

# SECTION 2: REPORTS



NOVEMBER  
15 & 16, 2024



## **President's Report Submitted by Shawn Williams**

Another six months have passed in the lacrosse community and it's been extremely busy for everyone. The one thing that has been consistent through this is change. We as a group need to look at ourselves collectively and decide if we are truly doing the best that we can to serve our members. What may have been good enough 20 years ago is no longer what is needed for our members. Please take time to reflect on where we have been and where we are headed.

With the inclusion in the 2028 Olympics, changes are coming at us quicker than any of us had anticipated. Policies to conform to Sport Canada governance need to be in place in order for access to the maximum resources available to be successful. Old notions no longer apply as we need to grow the game in short order. Competition from other sports has been making inroads into our participant base, how can we keep them at bay? Lacrosse Canada is working towards a higher profile in the sporting community through training opportunities that gives players added exposure where it didn't exist in the past. Marketing and Social Media will work together to provide a platform for sponsors to see that Lacrosse is a very viable investment.

The topic of our investments in our National team program continually comes up in discussion. I believe this is money well invested. The recent World Championships were extremely successful for both of our teams. Lacrosse Canada is very proud of the effort of all involved. What most people don't see is the time, physical, mental and emotional investment by the players, staff and families. Seeing this firsthand, talking with the players and their families, showed the pride they take in wearing our colours! The group as a whole are thankful that we support the National team program to the degree we do. One of the most interesting notes would be the extent of how deeply Canada is involved in other World programs, be it as a player, coach, official. We have an abundance of talent in every capacity within the game. Again, congratulations to all involved.

Lacrosse Canada has finally gotten to a point of filling staff positions to take the workload and spread it out to people who have the expertise in the specific areas needed to grow. With the implementation of our Strategic Plan to guide us forward, Governance changes to lessen the load on volunteers, we will see improvements in our operations as a whole.

I'd like to thank Terry Rayner for his day to day efforts to keep Lacrosse Canada running, even under some trying circumstances. Your efforts do not go unappreciated. Wendy Dobbin has assumed a new role specific to our Olympic participation, a massive amount of time to keep this on track. Our Social Media profile is so far ahead of where we were a year ago with the enthusiasm of Kealon Pilon. Sarah Utting keeping the nuts and bolts together, is a position that isn't flashy yet is so vital to Lacrosse Canada. Ashley Bull has had a whirlwind of a year balancing her Team Canada commitments with her duties as the High Performance coordinator. Great job to all! Welcome to Samantha McKenzie (Partnerships), Josh Dawick (Sponsorship Coordinator), Rachael McKinnon (Technical Coordinator) and D'Arcy McKeown (Finance/Governance). I look forward to working with all of you to build a better product for our members.

A heartfelt thank you to the Board for the time and commitment you have given to Lacrosse Canada. Meetings that take you away from your family, a steady flow of emails and phone calls show your passion to lacrosse and your willingness to take on the responsibility with no reward. I would like to thank the outgoing Board members for their commitment to Lacrosse Canada. I would be remiss if I didn't have a special thank you to my friend, Paul "Gator" Magnon, the many years of your service,



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taking on tasks that were not the flashiest but absolutely needed. Stepping up to fill roles when no others would, you always had the best interests of Lacrosse at heart. I am proud to have you as my friend.

Lacrosse has an unbelievable opportunity ahead of us and we as a group are excited to seize the moment. It will take a lot of work to get there. Will it be smooth sailing? Undoubtably we will probably have a few speed bumps along the way but perseverance is a hallmark of the Lacrosse family.

Yours in Lacrosse,

Shawn Williams

President



**Director of Administration Report  
Submitted by Paul Magnan**

This will be my last report as a Director of Administration for Lacrosse Canada as I'm not seeking a seat on the Lacrosse Canada Board.

My belief is that if you were going to be a volunteer on the Lacrosse Canada Board or in any Lacrosse Canada Committee position you need to be willing to put the time in to do your job. I no longer have the time to do this.

I think we're in good hands with Terry Rayner as our executive Director for Lacrosse Canada. We've been looking for a face of Lacrosse in Canada and I think that he can do the job. Terry is creative, likes to hustle, is well-connected, and can make the tough decisions.

We need to pull together as Lacrosse Canada. When people come to Lacrosse Canada meetings, they need to put their personal and member associations priorities on the backseat and focus on Lacrosse Canada priorities.

