

Long Term Athlete Development 2026 Committee Report

What is Long Term Athlete Development?

“Long Term Athlete Development for skydiving is an important first step in placing Canada among the top skydiving nations. What we need to address is a systematic approach to growing our sport at all levels to maximize the experience from the first jump to the international podium. Now is the opportunity to build upon our solid foundation and successes. Think about our strengths, our weaknesses and visualize a stronger association with everyone working together in a coordinated effort for the benefit of all.” ~ Flight Plan

The Key Benefits of LTAD are:

- ✓ Increased retention of participants
- ✓ Coaches will have clear and effective progression programs in all competitive disciplines and recreational areas of skydiving
- ✓ Clubs, committees, national and provincial associations, coaches, officials, athletes ~ will see where they fit, what their role is with the understanding of what they need to do
- ✓ Enables athletes to achieve their full potential
- ✓ LTAD is the framework for all aspects of our sport and a collaborative effort is essential. Whether a participant is a competitor, recreational skydiver, coach, official, drop-zone operator or other skydiving supporter, LTAD will enhance and facilitate the growth and potential of each.

2025 In A Glance: The Committee

Allison Cooney (Chair)

Richard Bisson

Shannon Mason

Dominic Berube

Ashley Cook

Kaneena Vanstone & Wade Thoreson (BoD Liaisons)

The LTAD Committee is looking for two (2) more individuals to join the committee. We are looking for individuals passionate about the development of our sport and the stakeholders within CSPA.

2025 In A Glance: Funding

- ✓ Overall LTAD finished the 2025 calendar year \$2,914.65 below the forecasted budget.
- ✓ The main impact of being below budget was due to the budgeted funding from LTAD to support two (2) Tunnel Skills Camps which were unable to transpire in 2025. However, one (1) camp is expected to take place as planned in 2027.
- ✓ The CSPA LTAD Funding budget was set at \$10,000 and we were very pleased to report a funding distribution totaling \$8,884. Funding was distributed to many individuals, teams, and camps across multiple disciplines. Notably, this has been the largest distribution of LTAD funding, which we feel is accredited with the changes made in the

funding processes, as well as, continued education efforts specific to funding opportunities.

- ✓ Translation expenses saw an increase compared to past years due to key initiatives such as the Welcome Magazine, LTAD surveys, and round table discussion meeting summaries.
- ✓ A member of LTAD attended the Sport for Life Summit in January 2025.

LTAD 2025 Highlights:

The LTAD Committee started 2025 with very ambitious goals to achieve. We are pleased to have accomplished many imperative objectives to support the continued progression within our organization, including but not limited to:

- ✓ The CSPA Welcome to Skydiving Magazine is a special edition of CanPara designed to introduce newcomers to the Canadian skydiving community, offering guidance, inspiration, and resources for every stage of the sport. It celebrates progression, highlights CSPA's role in supporting skydivers nationwide, and fosters a sense of belonging across dropzones in Canada.
 - Key Features
 - Step-by-step journey: Explains the skydiving experience from beginner to advanced levels.
 - Community focus: Encourages connection and pride in being part of Canada's national skydiving family.
 - Professional insights: Introduces pathways to working in the sport and contributing to the community.
 - CSPA support: Outlines how the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association empowers members through safety, education, and advocacy.
 - Distribution and Updates
 - Printed copies: Sent to dropzones across Canada to welcome new jumpers in person. A generous grant was received by the Aero Club of Canada which was used toward printing costs.
 - Digital edition: Accessible online for broader reach.

Evaluated the existing Athlete Development Funding guidelines in collaboration with the Women's Initiative Committee (WIC) for areas of opportunity and maximum funding distribution for Canadians in our sport.

- ✓ In 2023, a need for action was identified in the Occurrence and Risk Mitigation Reporting (AIM) to mitigate risk specific to tracking and angle skydiving. As a result, the LTAD committee collaborated with discipline experts to create and implement the *CSPA Movement (Track & Angle) Ground Briefing and Skill Progression Reference Guide*. This educational document can be found on the CSPA website: <https://www.cspa.ca/en/safety-and-educational-resources> The next plan of action was to have Movement (Track &

Angle Flying) integrated into the CSPA PIM 1. In late 2025, a panel of experts from across Canada, finalized a PIM 1 recommendation and revised the existing document which is now under Board of Directors review.

