



Alberta Rugby Union

11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Executive Director Report

I hope this report finds everyone in the rugby community staying healthy, active, and positive as they can be in these challenging and changing times. This has been a season like no other during our lifetimes. Thank you to all rugby stakeholders in Alberta, from board members, staff, volunteers, players and supporters for your time, effort, and patience this past year as we continue to navigate the ongoing pandemic.

I'm honored to report that our most recently completed season (ending October 1st 2021) saw numbers reach 3316 members. Which is a return to over half the number members pre pandemic.

I would like to acknowledge the role of our coaches in what has been a difficult year. Rugby is a game in which close contact is inherent and a big part of why we play the game. Across all programs our coaches worked incredibly hard to supply an engaging non-contact/socially distanced program and return to contact. Even during the most uncertain periods our players and families kept turning up, going through the COVID protocols, and working hard in preparation for the season.

The Alberta Rugby community exemplified the core values of rugby by adapting to the different varieties of the game from using the Game On rules, participation in flag and 10s tournaments which were great additions to the rugby calendar. As well as the combination of multiple clubs to allow for games to be played and stories to be shared post-match.

There were many development opportunities for our members, Coast to Coast Coaching Conference over 3 days to start the new year. This was a fantastic opportunity to share and learn as a larger Canadian rugby community. Administrators and board members had a fantastic opportunity that allowed us to share and learn from other Prairie provinces as well as leading rugby experts in the Prairie Club Development series. The online world also helped to run the NCCP Level 2 course online, which was an outstanding success and will allow us to have course available to a wider audience than the in-person sessions.

Although we were unable to run our Alberta Regional Championships or Provincial Championships this year, we were fortunate to have the HSBC Canada Sevens taking a stop in Edmonton. This was a fantastic opportunity to expose the wider sporting community in Alberta to the great game of rugby. We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to run the 50/50





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for the event which help to raise funds for the Judy Seddon Scholarship as well as the sub unions.

In partnership with AJRA, introducing Rookie Rugby to youth has been a proud and fulfilling highlight of the year. With our Canada Summer Jobs Students we were able to run 20 try rugby days. We have also been working with several summer camps partners to supply Rookie Rugby programming into those camps and were fortunate to be a part of 5 summer camps for multiple days this year.

AS we enter year 2 of our strategic plan we will continue to focus on 4 key pillars. People, Places, Programs and Promotion.

In June, we said farewell to Graeme Moffat after many years with Rugby Alberta. Graeme's contribution to Rugby and Rugby Alberta is well documented and I want to thank Graeme for his contribution to the sport. We also said goodbye to Hubert Buydens our Regional Development Officer and Ashley Stacey who had both been with Rugby Alberta over the past year and we wish them the best of luck with their careers.

Lastly, I would just like to say a big thank you to all the amazing support I have received from my executive committee.

Thanks,

Peter Houlihan
Executive Director

