



2024 Canmore Canada Cup, Charlie Pittard,  
Cadet (U17) Expert Female  
Photo credit: Cody Shimizu

2024



# ANNUAL REPORT



# Alberta Bicycle Association

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The **Mission** of the ABA is to advocate, develop, and facilitate cycling for Albertans.

The **Vision** of the ABA is to be the recognized authority and leader for cycling in Alberta.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Vacant  
Vice President Administration, Brian Lee  
Chief Commissaire, Chris Bullivant  
Vice President Racing, Vacant  
Vice President BMX, Duane Hunter  
Vice President Women's Cycling, Vacant  
Vice President Rec & Transport, Tom Lee  
Director at Large, Vacant  
Director at Large, Vacant  
Director at Large, Colin Lolacher  
Director at large, Katy Layton

## STAFF

Sport Coordinator, Track, MTB, CX, James Kendal  
Administrative Support, Tyla Thomsen  
Petrina Tsulissi, High Performance Director  
Development Coordinator, Mason Burtnik  
Social Media, Cody Shimizu

## RACING COMMITTEE

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Robert Armstrong  
Tammy Nishumura  
Diane Bowles  
Vacant Position

## BMX COMMITTEE

Trevor Baillie  
Brian Lee  
Kris Mitschke  
Jonas Tremel  
Vacant Position

## REC & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Jeff Gruttz  
Bob Walsh  
Karly Coleman  
Don Hollingshead

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Acknowledging Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10



Brendan Walsh, Tour De Bowness

# INTRODUCTION

**Brian Lee, Interim President**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the board members who remained dedicated to our mission during challenging times. Your commitment has been invaluable. I also appreciate the staff, volunteers, race organizers and officials for their dedication and patience as we navigated this period. To the cycling community, thank you for your unwavering support and for your willingness to hold out until this AGM, enabling us to make informed plans for the future of the Alberta Bicycle Association. The resilience of this community is truly second to none, and together, we can build a stronger future.



# Chief Commissaire

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**Chris Bullivant, Provincial Chief  
Commissaire UCI BMXIC**

I am pleased to report that our Alberta-based commissaires continued to serve the sport of cycling with remarkable dedication and professionalism. Their contributions, whether at the provincial, national, or international level, are a testament to their passion and commitment to fostering a thriving cycling community.

This year, we introduced an Officials Committee within the Alberta Bicycle Association (ABA). Through this committee, we aim to address essential topics such as commissaire development, assignment organization, and progression pathways to the National and UCI levels. While the committee met infrequently, I believe it represents a valuable platform to engage commissaires from various disciplines.

Looking forward, I hope to see the Officials Committee become a consistent and supportive resource, offering valuable opportunities for our commissaires to grow, take on new responsibilities, and excel in their officiating roles. This committee is just one of many steps to ensure we provide clear development pathways and encourage a strong foundation for the future of cycling officiating in Alberta and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another successful year for our commissaires and the broader cycling community.





# Track, MTB, CX & Gravel Racing

**James Kendal, Sport Coordinator**

The 2024 season calendar was posted in late November, with events spanning from January through October. This past season, our volunteer race organisers were amazing, efficient and timely. By working and collaborating before the seasonal race organisers' meeting, we were able to finalise the schedule before the end of November 2023. Most technical guides were posted four to six weeks ahead of events. The amount of work it takes to organise and run races is immeasurable and we must commend the Alberta clubs and volunteers that step up year over year to provide races to the community. In addition to AB cup events, Alberta organisers proudly hosted three national level events this past season with the The Ghost of the Gravel, The Canmore Canada Cup MTB and the Canmore Western Challenge CX.

We did face some challenges with the overlapping of provincial and national level MTB events which can stretch some of our officials who are on national assignments or athletes who have to decide which event to compete in. For 2025 we will continue to highlight potential conflicts and encourage less overlap. Road racing had several events threatened by road permitting issues in local counties. Moving forward, organisers must ensure they have the proper road permits and sufficient volunteer resources to execute road races smoothly. Mountain View County, for example, has been closely scrutinising our events this year, and organisers have had to petition the County Council for approvals. Bicisport approached this strategically, highlighting their fundraising efforts for a local





local charity and presenting a comprehensive traffic management plan to council which resulted in approval and support. Securing suitable and safe road race courses should become a higher priority, as some of the previously used courses are becoming increasingly challenging to manage or secure for future events. Cyclocross venues also face similar challenges with permits which are subject to weather conditions as not all parks have “all weather” status. Again, we were fortunate to not have any events cancelled as fall weather was mild and dry. We have had recent discussions with Tourism Calgary about leveraging relationships for future considerations and support.



