October 15, 2024

## 2023-2024 ALA President's Report

Dear ALA Members,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 season, the Alberta Lacrosse Association (ALA) has made significant strides in growth and community engagement, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated members. We remain committed to our mission to "Enhance character, community, and culture through lacrosse."

While we have not yet returned to pre-pandemic participation levels, we are encouraged by the growth in box lacrosse, particularly in urban centers and rural areas. We see challenges in field lacrosse as opportunities to better understand the dynamics at play, and we are eager to explore the introduction of the sixes format as a new avenue for engagement.

This year, we faced the challenge of operating without an Executive Director, but I'm pleased to announce that the search for a new Executive Director is underway, with the goal of having someone in place by early 2025. Our current team includes two full-time staff members—an administrative staff member and a technical director—supported by a part-time technical advisor and two contractors.

Our provincial championship in Red Deer was a resounding success, thanks to the exceptional efforts of the Central Alberta Lacrosse League (CALL) volunteer committee. I extend my deepest gratitude to CALL President and her team for delivering a fantastic event.

In September, Alberta proudly hosted the Lacrosse Canada First Nations, U19, and Alumni Cup U17 Men's Field Championships in Calgary. Despite challenges in recruiting volunteers, the event reached a wide audience, supported by impressive streaming numbers. A special thank you to everyone involved in organizing this event and supporting our Provincial teams.

I also want to recognize our Team Alberta representatives at the national level for their outstanding performances, particularly the U22 Women's box team for successfully repeating their gold medal achievement from 2023.



This year marked the inaugural Prairie Cup, a regional championship for our U13 and U15 teams, which will serve as an important stepping stone for player and coach development in alignment with Lacrosse Canada's Long-Term Athlete Development Plan.

Looking ahead, I am excited for continued collaboration with the board, staff, and membership to strengthen our organization and expand the sport. Our focus will be on continuous improvement and increasing participation, especially through initiatives like the lacrosse literacy partnership with the Calgary Roughnecks, aimed at reaching school-aged youth.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the board for their unwavering dedication and to our staff for their hard work over the past year. Your commitment has been vital to our success. I also want to acknowledge our invaluable volunteers, who are the backbone of our organization. Thank you all for your passion and efforts; together, we are making a significant impact in the world of lacrosse.

Finally, I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to lead the ALA, and I look forward to continuing our journey together toward a brighter future for lacrosse in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Sean Aggus

President, Alberta Lacrosse Association