



Interview with Jump Alberta

Vanessa Paterson

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Jump Alberta is a non-profit organization that provides members with funding to help aid in pursuing their riding careers or competition goals. The president of Jump Alberta Chantale Entz, is dedicated to increasing its popularity. "We just updated our strategic plan" Entz said during a face-to-face interview. The organization now has a 3 year plan in effect in order to develop programs that are more pertinent to the members and clients.

Being a member of Jump Alberta means that member can apply for various bursary programs. This year they have a few new ones, including travel bursary programs. In the past bursaries were limited to members who qualified for teams, but now Jump Alberta is trying to get away from that and make it more available to members as a whole. In order to relay information quicker and in a more efficient way, Jump Alberta is constructing a website which will be up and running soon. www.jumpalberta.ca

There are also out of province travel bursaries, and in home travel subsidies, which are to help encourage Edmonton riders to come to Calgary (and vice versa). The subsidies are not only limited to Calgary or Edmonton, and can help you travel within your province. There are also development bursaries, or education bursaries, which are expanded more toward coaches, trainers, and basically all members at large, in order to improve skills and learn.

Education and improvement bursaries are more beneficial for riders or coaches who want to take a special clinic in order to improve their riding skills or coaching skills. If a judge wanted to improve on their judging they could take a clinic or a course designed for that, which is why there is a bursary available for training. They are also mini sessions at horse shows to help educate members. Aside from bursary and educational programs, there is also the young horse program and the teens competition, which financially aids in paying fees.

When asked about funding and spending, Entz replied, "our new strategic plan was to try and go forward and help as many as we can with the amount of money that we have." The most general form of funding comes from membership fees and levies that are collected at horse shows, though 70% of the levy money is returned back to the venues. Another form of funding comes from the levies from Jump Canada; each venue pays Equine Canada levy fees and there's a percentage of a



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portion that comes back to Jump Alberta. The last is the casino fundraiser, but the money that comes from it has a very restricted spending range.