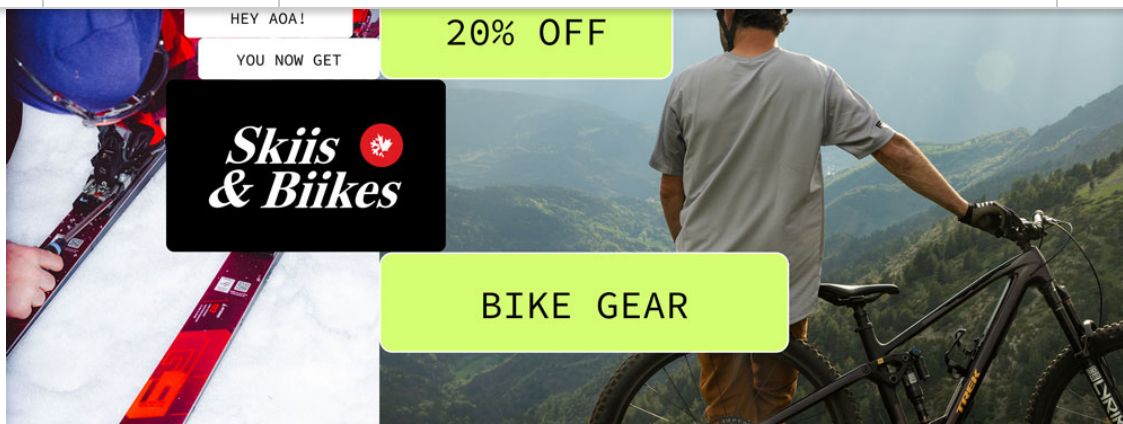
Following the course, coaches progress through a **competency-based pathway, completing NCCP modules** and, when ready, undergoing **evaluation by a Master Coach** to achieve "Certified" status. This designation reflects both training and the effective application of coaching knowledge.

With increased enrollment comes **greater opportunity and responsibility**. Supporting more coaches on their path to certification requires expanded mentorship and evaluation capacity. This is a positive challenge, and we are actively working to grow our pool of evaluators.

Ultimately, **stronger coaches create better environments for athlete development**. As our community of certified coaches grows, so does our ability to mentor, inspire, and support the next generation. As the saying goes, it takes a village, and in coaching, that collaboration is essential.

At Alpine Ontario, we remain **committed to supporting coach development at every stage**. We're excited to see the continued growth of high-performance coaching in our system and look forward to helping coaches thrive as they develop athletes of all ages.

- Jacques Reid - AOA Coach Development Manager



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*Does not include service, select parts, gift cards, half back, or special order items.

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AOA SPRING SUMMIT SUMMARY

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Skiis & Biikes
FASKEN One Commerce
WHITE RAVEN Outdoors

AOA SPRING DEBRIEF 2026 SUMMARY AND PRESENTATIONS

On May 8th, we gathered the community of clubs and coaches together for our Annual Spring Debrief to reflect, reconnect, and look ahead to what's next.

[LINK TO SPRING DEBRIEF DECK](#)

James and Jasper Williams closed out the season with strong performances, moving them to the top national rankings for YOB.

Coach Education Season

[LINK TO COACH ED SUMMARY](#)

With 1,124 coaches supported across all levels, up year-over-year. Through coach and facilitator survey data, it was reported that satisfaction rates were 97–99%, and 100% of coaches reported improved ability. Four new Performance Level coaches were certified. The program's main gaps are evaluation consistency, pathway clarity, and video delivery format. A first-ever coach compliance verification was completed for SCUP clubs, with U12 compliance flagged as a priority area for 2026–27.

