



July 2016 Presidents update

By now you most of you will have heard that Mr. Eric Tremblay, has formed a new Rally business in Quebec, and intends to hold independent events outside of the CARS or ASN Canada FIA sanction and insurance.

CARS, RSQ, and the rest of the regions across Canada are membership driven organizations and I feel that we must help the rally community understand the history and background that has led to this situation. I will explain to the best of my ability what has happened and why.

Six years ago the CARS & RSQ leadership of the day agreed to a contract with Mr. Tremblay that essentially assigned all of the RSQ authority over regional performance rally in Québec to him as a sole supplier and promoter of our Québec regional championship. The contract meant that RSQ was left providing permits and had little or no say on behalf of the membership with respect to our regional rally championship in Québec. The contract also prevented RSQ from sanctioning any regional events in Québec independent of Mr. Tremblay, leaving Rallye Perce Neige, Rallye Baie des Chaleurs and Rallye Défi excluded from the regional championship.

Over the last several years, in consultation with membership, CARS has developed a vision for rally in Canada. This includes a Mission statement and annual goals by which we operate, as well as mechanisms for input from the total rally community. Working with the Board, I believe that we have worked diligently to find a formula that adds to our membership base, increases entry levels, and provides for fair and reasonably priced competition in a fun, volunteer driven environment. One of the fundamental beliefs is that National events need to contain a Regional event component providing access to regional teams, acting as one of the main building blocks of the sport.

The contract between CARS/RSQ and Mr. Tremblay expires at the end of this Calendar year, and renewal efforts that tried to bring the CRQ program into alignment with this vision have not been successful.

I have to give the RSQ leadership, Charlevoix organizers and Québec national event organizers a lot of credit for their genuine desire to have one larger, more cohesive regional championship in Québec. There has been a lot of hard work and often-difficult discussions that have gone on over the past 18 months as RSQ and CARS have tried to engage Mr. Tremblay in an attempt to have him participate as part of the broader rally community in Eastern Canada. Unfortunately Mr. Tremblay's final position was to hold firm on an unacceptable requirement that CARS & RSQ sign a 15-year extension to his contract that gave even more autonomy to Mr. Tremblay,

and required RSQ to issue permits on demand, leaving you, our membership, with little say over the direction of regional rally in Québec.

RSQ, the CARS Board and ASN Canada FIA felt that it was not in the best interests of our membership to sign such an agreement as it clearly violates our mission as a democratically elected volunteer organization designed to serve its membership.

With Mr. Tremblay's announcement of a new organization, we must take this as a clear message that he has no interest in further discussion, as such it is time for us to move on.

Although we have not yet received any supplementary regulations for Rallye Lac-Aux-Sables, which is scheduled for Aug 13th, we do expect that Mr. Tremblay will want to finish off the 2016 CRQ season as scheduled.

CARS and the Regional associations of Rallye Sport Québec, Rally Sport Ontario, Rally West, Rally Pacific Motorsports, and Atlantic Region Motor Sports - along with the backing of ASN Canada FIA - are all absolutely on track to continue doing what we do well. Just this week we have published the 2017 National and Regional event calendars to inform the rally community of their championship options and allow for planning into next season. We have hundreds of people who volunteer their time to bring the infrastructure and everything required to host world-class events. Volunteers who love the sport give back countless hours to the membership at large. As a dedicated volunteer myself, I am buoyed by the unwavering support of the regional leadership and event organisers as we work to make rallysport the best it can be in Canada.

In closing, let me be one of the first to wish Mr. Tremblay well with his new business venture. He has organized many events over the years and will be missed as a contributing member of CARS and RSQ communities.

If you have any questions whatsoever please contact any of the CARS or Regional board members.

Regards

John Hall
President
Canadian Association of Rallysport