Board governance, choosing the right board members and giving them the autonomy to make Lacrosse Decisions is crucial.

Elect a board, allow them to make decisions, hold them accountable, and let's move forward. If you do not like the decisions, they make vote them out. Too long has the tail been wagging the dog.

Some of our volunteers and some of our sectors are just not doing the job. People like the position, but don't put the time in and the work that is needed, unfortunately, this needs to change.

Terry has built a good-looking staff, young and energetic. Let's give them the support they need.

We need to grow the game at the grassroots and we need to own the podium.



**Director of Marketing & Communications Report**  
**Submitted by Marisa Di Bari**

The year began with some great accomplishments and is continuing to be a great year for sponsorship and marketing. A few things to note over the last 6 months:

**SUCCESSIONS:**

- Our social presence continues to increase
- The Alumni newsletter launched, and we have received excellent feedback
- We have celebrated NCAA achievements, Officials week, Black History months, International Women's Day, Announcements for National Teams and World Lacrosse Officials and other milestones and moments
- We have had conversations with several national companies, and many are interested in some form of partnership or sponsorship
- We secured a partnership with Bardown to launch our online retail store
- CoachThem continues to provide content to our members

**CHALLENGES:**

- Nike is unfortunately changing their structure and lacrosse is no longer one of their focus sports
- This will result in us having to change our sponsorship with them
- We still face challenges with regards to demographic information being received which is hindering our ability to seek specific partnerships

**ON-GOING PROJECTS:**

- We are in discussions with new and current partners to ensure we are benefitting from these partnerships
- We continue to work our sponsorship evaluator – who is dedicated to bringing us suitable partnerships
- We continue to have productive meetings with the CLF and HOF as a group to work on a collaborative plan
- We are preparing communication for our COC approval

**Below are some of our key social stats that we can be very proud of:**

[Instagram](#)

Up **7%** since October 2023

[Facebook](#)

Up **3%** since October 2023

[YouTube](#)

Up **10%** since October 2023

Overall, I'm excited for the future and would like to thank the entire office team who always go the extra mile to make things happen. I would also like to thank the MAs, Committee Chairs, and the Sector Chairs for their collaboration.

I will say, we still have a lot of work to do, and we need to work together in a positive and respectful way, so we can achieve the goals that benefit our members. We will continue to grow and succeed only when we work a team.

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**Director of National Championships Report  
Submitted by Suzanne Bélanger**

Most 2024 national championships events grew compared to the previous year. Improvements to planning documentation and processes were focused on ensuring that roles and responsibilities are understood and to improve consistency across championships. Challenges and lessons learned will help refine guidance and processes ahead of next season. The policy changes to improve financial viability that will come into effect for 2025 will help support the growing national championships.

**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

The initiatives prioritized for 2024 are shown below. Post-event reports are being reviewed to update priorities ahead of 2025.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Update</b>
Standardizing policies across Sectors	Underway. Policy changes submitted at the 2024 AM, with focus on dates across Sectors and in general national championships policy.
Revisiting team entry fees to cover true event costs	Complete. Policy changes approved at the 2024 SAM.
Improving the use of LC electronic tools (event web site, player registration)	Ongoing. LC web site used for most events. Policy language that refers to paper documents needs updating.
Minimizing late changes (team cancellations, schedule changes)	Ongoing. Reviewing declaration dates, working on clarity and consistency of event dates, including standardized event schedules.
Increasing the profile of the national events (live streaming, social media)	Ongoing. Social media toolkit deployed. Most events had live streaming. Continued work is needed.

**GENERAL**

The National Event Hosting Guide and the LC Convenor Guide were updated and annual edits are planned. Pre-event planning meetings were held with Convenors and OICs, as well as with Hosts to review expectations and answer questions. LC Staff and I were available during all events to support the Convenors.

Changes to financial policies approved at the SAM will help with the long-term sustainability of growing national championships. Some policy timelines for declaring teams, nominating officials and booking their travel contradict each other, making early travel arrangements difficult. Policy changes were proposed to address this at the AM.

Most events had live streaming and a strong online presence, including using the Lacrosse Canada web site.

Other than men’s field, women’s field, Minto and Mann, most event grew. Although this is positive overall, it made scheduling challenging in some cases, with competition extending to what traditionally has been travel days. Standardization of event schedules is planned for 2025.

