

Dear du Nord Community Member,

As we launch into summer, it's a great time to take a moment for reflection and celebration.

I am filled with gratitude and hope thinking about the beautiful, unique space we have created here at **Camp du Nord**. This home-away-from-home is a place where folks of all backgrounds and ages can come to try new things, unplug and relax, fully be themselves, and deepen connections—to their family, to new people, and to the environment.

Your steadfast support continues to be a cornerstone, making all that we do possible. And as we prepare for the quickly approaching summer season, I'm excited to share with you some highlights from Burntside Lake.

- **Transformational Facility Projects:** We are thrilled about the completion of two new platform cabins in the Grove (formerly known as the Auto-Tent sites) named Wolf and Bear that will replace canvas tents, reducing maintenance needs and enhancing the overall camper experience. This project marks a significant achievement for our maintenance and facilities team and sets the stage for further lodging improvements. A second, almost fully funded Grove project is also in the works to be completed by summer 2025 that will add a stainless steel food preparation table and storage hub.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts:** Launching the Taking S.T.E.P.S (Supporting the Transformation of Equity and Power in Outdoor Spaces) initiative here at du Nord is a huge leap forward in ensuring we provide an inclusive environment where families of diverse backgrounds feel safe, welcome, and represented. Part of this involves reserving registration and lottery space for those identifying as BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+, as well as making camp opportunities financially accessible through scholarships. Additionally, we are intensifying our efforts to make our hiring practices more inclusive by actively recruiting more team members from underrepresented communities and expanding our cultural competency training for all staff.
- **Reestablishing Traditions:** We are very excited to bring back our Friday Picnic program, which we haven't had since pre-pandemic days. This weekly gathering is open to all campers and is a great opportunity to foster community building and connection. We are also aiming to revive traditional sauna culture by creating a more reverential experience around this popular du Nord activity. This summer we will dedicate Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings to adult sauna experiences. Midnight saunas will also be back and we couldn't be more excited!



- **Fall, Winter, & Spring Offerings:** Registration for fall, winter, and spring programs is open – we invite you to join us at camp for a variety of programming, including Family Art Weekend, Family Camp Weekends, Adult Retreats, Work Weekends, and Book Your Own Getaway. The fun never stops at here at camp!

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your generosity that has helped us already accomplish so much and is positioning us for a successful summer ahead.

There's no doubt it will be another unforgettable one for campers and staff alike. We eagerly anticipate the laughter, friendships, and memories that await us all.

**THANK YOU for being an integral part of our du Nord community and CHEERS to summer 2024!**

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Sinykin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Sinykin  
Executive Director