2024 CBTL Provincial Track  
Championship Youth Participants

## Youth Racing

Youth racing has been growing steadily after the loss of our junior cohort bubble during COVID, with strong numbers now in the U15, U13, and U11 age groups across multiple disciplines. Race organisers have taken note of this growth and are adjusting their schedules to accommodate the categories. Mountain bike events have seen the most significant increase, and at the Tour de Bowness, 13% of the field consisted of youth-specific categories.



# Citizen Racing

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The citizen category (provincial race licence) remains somewhat undersubscribed with 81 licences sold, but it has proven valuable for introducing new riders to the sport and providing opportunities for para athletes, who don't always have para categories included at Alberta races. The Stampede Road Race and Tour de Bowness both included hand cycle athletes, along with several other para athletes, within this category. The Hand Cycle races are fast and exciting to watch. ABA HP Director, Petrina, was instrumental in getting para riders included. I recommend continuing with the "Provincial Race License" or citizen category, as it can be used for entry-level race categories (novice men, sport women) in other disciplines such as MTB, cyclocross, and gravel. It may be worth exploring the branding around the citizen licence and refer to it as "Cycling for All" which is being used in some other provinces and aligns with UCI and CC.



2024 Hand Cyclists at the Tour de Bowness



# Track, MTB, CX & Gravel Racing

## STATISTICS

**Road racing** Participation continued to improve in 2024, with total race registrations increasing by 15.5% from 2023. A total of 1,911 cyclists registered to race, up from 1,654 the previous season. The growth in the youth cohort, along with the inclusion of combined U17/U15/U13 categories, contributed to the year-over-year increase. We held 18 events in total, with an average of 107 registrations per event. The Tour de Bowness saw record post-COVID participation, with 200 total riders for the road race.

**Alberta XCO Mountain Biking** events also experienced notable growth in participation. Cyclemeisters and C4XC partnered to host the MTB Provincials in Bragg Creek, stepping in as Rundle Mountain Cycling Club did not return with their XCO event this year. MTB participation grew by 40% overall, boosted by the addition of the Canmore Women's Enduro.

Local **Midweek** road, cyclocross, and track races had good participation, especially in cyclocross, which continues to draw the largest numbers.

**Cyclocross** remains vibrant in Alberta. This season, we averaged 120 participants per race, reflecting an 11% increase from 2023's average of 109 per race. Fortunately, we were not impacted by wildfire smoke this year or with weather impacting venues that do not have an all weather permit. Canmore hosted the 2024 Cycling Canada Western Challenge and for 2025 the Canmore CX will be a UCI C2 sanctioned event. We are also looking at the potential for hosting a national championships in the future with potential venues in Calgary and Devon.

**Gravel racing** continues to grow, with two new events added this year, bringing the total to five. Combined, these events attracted 707 participants, averaging 141 per event. There is strong interest in expanding gravel racing, and we will be discussing the possibility of establishing a seasonal gravel series for 2025, with additional interest from organisers who have not partnered with us previously.

**Track racing** is an opportunity for development, especially in advance of the new indoor velodrome. While the registration numbers are low compared to other disciplines we have seen a solid increase in youth racing, in particular, from the CBTL youth program.



Alison Jackson Team Canadian teammate, Olivia Baril took to the peloton at the Paris 2024 Olympics



