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### **Reining Canada Statement regarding the World Equestrian Games**

Due to the large volume of inquiries that Reining Canada is receiving with regard to the Canadian Reining Team at the World Equestrian Games, Reining Canada would like to issue this statement.

Prior to 2009, Reining Canada was in charge of the selection criteria for international events. In 2009, Equine Canada assumed control of the organization and selection of the teams for all FEI International competition. Reining Canada would like stress that the responsibility for the decisions made for WEG, and at WEG, are solely the responsibility of Equine Canada and the Canadian Reining Committee (CRC).

Reining Canada attempted to stay involved and individual members made our concerns known to both Bob Thompson, Chair of the CRC, and Akaash Maharaj, Equine Canada's CEO.

Our concerns were voiced in regard to the lack of communication, the perceived favouritism of the committee members on the High Performance Committee, the unfairness of the selection process, the imposed hardships associated with accessing the CRI's, the potential hazard to the horses traveling so far in short periods of time, the exorbitant cost, and the fact that members of Reining Canada had been removed from the CRC committee.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the concerns were not addressed to any satisfaction.

Reining Canada remains proud of our riders and owners that sacrificed their time and financed their own way to the WEG in order to ensure that Canada had representation. The caliber of our riders is second to none. Our riders have brought home two Silver Team Medals, two Bronze Individual Medals and one Gold at the last three WEG's. Canada was well represented.

Reining Canada would be happy to forward Canadians' concerns to the appropriate people at Equine Canada. Concerns may also be submitted directly to Bob Thompson at [listobob06@shaw.ca](mailto:listobob06@shaw.ca) or Akaash Maharaj at [amaharaj@equinecanada.ca](mailto:amaharaj@equinecanada.ca).

Thank you for your time  
Kim Maharaj  
President Reining Canada