**MINOR NATIONALS**



A new competition format was trialed for Minor Box Nationals that decreased the number of games and aimed to shorten the event. Men's Field Nationals lost teams for both age groups compared to last year, while Women's Field Nationals stayed the same. Late cancellations of team registration were minimal. Continued focus is required to ensure enough officials for field Nationals and to ensure that all Women's Field coaches are certified ahead of the events. There were no notable issues.

## **MAJOR NATIONALS**

President's and Founders were the largest events in recent history. A two-pool format was used for Founders, per policy, which was new or had not been needed for some time. Variances to the event format were approved for both events to ensure a minimum number of games for the traveling teams and for consistency with previous seasons. Policies related to the format of these events need review with the Sector as they impact costs and possibly event duration (the issues pre-date 2024). Policy clarification is needed for the Presidents' pro rule.

There were no notable issues for Minto. Other than the appeal for Mann, there were no issues for that event.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Key focus areas include completion of the above-noted initiatives, review of the overall schedule of national championships, early selection of Hosts, and improving communication with Sectors to ensure that decisions impacting national championships are communicated and that policy wording is clear. Post-event reports are being reviewed to inform priorities for 2025.



**Director, High Performance & International Relations  
Submitted by Matt Shearer**

Lacrosse has continued its rapid growth on the global stage, with increased participation and international competitions across multiple formats, including Field, Box, and Sixes lacrosse. World Lacrosse has worked to promote the sport's visibility and elevate its competitiveness. Canada remains a global powerhouse, consistently producing world-class athletes and top-tier teams in both men's and women's lacrosse.

Over the past year, Canada has not only maintained strong international rankings but has also introduced historic teams, such as our first-ever Women's Box Lacrosse team. This progress reflects Canada's deep-rooted lacrosse heritage and our ongoing commitment to the sport's future globally.

**Current World Rankings:**

Men's Field	2
Women's Field	2
U20 Men's Field	2
U20 Women's Field	2
Men's Box	1
Women's Box	2
Men's Sixes	1
Women's Sixes	1

This strong positioning across all lacrosse disciplines underscores Canada's dominance and continued development of talent at every level. We close out fiscal 2024 and enter 2025 driving growth of our game domestically and increasing our presence and position on the world stage. Below is a recap of recent and upcoming details of Canada's National Teams.

**2024 Women's U20 World Championships**

Hong Kong, China  
Aug 15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

In August 2024, Canada secured Silver at the Women's U20 World Championship in Hong Kong, losing to the USA in the finals.

Avery Morton and Jami MacDonald were both named to the All-World Team.

Coaching Staff: Tami Rayner (GM), Alison Daley (HC), Emily Boissonneault (AC), Rachel McKinnon (AC), Kaylin Morissette (AC) and Kylee White (AC)

**2025 Men's U20 Lacrosse Championships**

South Korea  
July 18<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Tryouts for the **Men's U20 Team** have been ongoing with multiple camps taking place across the country, with most recent sessions in Oshawa, ON in October 2024 bringing together a selection camp including 60 potential roster players.

Coaching Staff: Dan Carey (GM), Gary Gait (HC), John Grant Jr. (AC), Shawn Wilkins (AC), Mark Myashita (AC), John Gallant (AC).





### **2024 Women's World Box Lacrosse Championships**

Utica, New York USA

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

2024 was a historic year for women's box lacrosse as Canada fielded its first-ever national team for the World Box Lacrosse Championships in Utica. The team's performance was bolstered by seasoned and emerging stars and Canada's debut in this competition highlighted their strong development pipeline, with players demonstrating solid box lacrosse skills drawn from experience at both the NCAA and international levels.

Canada had 3 players named to the 6-player Women's All-World Team, including Jordan Dean (Defense), Erica Evans (Forward) and Megan Kinna (Forward).

Coaching Staff: Tami Rayner (GM), Troy Cordingly (HC), Troyann Santos (AC), Corey Hankowich (AC), Krista Lovse (AC) and Meagan Kingston (AC).

### **2024 Men's World Box Lacrosse Championships**

Utica, New York USA

Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

In the 2024 World Box Lacrosse Championships held in Utica, New York, the Canadian Men's team dominated the group stages, advancing to the final where they faced the United States and controlled the tempo of the game to take home Gold.