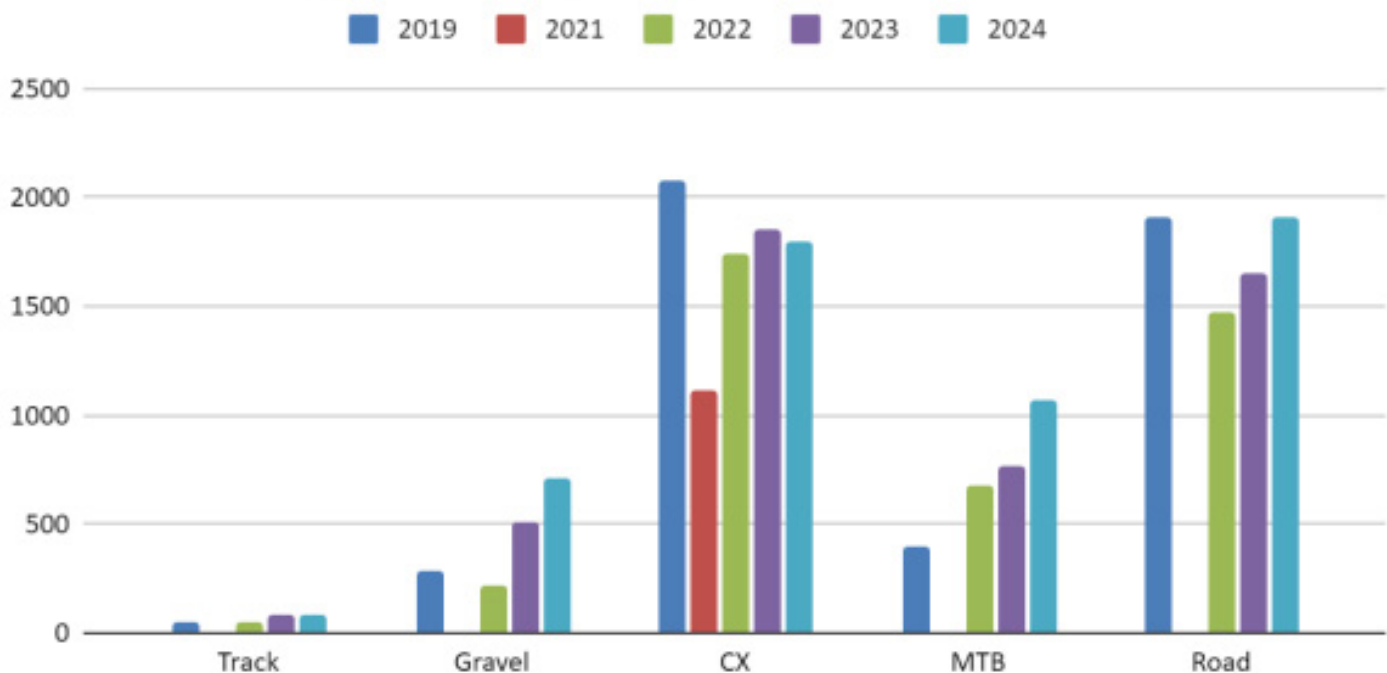
## Total ABA Sanctioned Events by year

Year	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Discipline	<i>Total Events</i>	<i>Total Events</i>	<i>Total Events</i>	<i>Total Events</i>	<i>Total Events</i>
Track	2	0	2	2	1
Gravel	1	0	2	3	5
CX	15	10	16	17	15
MTB	4	0	5	6	7
Road	16	0	16	18	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

## Comparative ABA Race Statistics by participant registration

Year	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Discipline	<i>Total Registration</i>	<i>Total Registration</i>	<i>Total Registration</i>	<i>Total Registration</i>	<i>Total Registration</i>
Track	49	0	53	86	85
Gravel	282	0	215	504	707
CX	2078	1112	1743	1859	1802
MTB	397	0	679	764	1070
Road	1910	0	1467	1654	1911
<b>Combined Totals</b>	<b>4716</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>4157</b>	<b>4867</b>	<b>5575</b>

## Total Annual Registrations by discipline





## Comparative UCI Race License Type Statistics

UCI Race License Type Stats				
Primary Discipline	2022	2023	2024	+/-
BMX	1231	1148	1070	-7.29%
CX	213	226	219	-3.20%
DH	45	43	67	35.82%
ROAD	554	596	694	14.12%
TRACK	64	58	56	-3.57%
XC	300	354	430	17.67%
Totals	2407	2425	2536	4.38%



# Alberta Athlete Spotlight

## *Alexandra Volstad*

Alberta Junior Alexandra Volstad defended her 2023 national road jersey and took both 2024 U19 Canadian National Road Race and Criterium title this past season in Quebec. Alexandra raced in Europe throughout the season and amassed an impressive list of results, a 12th place finish at the World Road Race Championships in Zurich as well as multiple podiums throughout the season.

