



Alberta Rugby Union
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On behalf of Rugby Alberta, I would like to thank all the clubs, schools, and sub-unions volunteers for their contribution this past season. It was a rebound year after two seasons plagued by Covid: seeing registration top 4500 members.

Although the pandemic affected each club differently--the Game On Rules enabled all clubs an opportunity to compete and avoid defaulting with flexible team numbers and rolling substitutions--I believe it has made for a positive impact on the game, but more importantly - on the players' experience. The Alberta Women's Premier and Alberta Cup leagues returned with strong competition in both the sub unions. The provincial finals in Calgary saw the Lep-Tigers victorious in the AWP for the 4th season in a row and The Calgary Canucks taking home the AC title for the second time in as many seasons. The season saw a return to clubs touring and hosting a variety of exhibition contests such as U23 development, masters' exhibitions, and some flag events. These types of activities will be key to rugby in Alberta as it allows out members to try different forms of the game with the goal of staying active for life.

We were able to return with some of our tradition events, ARC 7s in Edmonton at the Foote field Dome was fantastic event really helped to kick of the season. From there we were able to run our regional and provincial programs. ARC 15s in Calgary allowed the youth player a chance to vie for the championship as well as spots on the provincial teams. Those athletes represented Alberta in Kelowna for the Western Championships the U18 and U16 teams were joined by the Senior women's who played a 2-game series against the BC Bears. I would also like to recognize those Alberta athletes that represented Canada in the Sevens World Cup, and the Rugby World Cup, we are extremely proud to have seen you all taking on the world.

From a Grassroots level, in partnership with Rugby Canada we were able to employ a Rugby Development officer to help to reengage with schools and communities to help increase mass participation. With our development officer and Canada summer jobs students we were able to reach over 7000 youth and engaged in several try rugby days, camps, and programs with partners across the province.

What has become more evident to me in the last 12 months is how important it is to return to a classic rugby saying, "rugby is a game for all" we must continue to find ways to engage our membership and communities with a variety of rugby activities. Including flag or non-contact varieties, festivals, tournaments, and exhibition matches for those looking for lower commitment level but still want to play rugby. I believe that if we invest time and resources in to creating options for member, we will see our retention rates increase and even attract new membership.



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The 2022 season has provided some key learning moments and as we plan for the next season. We have some positive initiatives under way to ensure that we deliver a well governed and safe rugby environment.

I'd like to thank the Rugby Alberta board for all their hard work this season. Over the past year, we've had our hands full and I'm thankful for it. Thanks go out to C-Sue, Breanne, and Karin for being such committed employees of Rugby Alberta.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Houlihan

Executive Director

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