Canada Men also had 3 players named to the 6-player Men's All-World Team, including Christian Del Bianco (Goal), Steve Priolo (Defense) and Jeff Teat (Forward).

Teat was also named the Most Valuable Player of the Championships, cementing his status as one of the top players in the World. He tallied 14 goals and 28 assists in 6 games during the Championships in Utica.

Coaching Staff: Ed Comeau (GM), Glenn Clarke (HC), Pat Coyle (AC), Curt Malawsky (AC)

### **2024 Men's & Women's Sixes Teams**

Both the Men's and Women's Sixes teams have been preparing for the upcoming Super Sixes Competition, taking place in Coquitlam, BC in October 2024. As well, the World Games will feature the Sixes format next summer in China, August 2025.

Looking forward, both box and field programs are expected to continue their strong international performances. As well, major tournaments slated for 2025, include the "World Games" featuring Sixes discipline, as well as the Men's U20 World Championships in Seogwipo, Jeju Island, South Korea. Additionally, Canada is pushing for innovation and success with the evolution of our National Team Development Program and the expansion of Sixes on the world stage. Expect more rising stars from U20 programs to transition into senior teams as Canada attempts to maintain its position at the top.

As has been shared previously, thank you to the efforts of the growing Lacrosse Canada Staff and Board and for their support of our National Teams, as well the partnership with our Member Associations for all the work put in to grow our game and the pool of National Team athletes representing Canada.



## **Director of Domestic Development Report Submitted by Bryan Baxter**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the office staff for continued great service to meet the needs of our members. I especially want to thank Wendy Dobbin for her continued support of all the committees in her portfolio. I would also like to thank those that I work closely with on many of the challenges that face us as we grow. I am talking about the Chairs of the various committees that I oversee in my role as Director of Domestic Development. Thank you Steve O'Shaughnessy, Chair of the Officiating Committee, Roxanne Curtis, Chair of the Coaching Committee, Duane Bratt, Chair of the LTAD Committee and Norm McGuirk, Chair of the FITS Committee and to Kevin Sandy, Chair of the Indigenous Development Committee. It is through your love of the game and passion for your areas of expertise that I know our sport will continue to prosper and grow.

I would also like to welcome the newest additions to the Lacrosse Canada staff team. I wish much good luck and success to Rachael McKinnon, Technical Coordinator, Josh Dawick, Sponsorship Coordinator and Samantha McKenzie, Manager of Partnerships.

We continue to move into uncharted territory with Sixes. I don't believe that we are doing enough domestically to ensure that Sixes remains as a sustained podium finish. There are very few Sixes leagues across the country and our approach to this Olympic sport is to treat it as a sidebar to our other disciplines. We need athletes in the future who have grown up playing this discipline. We need to find room for this discipline.

In my role as Director of Domestic Development, I have attended and participated in the regular bi-monthly and special meetings of the Board of Directors as well as meetings of the various committees that I oversee.

This past box season saw the roll out of our new CMD classroom session. From all accounts with the polling that I conducted, it is being received very well. The big change is that now new coaches to CMD will only need to attend one classroom session in order to coach any of our disciplines. They will still be required to attend an on field or in box session for each discipline once the classroom portion is completed.

On the officiating side, we are currently into our NOCP sessions to map out the training for our officials for the upcoming year. We began the process of surveying our officials after our National Competitions and have our first set of data from those surveys. It is my hope that this process is delivered to all of our officials so we can get a better idea as to how we might recruit and retain our officials. Lack of officials was a huge problem for most of our members this past box and field seasons. Too many games had to be cancelled due to a lack of qualified officials.

Data and metrics are what is required to move Lacrosse Canada forward. We need to collect more data and use the data to develop metrics that will move our strategic plan forward. We need to be on the cutting edge of developing new metrics for our sport. Counting the number of participants in our game is not enough. What does real growth look like? Where do we need to spend to get the most drive in our strategic plan? How many concussions (or perceived concussions) did we have last year? How do we track athletes to our National teams? How do we ensure our coaches have the ability to get to the highest standards? What is a standard vertical jump for a 14 year old lacrosse player? Why do youth leave our sport? What percentage of kids in our school system participate in lacrosse? How many youth were introduced to our sport this year? By registration, through a school program, by an



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introductory session? How many of our youth participate in a for profit lacrosse program? Why are they participating? Are they being offered something that we don't offer? There is so much to be gained by having this kind of information. We need to gather it and use it in planning as we move forward.