<https://www.procyclingstats.com/rider/alexandra-volstad>





# BMX RACING

In the 2023 season, Alberta BMX clubs made substantial investments in track renovations and complete rebuilds. Most notably, the St. Albert BMX Supercross track was completed and hosted its grand opening with the Provincial Races and Canada Cup on August 17th and 18th. This event was a resounding success, attracting athletes from across Canada who praised the impressive track, which will host the National Championships and Canada Cup Final next year. Additionally, a special tribute was held in honor of Canada's BMX Olympian, Molly Simpson.

BMX participation across Alberta has seen significant growth, with the average number of riders per club rising to 94, further underscoring the sport's increasing popularity. Team Alberta also had an outstanding year, highlighted by off-season training at Rider's Ready, Sherwood Park's

## DUANE HUNTER, VP BMX



UCI BMX World Championships Finalists;  
Brady Mitschke 13 Boys - 6th;  
Logan Lee, 13 Girls - 3rd.

Canadian National  
U23 Male Champion  
Dylan Tremel



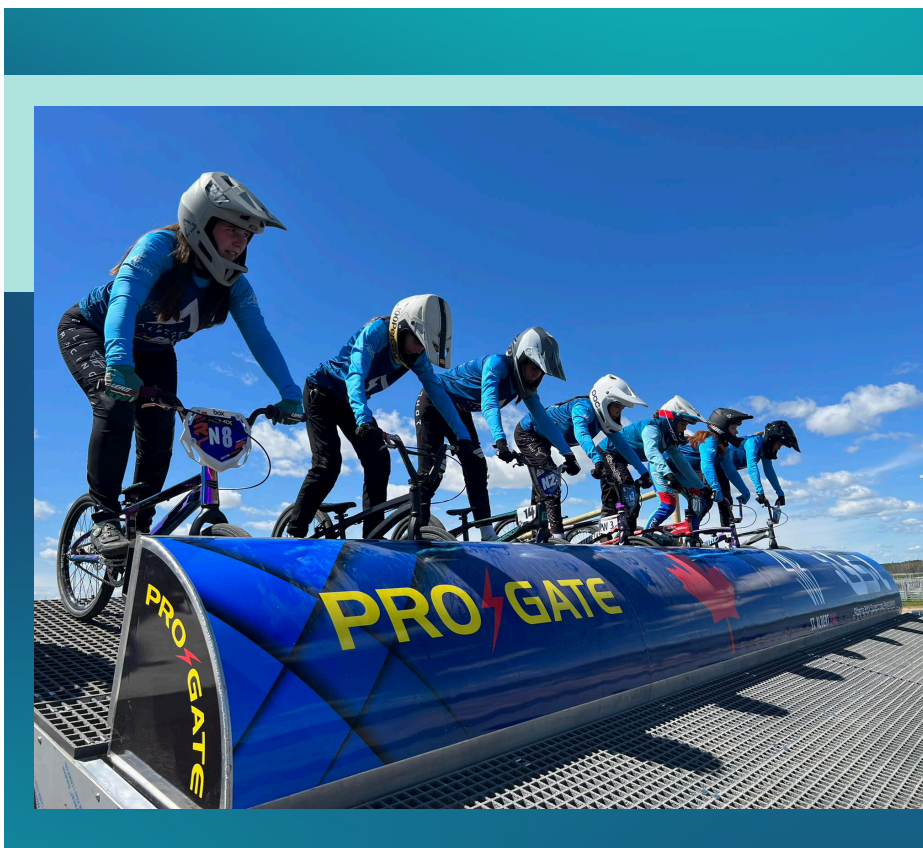
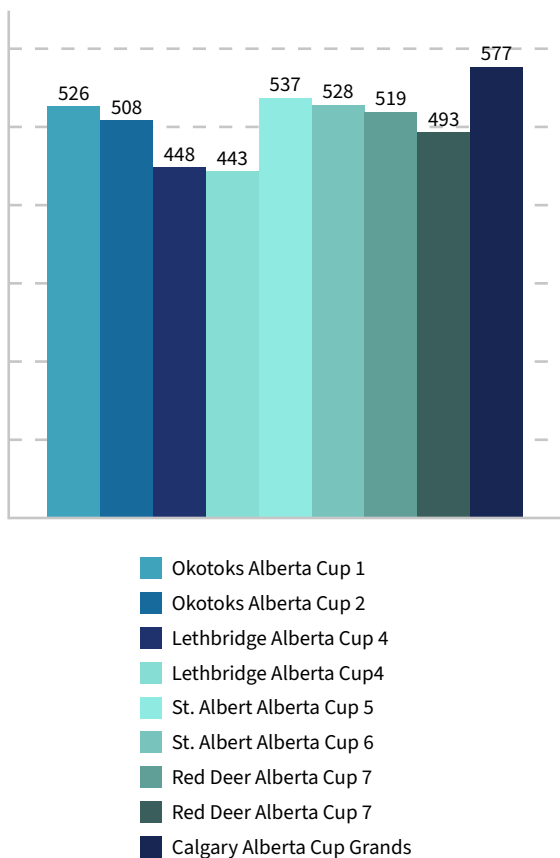
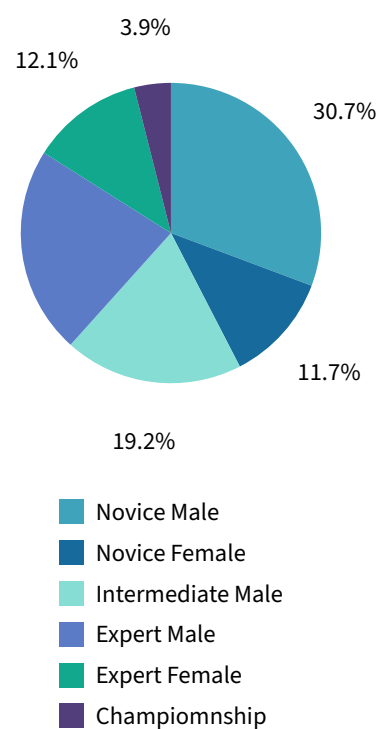
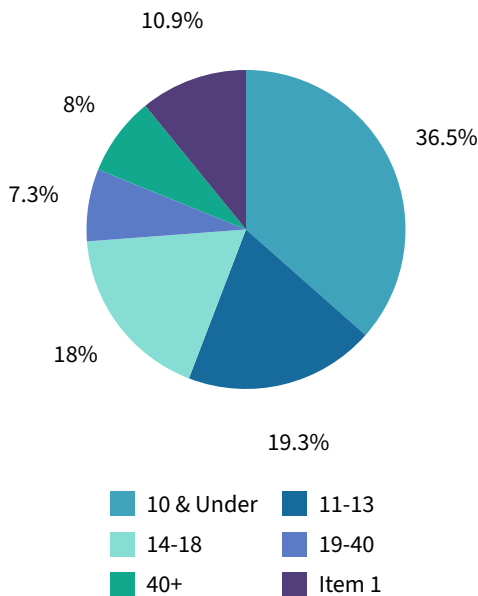
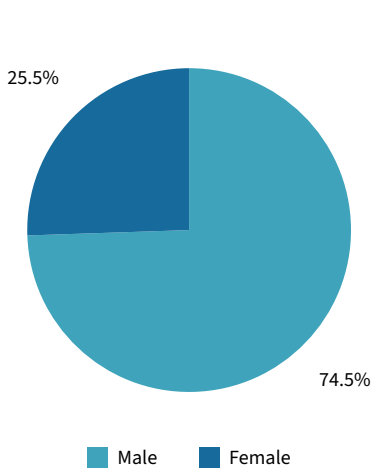
Canadian National  
U23 Female Champion  
Abygale Reeve

new indoor facility, and a competitive experience in North Carolina. These efforts were crucial in preparing high-performance athletes for the start of the Alberta series. Alberta riders have achieved remarkable success this season, capturing titles at the provincial and national levels and achieving impressive standings at the UCI World Championships.

Looking ahead, the dates and locations for the 2025 Cup Series have already been selected and publicly announced, setting the stage for another exciting year in Alberta BMX racing.



