



Wednesday, October 4, 2017

### **An Open Letter to Ontario Masters Swimmers**

On September 25<sup>th</sup> Swim Ontario elected a new board of Directors. As part of that process I was elected President. On behalf of our new board of Directors, it is my honour to welcome the Masters swimming community to the Swim Ontario Family.

The swimming community in Ontario is strong and has an incredible capacity to develop great people whether you are a youngster learning to swim in one of our clubs, an Olympian swimming to win or a Masters swimmer striving for a PB or simply being involved for fun and fitness. As a long time Masters swimmer we are at our best when we are aligned utilizing all the tools and resources available across Swim Ontario's six regions including our Age Group and Masters clubs, coaching, officials and administrative networks. In the end, it is about helping everyone enjoy the water safely, setting your own goals and aspiring everyone to swim for life.

The process to fully integrate Masters Swimming into one aligned body has not been without challenges. We realize that there are still areas of concern that we need to address. Specifically, more work needs to be done to fully address the following:

- Non-competitive swimmers
- Club incorporation
- The concept of independent swimmers
- Communication
- Date & location for the provincial championships

Swim Ontario is committed to working through these concerns and as a long-time Masters swimmer myself I am honoured to chair a new Masters swimming operating committee whose first order of business will be to address these important items. We will have this committee up and running the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you for your patience as we strive to integrate this important part of our family into the organization. We are open to your input and will strive to grow the Masters' competitive and non-competitive community in Ontario.

Yours in swimming for life,

Dan Thompson - President Swim Ontario