It is disappointing for me to report that we have made no progress on the members wishes around the removal of certain types of contact in our minor game. This issue needs to be pushed forward and rule changes need to be made to better protect our athletes and keep them in the game. The contact report from the University of Calgary should be enough of a wake-up call regarding contact at the lowest levels of our game.

The Indigenous Development Committee has not met since the SAM. There have been no formal meetings on the IDC.

The FITS Committee has not met since the SAM. It is my belief that it is time for a National Grassroots program in our sport. We need to have all our oars in the water and paddling in the same direction when it comes to developing our sport at the youngest levels. Every other major sport in Canada has some type of sponsored grassroots program. It helps to develop a love of the sport and goes a long way to retaining youth in the game.

My third term is now complete and bylaws dictate that I must end my term on the Board of Directors. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to serve on this Board and I will take away many memories of friendships developed over my time on the Board. Thank you to all that I have had the pleasure of working with over the past six years.

Respectfully submitted.



## **Indigenous Director Report Submitted by Kevin Sandy**

### **National Indigenous Lacrosse Governing Body and National Indigenous Lacrosse Strategy Keeping the Fire Alive in the Spirit of Our Ancestors**

#### **Background**

In Canada, and throughout Turtle Island, there are numerous Indigenous nations playing and competing in local leagues, provincials, and national competitions in a variety of disciplines including:

- Box Lacrosse
- Field Lacrosse
- Sixes

#### **Indigenous Development Committee**

Within the structure of Lacrosse Canada, the Indigenous Development Committee (IDC) is responsible for the education of the Indigenous roots of lacrosse and is responsible for supporting the growth and development of the Creator's Game. The IDC is comprised of members who are either appointed or elected by Member Associations of Lacrosse Canada. The IDC is supported by Lacrosse Canada, however, with very little input from Indigenous people and communities. LC must truly engage, honor and listen to Indigenous people's voices about the game and sport of lacrosse, not one individual.

#### **Aboriginal Sport Circle**

The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) is the national voice and governing body of sport in Canada and comprised of members who represent the Provincial Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies (PTASB). The ASC, in collaboration with the PTASB's, host an annual hockey championship, however, currently, there's no support for a National Indigenous Lacrosse Championship.

#### **First Nations Lacrosse Association**

The First Nations Lacrosse Association (FNLA) is a recognized Member Association (MA) of Lacrosse Canada, however, it's not a national lacrosse organization with staffing and financial resources. FNLA teams compete and send teams to national minor box and field lacrosse championships. This past summer for the first time in five years, the FNLA sent three national teams (U17, U15 and U13) to the minor nationals in Saskatchewan. The FNLA does not have staff like the rest of the Member Associations which makes it difficult to properly plan, organize and execute operational activities, relative to the association's mandate.

#### **Two Row Wampum**

The Guswhenta (Two Row Wampum) symbolizes the relationship amongst the newcomers and Haudenosaunee people, which is based on respecting each others way of life, traveling in your own vessel, peace and friendship. Under this agreement, no one group is in control, instead they operate parallel, respecting the wishes of the people and communities.

#### **Current Situation**

Currently, there's no National Indigenous Lacrosse Organization or National Indigenous Lacrosse Strategy led by Indigenous people, stakeholders and partners to lead and guide strategic efforts relative to nurturing the sport of lacrosse across the country. In addition, there is no comprehensive national lacrosse strategy which truly engages Indigenous people and communities currently involved in the game.

However, for decades Indigenous led strategies, programs, services and financial resources have been in place to support employment, training, skill development, economic development, housing, education and other matters of significant importance to Indigenous people, worth billions of



investment dollars, grants and contribution funding. Some of these strategies led to bi-lateral agreements between Indigenous people and government partners with hundreds of millions of dollars and resources allocated to support these strategies, programs, services and interventions to help the people.

