

March 27, 2009

To: The 2009 Reining Canada Board of Directors,

**Re: News from Reining Canada – NAA Statement, March 17, 2009**

The latest correspondence sent to the Canadian Reining community was provocative and blatantly inaccurate. As the self-appointed organization that claims to represent the majority of Reiners in Canada, you have presented yourselves to be petty and misinformed, bordering on reckless.

We feel it is absolutely necessary to respond to the statements and accusations that have been made against Reining Alberta. In doing so, we acknowledge that our communication list is limited to our Reining Alberta membership, and that it is highly unlikely that you would forward this letter to Reining Canada's nation-wide email list to inform the Canadian Reining community of this rebuttal. That would be fair and open communication and we have come to realize and accept that Reining Canada does not operate in that way. It appears that one of your immediate objectives is to tarnish the reputation of Reining Alberta to the other provincial affiliates within Canada.

In your letter, you state *“Reining Alberta has taken it upon themselves to send letters to the NRHA and members accusing Reining Canada of mismanaging funds, and breaking NRHA By-laws without any legitimate proof.”*

Reining Alberta has never accused Reining Canada of mismanaging funds or breaking NRHA By-laws. All of our correspondence is posted on our website for your referral. We have simply presented financial information to the NRHA that details the amounts of membership and show fee rebates we estimate have been generated from Alberta in 2007 and 2008, and also the amount of money we have received from Reining Canada for this same period. If you have looked at that information and have come to the conclusion that funds have been mismanaged (your words – not ours) then we suggest that you, as an organization, should address that matter.

You also claim *“Since November 2008 RC has approached Reining Alberta, on three different occasions, to meet and facilitate communication with Reining Canada.”*

This is entirely false. There is no record of Reining Canada ever approaching Reining Alberta in that time frame, with the exception of one Reining Canada director contacting our President by phone, after the February 29, 2009 letter to the NRHA was sent. At that time, we decided as a board, that until we received feedback from the NRHA regarding our request, there wasn't anything, at that point, to discuss with Reining Canada. Interestingly though, you failed to mention that our RA representative did participate in the Reining Canada Affiliate's conference call, on February 23rd, 2009.

You also state in your letter, *“One of Reining Alberta's complaints was that they did not receive anything back from Reining Canada.”*

Again, you make a completely false statement. Reining Alberta has openly disclosed what was received from Reining Canada. In 2008, the total sum was \$825. In 2007, the total sum was \$0.

RC states *“Reining Alberta hosts three NRHA shows a year”*.

According to NRHA statistics, Reining Alberta in 2007 hosted a total of 8 NRHA approved shows (4 within the Spring Classic, 1 in the Summer Classic and 3 within the Fall Classic). In 2008, Reining Canada reimbursed Reining Alberta \$150 for 3 of those NRHA approved shows held in 2007. It is unclear why only some of the shows qualified for re-imbursement under the SPIN program.

RC states, *“They and their members would benefit more by participating in the NRHA programs offered. The NAA's mission is to promote the NRHA's programs. If someone does not participate they do not reap the benefits.”*

What NRHA programs is Reining Alberta not involved in? Reining Alberta hosts NRHA approved shows that offer full slates of NRHA classes including futurities and derbies. We participate in the North American Affiliate Circuit by providing an Affiliate show circuit, and we have hosted both show secretary and judging seminars. As Canada's National Association Affiliate, you state that it is your *“mission to promote the NRHA's programs”*. If we are missing out on an NRHA program that would benefit our membership, is it not your role to have brought this to our attention?

Just to be clear, Reining Alberta is the largest provincial NRHA affiliate in Canada and has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the NRHA long before Reining Canada came into existence. As such, Reining Alberta has always been and will continue to be a strong supporter and contributor to the NRHA and its excellent programs and services.

You also bring up the issue of Reining Canada representation on the NRHA Board.

*“Reining Canada invites you to look on Page 11 of the NRHA 2009 Rulebook.*

***Section 1 a) Regional Affiliates within the US are to be grouped into Affiliate Regions. NRHA members from each affiliate Region shall elect at least one director to the NRHA Board.***

***Section 1 b) Each National Association Affiliate with 100 members shall elect one director to the NRHA Board.”***

Just to clarify, Canadian representation on the NRHA Board, under the International Affiliate/National Association Affiliate Program is dependent on the number of NRHA

members in each country. As a result, Canada could lose one of the two, current, NRHA Board positions in the future. If mandatory dual membership remains in Canada and the decline in RC/NRHA memberships continue, the second Board position could be lost in the near future.

On the other hand... if Canada were to be successful in being recognized as two Affiliate Regions within North America with the same rights as U.S. Affiliate Regions, Canada would be guaranteed 2 positions on the NRHA BOD each year, with the opportunity for additional seats dependent on NRHA growth in each region.

Reining Alberta's request to NRHA to remove NAA status from Reining Canada in order to eliminate mandatory dual membership is a result of our obligation to act in the best interests of our membership

It is certainly a poor environment for Canadian Reiners when a longstanding, successful provincial Affiliate must defend itself from false accusations and the deliberate spread of misinformation from the National Affiliate Association. How individual Reining Canada Directors can continue to sit on the Reining Canada Board and support the rubbish that has been communicated across Canada is truly mind boggling.

With all due respect,

The elected Directors of Reining Alberta

Garry Boan  
Libby Laycraft  
Trish Rasmussen  
Isabel Gimber  
Giselle Aebly  
Llana Malmberg  
Darren Kolsun  
Carolyn Schmidt  
Ken Goodbrand  
Leslie Eagleton  
Craig Mannix  
Marnie Hamilton