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Public Statement from the Royal St. John's Regatta Committee

August 1, 2025

On behalf of the Royal St. John's Regatta Committee, I want to address concerns that have come to light regarding inappropriate commentary made during the RogersTV broadcast of the 207th Royal St. John's Regatta, specifically during coverage of the U16 Race 14.

We were made aware of these comments on the morning of July 31, 2025, through messages received on social media and via email from concerned members of our rowing community. After reviewing the segment in question, the Committee agrees that the remarks referencing body image in a joking and derogatory manner were both inappropriate and hurtful.

These comments do not reflect the values of the Royal St. John's Regatta Committee. Our organization is committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity, respect, and sportsmanship. These are values that have defined this historic sporting event for over two centuries. Every participant deserves to be treated with dignity and celebrated for their commitment to the sport of rowing.

We have reached out directly to Rogers Communications to express our concerns and to reaffirm our expectations for respectful and inclusive commentary.

The Royal St. John's Regatta Committee deeply values our longstanding partnership with Rogers and the commitment they show in covering this important community event. That said, body shaming and demeaning language, whether intended as humour or not, has no place in sport, in broadcasting, or in our community.

We are grateful to those who have brought this matter forward. By doing so, they have helped ensure that our sport remains a place where all athletes feel safe, valued, and respected.

Sincerely,

Ashley Peach
President
Royal St. John's Regatta Committee