# BMX RACING STATISTICS



## 2024 TEAM ALBERTA BMX

TARYN BAILLIE, GEMMA BELL, CARTER BERRY, KAELEIGH COOK, PAYTON DUFFY, ASHTYNN FORSBERG, CAMERON FRYKAS, LIAM HUNTER, ETHAN HUNTER, EVAN KAPANEN, DAISY KETTLE, LOGAN LEE (Affiliate Program), MAXWELL LEE, BRADY MITSCHKE (Affiliate Program), JAXSON ROSS, SOLVAY SEMMENS, MARC STREAWICK, HUDSON WHITE, ZOE WITWICKI, CADE WRIGHT.

# Alberta Athlete Spotlight

## *Molly Simpson*

Alberta Elite Female Rider, Molly Simpson has traveled around the globe competing alongside the strongest female competitors in BMX Racing. Molly has held her ground making several podium appearances including silver at the Pan American Games in 2023. Molly's most celebrated accomplishment this year was placing 5th at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.



John Po





# Recreation & Transport

Tom Lee, VP Recreation & Transport

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## **Safe Passing Laws**

On June 3, 2024, British Columbia amended its Motor Vehicle Act to require drivers to maintain a minimum distance when passing cyclists and other vulnerable road users. In Alberta, we are actively working with government officials to advocate for similar changes to the Traffic Safety Act, aiming to establish Safe Passing Law as a province-wide standard. This amendment would enhance road safety by providing consistent protections for cyclists and other vulnerable users across Alberta.

*Background: Currently, Edmonton and Calgary, as charter cities, have independently changed their municipal traffic laws to implement Safe Passing regulations. These laws require motorists to maintain a minimum clearance of 1 metre when passing cyclists at speeds up to 60 km/h, and at least 1.5 metres at speeds above 60 km/h.*

## **Alberta Bicycle Facilities Design Guide Project**

Since the project's inception and the initial approval of the document, progress has been delayed as we work toward establishing consistency in bicycle facility guidelines across Alberta municipalities. Standardizing these guidelines will ensure more cohesive bicycle infrastructure throughout the province.

*Background: The City of Calgary, Alberta Transportation, The City of Edmonton, The City of Red Deer, The Town of Canmore and Rocky View County worked in partnership to develop an Alberta specific design guide for bicycle facilities - The Alberta Bicycle Facilities Design Guide.*

The overall project goals for the Alberta Bicycle Facilities Design Guide include:

- Adding consistency to bicycle facility design across the province, including tie-ins between jurisdictions.
- Reducing pressure to justify final designs of bicycle facilities.
- Providing useful information for jurisdictions of all types and sizes on building world-class bicycle facilities in Alberta.

### ***Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance - RPFIP Grant awarded for the Edmonton Bike Park Project***

The City of Edmonton has awarded a substantial \$407,000 grant to the Edmonton Bike Park project through the Recreation Partner and Facility Investment Program (RPFIP). This funding will support the construction of Edmonton's first dedicated mountain bike park. The RPFIP grant also strengthens the Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance's application for an additional \$617,000 in provincial funding through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) and the Active Communities Program, further enhancing the project's resources and potential impact.

### ***Winter Cycling Federation - 2024 Winter Cycling Congress***

In February 2024, Edmonton hosted the Winter Cycling Congress, organized by the Winter Cycling Federation. The Federation's mission is to inspire, research, and promote year-round, bicycle-focused transportation worldwide. This well-attended event facilitated connections and collaborations among international and local experts, policy-makers, and enthusiasts. Attendees explored policies, best practices, and research aimed at supporting year-round cycling and enhancing urban well-being. As a "fair-weather" cyclist, I gained valuable insights into the strategies and benefits of winter commuting.

### ***Bow Valley Parkway Cycling Experience 3-Year Pilot***

The 3-year pilot program for the Bow Valley Parkway Cycling Experience, focusing on the eastern section of the Bow Valley Parkway, will conclude in 2024. According to Parks Canada's survey, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Plans are in place to continue the project with restricted vehicle access throughout the summer of 2025, though this decision is still pending final approval.

*Background: Each spring and fall, from May 1 to June 25 and from August 30 to September 30, vehicle access will be restricted along the eastern 17 kilometers of the parkway. This initiative aims to enhance the cycling experience and promote safe and enjoyable cycling opportunities in the area.*