

To All ASHA Members,

My name is Don McDougall, and I am pleased to put my name forward for nomination as President of the 2026 ASHA Board of Directors.

I bring over 30 years of involvement in the Standardbred industry as an owner, along with nine years of board service, including roles as Vice President and President. During my time as President, I had the opportunity to work with a small team tasked to guide the industry through several significant challenges, including changes in provincial government, reductions and eventual restoration of slot revenue, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was also part of the team that successfully negotiated a five-year HRA purse splits agreement between all breeds—an important milestone that provided greater stability and certainty for our horsemen and women.

Although I stepped away from the Board prior to completing my final term due to family and personal commitments, I have remained actively involved in the industry. Over the past two years, I have contributed through communications initiatives, race day analysis, and conducting winner's circle interviews for stakes races.

I believe the Alberta racing industry is currently in a strong and enviable position within Canada. With over 100 race cards annually, competitive purses, and continued growth in handle, we have positive momentum. At the same time, we recognize there are areas where we must continue to improve, including track conditions, communication, and overall industry alignment. It is essential that we work collaboratively to build on our progress and present a unified, forward-looking approach to stakeholders and government partners.

The upcoming term will be a critical one. As we approach negotiations for the next HRA purse splits and race date agreements beginning in 2027, strong and experienced representation will be vital. Having recently served on the HRA Board, I maintain working relationships with many current members and leadership, which I believe will be valuable in ensuring the Standardbred industry's priorities are clearly communicated and well represented.

If elected, I look forward to working collaboratively with fellow board members, engaging with ASHA membership, and contributing to thoughtful, balanced decision-making that supports the long-term success of our industry.

I appreciate your consideration and the opportunity to once again serve ASHA.

Sincerely,
Don McDougall