

# Tri-Cities Cycling Club Mission Statement

I am going to start this with a simple understanding of how the competitive cycling world is legislated. The world governing body is known as the **UCI** (Union Cyclist International), it governs racing for all the disciplines from road through mountain biking and BMX. The **UCI** then sanctions 1 governing body per country, the **CCA** (Canadian Cycling Association) in Canada, who then divides up sanctioning depending on the country's makeup. Here in British Columbia cycling is governed by **Cycling BC**.

At the top of the road racing ability, teams are called **UCI ProTeams**. These Teams partake in all the top races including the Tour de France and many other races on the **World Tour**. The next level down is known as **UCI Professional Continental Teams** these teams will sometimes get invitations to the top races but usually fill in their race schedule with second tier European races. The third level down is **Continental Teams** who will race mostly in their country. There are still two more levels of what would be considered a Team, in Canada they are known as **CCA Trade Teams** and then **Provincial Trade Teams**. The last level of segmenting riders who compete is the **Club** level.

The main difference between all the **TEAM** levels and the **CLUB** level, other than ability, is the fact that a **TEAM** is controlled by 1 "entity". Be it a corporation at the top level or a single person at the **CCA** level. This "entity" creates the rules and regulations according to their mandate whereas a **CLUB** is a mass participation group that has to allow open access and be governed by an elected board.

The reason for me explaining this will be understood later when I show my plans for starting this club. Currently I have two levels of riding groups sanctioned by **Cycling BC**. There is **Westwood Cycle/Cannondale p/b Vision-Sports**, which is a **Provincial Trade Team**, and the **Tri-Cities Cycling Club**.

In Canada and especially in British Columbia most cycling clubs are a few buddies who ride together, maybe get matching jerseys, ride together, and maybe do a few races once in awhile after a few years the club disbands because of lack of time or desire to see it grow any larger. There are however a handful of very well organized clubs throughout Canada that have flourished over the years and developed some great cycling talent. In Europe, the cycling clubs are set up to be accessible to all, from recreational riders to the young talented athlete who will move up into the top level. As well, most of the **UCI Professional Continental Teams** have cycling clubs affiliated with them so that talented riders grow through the ranks. None of this is overly groundbreaking in North American sports; it is just not done that well in the sport of cycling.

Over the past year I have been laying the groundwork to build a cycling club that will encompass every aspect of cycling possible. I have been in contact with representatives from all three cities and have received positive feedback. My vision is to create a club modeled after all the successful ones that will live on and grow way beyond the initial architect's design. This of course will take time and resources; *mainly human resources*. I am looking for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds who can bring their own expertise and passion to this project. Of course not everyone has to put in huge amounts of work into the building of this **Club**, just having people join up and get somewhat involved will create enough momentum that the **Club** will grow.

To give people an idea of the vision and scope of what I am trying to build, I have come up with a very simple 4 year plan that outlines the growth I am looking to achieve;

#### Year 1 (next 3-4 months)

- Grow the membership to 20-25 members
- Initial Club jersey order (in the next 2 weeks)
- Regular club rides
- Organize a Port Coquitlam bicycle race (already in the works for August)
- Create sponsorship proposal to include all aspects from Club through Team
- Set up of board and bylaws

#### Year 2

- Membership grow to 40 members
- Board creates budget to aid members in any races or travels
- Development of a Youth program
- Finding of Club and Team sponsors
- Have Team develop into one of the top three teams in B.C.
- Continue with Port Coquitlam bike race and look to expand into Coquitlam

#### Year 3

- Membership grows to 70 riders
- Full time coach hired to develop Youth program
- Growing of Club and Team sponsorship in the Tri-Cities area
- Team and Club becomes one of the most recognized in the province
- Team moves to **CCA Trade Team** status
- Grow local bike race into a stage race

#### Year 4

- 100+ members
- Club has in place development programs and budgets for all cycling disciplines
- Team moves up to **UCI Professional Continental Team** status
- Tri-Cities Stage Race becomes one of the highlights of the racing calendar
- Club grows scope of influence in local area to aid with cycling policies
- Create New 4 Year Plan 😊