



CANADIAN SNOWSPORTS ASSOCIATION HONOURS GIAN FRANCO KASPER

July 11, 2021

The Canadian Snowsports Association (CSA) family was deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of former President Kasper.

Mr. Kasper was suddenly hospitalized in late May, just before the 52nd FIS Congress where he was to formally step down after 23 years as the FIS President, and pass the reins for the FIS Presidency on to an elected successor.

It is noteworthy that prior to his 23 years as the elected FIS President he was the FIS Secretary-General for 23 years - leaving an astonishing legacy of service to the FIS of 46 years.

Mr. Kasper had a very strong connection to Canada and a deep knowledge of Canadian sport, history and culture, having lived and worked in Montreal as head of the Swiss Tourism Bureau.

Dave Pym, CEO and Managing Director of the CSA noted "GFK (or Boss as I always called him when we spoke) had a unique understanding of Canadian issues and in particular he had a deep understanding of the Canadian sport system. He was able to offer commentary and advice to me as I moved through the system first as a volunteer and member of various Alpine Sub-Committees and then as the CEO and Managing Director of the CSA - and he did so with humor and grace. His presence will be missed."

Chris Robinson, CSA President and Board Chair noted "Gian Franco was always approachable and engaging. Over the years I had many meetings and discussions with him on FIS matters. I also had the pleasure to spend time with him socially on a few occasions. Whenever we had a conversation, business or social, he listened intently and spoke openly. I particularly remember a time he invited Joe Fitzgerald and I to lunch in Portoroz. The three of us spent some hours relaxing and talking over a great meal, listening to stories of his many experiences. I admired him for his leadership, dedication and support for all FIS nations."

The CSA joins with the entire FIS family of National Ski Associations extends their deepest sympathy to Mr. Kasper's family.

Those who wish to reach out directly to share expressions of grief please contact Lillian Alderton lillianalderton@hotmail.com at the CSA for contact information.