

## Media Release January        , 2008

For Immediate Release

### **CYA Receives Industry Canada Approval on Governance Changes**

Kingston, ON – The Canadian Yachting Association (CYA) announced today that it has received formal approval from Industry Canada for the restructuring of the CYA Board of Directors.

The membership of CYA approved the proposed changes to the Bylaws during the Annual General Meeting in October 2007. These changes required Ministerial approval, which is administered through Industry Canada. That approval was issued January 17, 2008, and is effective immediately.

The new Board structure for CYA is significantly reduced from as many as 21 Directors, representing the President, and six portfolio based Vice Presidents, ten Provincial representatives and directors at large. The new non-portfolio Board is comprised of eight Directors, elected by the membership at large. Each year two of the Board positions can be elected, for three year terms and election of the President will take place every second year.

The first task of the 'new Board' is to reassess the organizational committee structure and staff responsibilities in the context of the elimination of the Executive Committee. This committee structure will include the new Provincial Council, which is a standing advisory committee of the new board of directors, with representation from each provincial sailing authority. The new CYA structure will focus on the most important functions of the CYA. These currently include national sport administration under the direction of Sport Canada, coaching and funding of the Canadian Sailing Team; development of CYA's internationally acclaimed 'Learn To' programs, including sailing, racing & cruising; provision of boating education and safety courses and the development of young sailors. The CYA will continue to deliver its programs through its partnership with the provincial sailing authorities and its member clubs, class associations and training camps and schools.

CYA President Gerry Giffin explains the changes this way: *"From a Governance perspective, the changing of the bylaws is only the beginning of the implementation of the governance model. Defining the committee structures, their terms of reference, impacts on staff roles and the development of processes to make it all work effectively together is a large task. While we work on this we have to keep the organization focused on financial management and continued support to our outstanding Sailing team who are now only months away from the next Olympics. The CYA is and represents people who are passionate about the sport of sailing. We want to harness that passion while at the same time ensuring we are implementing change in a carefully orchestrated and well paced way."*

These changes are consistent with those made at many other national sport organizations and will help the CYA to evolve into a more effective and strategic organization. It will enable the Board and management to be more responsive to its national membership and will be better positioned to support its athletes; to win medals at the Summer Olympics and other world championships.

The new CYA Bylaws and associated materials can be seen at [Insert Weblink](#).

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*The Canadian Yachting Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1931. As a registered Amateur Athletic Association and recognized by Sport Canada as a National Sport Organization, the Association serves as the national authority for Sailing in Canada. The Canadian Yachting Association is recognized throughout the world for excellence in training, competition and recreational programs.*

*In May 2008, the CYA will announce the nominees for the Canadian Sailing Team, who will represent the sport of sailing for Canada, at the 2008 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games, in Qingdao, China.*

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