



## **Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program - 2007-2008**

The Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is funded by the Provincial Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion. The 2007-2008 Program will provide direct financial assistance to individual athletes from Ontario through an “Ontario Card” designation. The intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

### **How much funding is available?**

The exact level of funding for the 2007 / 2008 fiscal year will be determined by the Ministry after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card Status has been determined, based on the proceeds from the Quest for Gold lottery.

### **How many Cards does Cross Country Ontario AWAD get?**

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008, the Sport of Recreation Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion, has allocated 2 female and 2 male Ontario Cards for Cross Country Ontario’s Para-Nordic Athletes.

### **How does it work?**

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, Cross Country Ontario (CCO) is responsible for sport specific criteria to select the athletes who will be awarded Ontario Card status. The CCO Board has designated the Para-Nordic Committee (PNC) to develop selection criteria and recommend athletes to be nominated to the OAAP.

The Para-Nordic Committee (PNC) is comprised of the following members:

- 1) Bryan Morris
- 2) Jeff Whiting
- 3) Jim McCarthy
- 4) Patti Kitler

Accordingly, PNC will apply the selection criteria to the 2007/2008 Ontario Team athletes.

### **How will the Para-Nordic Committee decide who receives funding?**

The PNC is looking for athletes who show commitment to our sport and have the best chance of making a national team in the next three years. This will be based on an athlete’s Para-Nordic Canada Points (PNCPL).

The PNC will use the following selection criteria to determine which athletes will be nominated by the CCO for Ontario Card status in 2007 / 2008:

## **ONTARIO GOVERNMENT (OAAP) CRITERIA:**

1. Athletes must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
2. Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to his or her nomination for carding status.
3. Athletes must be training and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions will be made providing that the athlete can substantiate that:
  - a. He/She cannot receive the required level of training in Ontario (e.g. due to lack of facilities, coaching, competition):
  - b. He/She must attend a post-secondary institution out of province because the course of study is not available to him/her in Ontario.
  - c. It is more financially feasible to attend a post-secondary institution out of province or other extenuating circumstances that require the athlete to be out of the province.
4. Athlete must be a member in good standing with CCO and Cross Country Canada (CCC).
5. Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
6. Athlete must be instructed by a coach that has been trained and fully certified in the national Coaching Certification Program (NCCP).
7. Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.
8. Eligibility will be limited to athletes from Ontario who have been identified as a next generation national team athletes as demonstrated by:
  - a. Identification with the CCO pool of identified next generation national team athletes for the last two competitive seasons: or
  - b. Results at regional championships, national championships (junior and/or senior) or other recognized national/international competitions over the last 2 competitive season; or
  - c. Representation on a Canadian National Team (development and or junior). Athletes training for Canada Games or provincial teams may also be considered.
9. If eligible, athletes must compete and continue to compete for Ontario at Canada Winter Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions.
10. Athletes who have achieved Canada card status are not eligible for Ontario cards. However, member of senior national teams not carded by Sport Canada are eligible for Ontario Cards. No more than 30% of CCO's Ontario Card allotment will be utilized for athletes in this category.

#### **CCO – SPORT SPECIFIC MINIMUM CRITERIA:**

1. Must hold a valid CC racing licence and be registered with an Ontario Club
2. Must live in Ontario. Special exceptions will be considered for Ontario athletes living away for school or training purposes (but the goal of the program is to allow Ontario athletes to live and train at home);
3. Must be a member of the Ontario Para-Nordic Development Team (as selected by CCO);
4. Must have been in the Para-Nordic categories in the 2006-2007 race season, except if there are not enough athletes who qualify in those categories, in which case we will include athletes in the Master Women/Men Category, as required;
5. The PNC (Para-Nordic Committee) will rank athletes for the OAAP eligibility, as follows:
  - a. A distance ranking list will be generated. This list will rank athletes using each athlete's Para-Nordic Points List (PNPL) for distance as a percentage of the Para-Nordic International Point Curve (PN-IPC) distance values respectively, for the applicable year of birth.
  - b. The PNPL draft used will be the list published April 2007.
  - c. Due to the developmental stage of the Para-Nordic Points List, CCO reserves the right to award OAAP cards based on past performance, commitment to a training plan, and a written recommendation from a qualified Para-Nordic coach.

#### **CCO SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:**

The athletes who meet the OAAP and CCO criteria as set out above will be asked to apply to the PNC for consideration for an Ontario Card. The application must provide:

1. A detailed training plan. The plan must show the athlete's current training and racing plan and the steps they intend on following to achieve national and international success. The plan must be approved by their personal or club coach.
2. A commitment to sign an athlete agreement, the form of which will be sent to eligible athletes. The agreement covers the athlete's obligations and commitments for the period of funding. This commitment will include the commitment to engaging the services of a qualified coach and to participate in a number of specified training camps over the next year (2008).
3. Based on a review of the application to ensure compliance with the criteria, the PNC will propose, and the CCO Board will nominate the 4 athletes to the OAAP for Ontario Cards.
4. The timetable for the process is as follows:
  - a) Applications and criteria posted on the CCO Website on September 1, 2007
  - b) Applications to be received by PNC no later than October 1/07 8pm
  - c) CCO nominates the athletes to OAAP Oct. 15/07;
  - d) OAAP publicly released nominated athletes November 2, 2007
  - e) Appeal deadline November 16/07
  - f) Final list of carded athletes published December 7/07