- ✓ The LTAD initiative now includes enhanced social media outreach on our existing Facebook platform to better connect with our community and newcomers. Along with the recent launch of an official Instagram account, our platforms highlight milestones, shares educational resources, and celebrates achievements, making CSPA content more engaging, visual, and accessible while strengthening community connection and visibility. We encourage all stakeholders to be involved in supporting this initiative and invite you to share your thoughts and ideas to enhance our presence.
- ✓ LTAD hosted two (2) Member (DZO/Schools) Round Table Discussion in the Spring and Fall of 2025. The information gathered has been valuable to ensure a collaborative approach to better support all stakeholders within our skydiving community. Based on the feedback provided, the LTAD Committee was able to bring forward to the CSPA BoD and Committee Chairs actionable items that could be collaborated on.

2026 LTAD Action Plans

- ✓ Continue to evaluate the existing Athlete Development Funding guidelines for areas of opportunity and maximum funding distribution.
- ✓ Improve educational communication through existing Social Media platforms covering a variety of topics for all stakeholders Continue education surrounding Flight Plan and the benefits of incorporating the program in every aspect of skydiving!
- ✓ Research for additional funding and grant opportunities for CSPA
- ✓ Continue to research the needs and feedback of all stakeholders via email distribution of questionnaires and scheduled meetings
- ✓ Develop and implement seminars for all stakeholders
- ✓ Collaboration with CNTC regarding continued development of competition within Canada

2026 LTAD Special Projects

- ✓ The CSPA LTAD Flight Plan is a strategic initiative aligning Canadian skydiving's athlete development pathway with national standards. Working in collaboration with Sport for Life and Sport Canada, the project updates CSPA's existing model to reflect federal guidelines for long-term athlete development.
 - Purpose: Ensure skydiving's athlete progression framework is consistent with Canada's broader sport system.
 - Collaboration: Developed with input from Sport for Life and Sport Canada to integrate best practices and national policy.

- Outcome: A modernized Flight Plan that supports safe, progressive skill development, while strengthening recognition of skydiving within Canada’s sport landscape.
 - Impact: Provides athletes, coaches, and organizations with a clear, federally aligned roadmap for growth, safety, and excellence.
- ✓ Based on the dropzone owner survey analysis in 2023, key areas of opportunity were identified. This included the need for a deeper understanding of CSPA as a whole. LTAD embarked on the task of compiling a Comparative SWOT Analysis in 2024. The post-SWOT analysis implementation process requires a structured, comprehensive approach that moves from detailed analysis through strategic planning to practical implementation. Success depends on strong leadership commitment, clear communication, adequate resource allocation, and monitoring systems. The LTAD Committee intends to maintain focus on both immediate improvements and long-term sustainability, which can transform the SWOT analysis insights into lasting competitive advantages and operational improvements. This systematic approach ensures that the investment in SWOT analysis yields tangible benefits and contributes to ongoing organizational success for all stakeholders.
 - ✓ LTAD will begin to create a resource list for DZOs to find Federal and Provincial grants and/or funding loans to support athlete development at the local level.
 - ✓ In collaboration with CWC, we look to continue to enhance the *CSPA Movement (Track & Angle) Ground Briefing and Skill Progression Reference Guide* in stages with the goal of a fully developed endorsement program and implementation of this discipline recognized within the existing Coach 3 framework.
 - ✓ In collaboration with the CSPA Board of Directors and all CSPA Committees, the LTAD Committee looks to act on the development of an Organizational Safety Management System (SMS). An Organizational SMS in skydiving organizations is a structured approach to managing safety risks associated with skydiving operations. It involves the implementation of policies, procedures, and processes to identify, assess, and control safety hazards. The main components of an SMS in this context are:
 - Safety Policy and Objectives
 - Safety Risk Management
 - Safety Assurance
 - Safety Promotion

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.” – Nelson Mandela

Regards,
 Allison Cooney
 Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (CSPA)
 Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Chair

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