



## **2021 President's Report, Alberta Junior Rugby Association**

It has been my honor to serve my fourth year as the AJRA President. I would like to thank my board of directors, sub unions, clubs and Rugby Alberta for their support of the junior programs across Alberta.

This past year, with the prevalence of COVID -19 we were uncertain as to what programs we would be able to offer. The last minute change to restrictions in May, made it possible for our rookie rugby program to proceed. We were able to offer over 20 "Try" rugby days from as far south as Lethbridge to as far north as Fort MacMurray. We offered 5 summer camps across the province. Exposing new kids to a positive rugby experience.

This year we participated in the Canada Summer Jobs grant program and were able to hire 10 summer students. These students worked with the clubs, sub unions and community groups to support rugby activations.

Junior rugby numbers across the province were down this year, we had approximately 1700 athletes register at U18 and under.

Collaboration continues with Rugby Alberta as we move forward in determining roles and responsibilities within our governance structures.

The AJRA will continue to offer Rookie Rugby programming across the province in the upcoming year, with board members in each zone working with our staff to create meaningful programming for each region. We have not been able to execute on our 3rd year strategic plan last year, due to the pandemic and ever changing regulations. We look forward to moving into year 3 of our Rookie Rugby strategic plan in 2022.

2020 was my final season as President of the AJRA, I have continued on in the role for an additional year to support through the pandemic. Unfortunately due to my professional life picking up, I will be unable to continue on in this role. It has been a wonderful experience working on this board and I believe we have developed a sustainable plan to increase junior rugby across the province.

Sincerely,

Catherine Laing

President, Alberta Junior Rugby Association