HP Director's "State of the Union" Panel Discussion

[LINK TO FULL PANEL DISCUSSION SUMMARY](#)

Ontario ski racing faces several systemic challenges, including a shortage of high-level coaches, excessive racing at younger ages, limited collaboration across club age groups, and a weak culture around fitness, mental performance, and long-term athlete development. Discussions emphasized the need for more age-appropriate calendaring, stronger parent education, better athlete retention beyond U16, and more deliberate investment in coach development, off-snow training, and performance culture. AOA is committed to honest assessment of club effectiveness and athlete pathway outcomes, informed by competitive results from U16 Easterns and U14 CanAm events. U14|U16 Summer Meetings and Working Group Calls to be scheduled

FEATURE INTERVIEW - Tim Gfeller

Inside the Norwegian Ski Team: Lessons for Canadian Alpine

*A conversation with **Tim Gfeller (TG)**, Head Coach of the Norwegian Ski Team and Camp Fortune alumni*

After more than a decade leading one of the world's most successful alpine programs, Tim Gfeller has seen it all, from grassroots coaching at Camp Fortune to Olympic podiums in Norway. We sat down with Tim to get his take on team culture, athlete development, and what Canadian skiing needs to do to close the gap at the World Cup level.

On Setting Goals: Q - What kind of goals does your team set each season? TG - Each athlete has individual goals; some aim for Olympic medals, others to break into the top 30. But we also have team goals. Our main target is to finish in the top five in the Nations Cup. We plan race-by-race, estimating points and building a season total.

On Longevity - Q - You've been in this role for over a decade. What keeps you motivated? TG - Passion — for skiing, competition, and winning. Longevity comes from evolving every year; you can't stay the same and expect progress.

On Canadian Skiing - Q - Canada hasn't had male technical skiers at the Olympics. What's your take? TG - It's frustrating, but it shows something needs to change. The gaps between NorAm, Europa Cup, and World Cup are big. The pathway should flow through each level. Canada needs to service that ladder better.

Want to read the full conversation with Tim, including his thoughts on Norway's Ironman fitness culture, technical skill development, and advice for young coaches?

[LINK TO FULL INTERVIEW with Tim Gfeller](#)

Next up: U14|U16 Summer Meetings and Working Group Calls to be scheduled.
Fall Coach Conference, SAVE THE DATE, October 24, 2026, at Blue Mountain Resort.



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SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS!

HELP SHAPE SKI RACING IN ONTARIO

JOIN US!



Gary Yee Photography

We're seeking **passionate leaders** who want to **help shape the future of alpine ski racing** in Ontario from grassroots programming to podium pathways.

Candidates connected to the National Capital Division (NCD) or Lake Superior Division of Alpine (LSDA) are encouraged to apply, along with individuals from across Ontario who **bring strong leadership and strategic expertise**.

As a **Volunteer Board Director**, you'll help guide strategy, governance, athlete development, safe sport, inclusion, and the long-term growth of our sport across the province.

We're especially looking for experience in:

- **Finance & accounting**
- **Governance**
- **Sport system knowledge**
- **Safe sport, diversity & inclusion**

If you care about athlete development, community, and the future of ski racing in Ontario, we'd love to hear from you by **May 25th**.

To learn more about Alpine Ontario and apply: [Alpine Ontario](#)

Please send your CV and short introduction to Patrick Biggs at: pbiggs@alpineontario.ca



**ALPINE
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Provincial Governing Body for Alpine,
Para-Alpine & Ski Cross Racing

ALPINE ONTARIO (AOA) IS HIRING ONTARIO TEAM ASSISTANT COACHES

Join the high-performance pathway and help support the next generation of Ontario ski racers.

We are currently seeking:

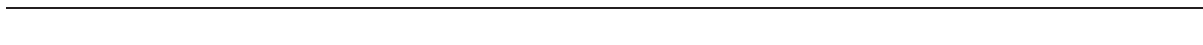
- [**AOA Ontario Ski Team - Men - Assistant Coach HERE**](#)
- [**AOA Ontario Development Ski Team - Men | Women - Assistant Coach HERE**](#)

This is an opportunity to work within Ontario's provincial alpine racing system alongside dedicated athletes, coaches, and performance staff.

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