

Chris Sorensen
Caledon, ON



Equestrian Background

- High performance jumping athlete who made his Canadian Equestrian Team debut in 2013 and has represented Canada on three continents.
- Traveling reserve for the Canadian Show Jumping Team at the 2014 FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy, FRA.
- Represented Canada at the 2015 FEI World Cup Jumping Final
- Became one of Canada's first-ever High Performance 1 level certified coaches in 2016.
- 15-year coaching veteran in hunter, jumper and equitation.
- Owner and operator of Sorensen Stables since 2002.

Professional Background

Owner and Operator – Sorensen Stables

2002 – Present

- One of the leading stables in Canada and the US.
- Specializes in high performing students and professional horses in the hunter, equitation and jumper disciplines.
- Coached the highest-placed Canadian individual at the 2016 and 2015 FEI North American Junior & Young Rider Championships, and highest-placed Canadian at the US Medal and Maclay Finals for three years.
- Achieved many provincial, national and Wellington circuit hunter championships as a rider and trainer.
- Trained and coached the highest-placed Canadian-owned hunter ever to compete in the US Hunter Derby Finals.

Owner – CW Estates

2009 - Present

- Owner and operator of real estate investment company.
- Manage multiple investment properties.
- Buy, build and sell equestrian facilities.

Volunteerism

- Ontario Hunter Jumper Association Board of Directors
- Ontario Equestrian Federation/Ontario Sport High Risk Sports Working Group
- Equine Canada Show Date Exclusivity Working Group

Education

Economics – Queen's University

June 1, 2017

Dear Equestrian Canada Board of Directors,

I would like to formally submit my nomination to be considered for the Equestrian Canada Board of Directors. I have a wide range of personal connections to many parts of our equestrian sport in Canada that will bring balance and diversity. I can also offer the board a broad perspective on our competition industry, and sport within Canada. In addition to a multi-level national perspective I have extensive international exposure and knowledge to contribute. I would strive to add a well-balanced, impartial and steady voice to our national dialog and direction.

For a Board that oversees all of our national equestrian interests it is most important to start by explaining the diverse ways I am connected to our industry. My horse exposure started with Thoroughbreds. My grandfather was an enthusiastic race horse owner, and his father a thoroughbred breeder. I grew up with my aunt who was one of Canada's first female jockeys and went on to train for top stables. Myself and my family also have close personal connections through coaching and friendships in the eventing world. We also have very close family friendships in the Canadian dressage world. I have ridden for multiple Canadian Sport Horse / Canadian Warmblood breeders on up to the World Cup qualifier level for one stallion owner. For one Canadian breeder I rode on the Gold Medal team for Canada at North American Junior & Young Rider Championships the last time Canada hosted the NAJYRC in Bromont. My family continues to enjoy the horse sport in many ways, including my mother who drives ponies competitively.

I have spent many years in many parts of our industry both within Canada and abroad. I can contribute vast experience in all three jumping disciplines from many perspectives to the committee. In hunters and equitation I have owned, sold, ridden, coached and trained to the top level across Canada and the US. In the jumper ring I have ridden to the National Team level and represented Canada in Nations Cup competitions on three continents, including traveling reserve rider for the last World Equestrian Games. As a jumper coach I have developed students from pony jumpers all the way to our National Junior/Young Rider and U25 teams. I was also one of the first to complete the highest coaching level certificate in Canada.

Having an extensive national perspective is critical to understand our strengths and weaknesses as an industry. In addition to this national knowledge I have been lucky enough to gain large amounts of international exposure and perspective to bring back to our Canadian industry. I have spent a significant amount of time training and competing in the US in all three disciplines. I have lived, competed, trained and been exposed to the European system multiple times in my life, and am currently based in Belgium. I have also competed and seen the industry in Africa, South America and Mexico. Throughout my career I have also made a large effort to train, do business with and learn from the best in the world, many of which are currently major contributors and leaders in our world-wide industry in training, team building, and full program pathway creation.

I believe in giving back to the industry that has given me so much. In the past I have been part of the Show Date Exclusivity working group for Equine Canada. I have sat on the OHJA board. I have taken part in High Risk Sports working groups for OEF and Ontario Sport. I have also contributed to Show Jumping's Own The Podium funding applications and programs.

I would like to give back and help shape our future success. As of recently I have shut down my business in Canada which allows me to offer current and unique insights into our industry while no longer having a personal bias towards my own business. I believe this to be a very rare and valuable perspective. Most importantly though, I feel I can be a valuable contributor for all of our members interests.

I believe our sport in Canada is at a major inflection point and would like to be part of shaping a bright future!

Sincerely yours,

Chris Sorensen