In Canada, there are numerous Indigenous minor lacrosse associations and teams who represent their community and nations, including, however, not limited to the following:

- North Shore Indians Sr B
- Team Indigenous BC
- Standing Buffalo Minor Lacrosse
- Carry the Kettle Minor Lacrosse
- Standing Buffalo Sr B
- Ojibways of Sagkeeng
- Six Nations Minor Lacrosse
- Six Nations Chiefs Major
- Six Nations Rivermen Sr B
- Grand River Warriors Sr B
- Six Nations Arrows Jr A
- Six Nations Rebels Jr B
- Six Nations Fire Jr B
- Six Nations Stealth Jr C
- Six Nations Girls Field Lacrosse
- Six Nations Boys Field Lacrosse
- Grand River Attack
- Tyendinaga Thunderbirds Minor Lacrosse
- Akwesasne Storm Minor Lacrosse
- Snake Island Muskies Sr B
- Akwesasne Bucks Sr B
- Kanesatake Warriors Minor Lacrosse
- Kahnawake Mohawks Minor Lacrosse
- Kahnawake Mohawks Sr B
- Millbrook Warriors Jr B

In Canada, no Indigenous boy's and girl's teams compete at the Canada Summer Games, despite the game being gifted to the newcomers by Haudenosaunee people and other stick ball game carriers. And in this day and age, we have to question why there is no Indigenous teams at the Canada Games, despite our teams being allowed to compete at national lacrosse championships for many decades? Girl's and women's lacrosse is growing leaps and bounds in many Indigenous communities; however, some of our amazing gifted women are still subject to misogynistic behaviours and attitudes of male coaches, who have a strong prejudice to women playing and participating in sport. The number of recent assault cases toward Indigenous and non-Indigenous women in the game of lacrosse, point to the fact this attitude still exists in 2024 and that is not right. It's happening at Canada Games, Women's Leagues and Girl's Box and Field, however, what can we all do to provide a safe place for all girl's and women, who play this great game.

In the spirit of truth, peace, harmony, support, growth and action, it's time for national and provincial sport governing bodies to acknowledge, the originators of the game are being excluded from high level competitions, despite having many local, provincial, national and world level champions at every level of the game.



## **United States**

In the USA, the Native American Minor Lacrosse Association (NAMLA) functions as the only independent association with no affiliation to Lacrosse Canada, US Lacrosse or USBOXLA. The NAMLA includes multiple minor nation teams from the following communities in U22, U17, U15, U13, U11, U9 and U7:

- Tonawanda Braves
- Newtown Golden Eagles
- Allegany Arrows
- Onondaga Redhawks
- Tuscarora Thunderhawks

The Can-Am Lacrosse Association is a Sr B league with teams operating in the same above communities, including Grand River Warriors, who play out of Six Nations of the Grand River. Can-Am League Champions compete in the President's Cup, annually.

Across the USA, there are many fledgling women's, girl's, boy's and adult programs in communities and operating teams in the following jurisdictions:

- New York
- Oregon
- Washington
- Minnesota
- California
- Wisconsin

In the United States, there is no counterpart to Aboriginal Sport Canada, therefore, North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Championships are held in Canada, every four years, because Sport Canada, provincial and regional governments provide financial resources to host the games. The next NAIG is scheduled in Calgary, AB in 2027, and lacrosse and culture will form an important aspect of the games. The NAIG is a stand alone Indigenous governed council and structured process which has been in existence for 34 years with proven government, corporate investment, and stimuli to share culture, sport and inspire the youth in their chosen sport. The NAIG costs approximately \$12M to \$15M to plan, host and stage every four years and adheres to a specific governing process and fiscal accountability systems.

In 2023, NAIG lacrosse welcomed youth teams (ages 13 to 19) from Nova Scotia, Eastern Door, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Wisconsin in both girl's and boy's competition.

## **Native American Advisory Council**

In the USA, the Native American Advisory Council exists to continue to share the roots of the game through educational resources, reach new populations and grow the game within Native communities.

"It's incumbent on us to teach and learn the real story of Native Americans, who have made – and continue to make – great contributions to our society and nation. The gift of lacrosse is a beautiful example."

## **Haudenosaunee Nationals**

The Haudenosaunee Nationals Women's and Men's Team offer world level and development playing opportunities for Haudenosaunee and non-Haudenosaunee (Indigenous) passport eligible players in field lacrosse, box lacrosse and sixes.



The Nationals program has been operating since 1983 and in 1990 first competed on the global stage in Melbourne, AU. The Women's Program, first international competition was in 2007, more than seventeen years after the men's program was accepted at World Lacrosse. Recently, the Haudenosaunee Nationals had teams competing in U20 Women's Worlds (Hong Kong), Utica, NY and World Sixes (Haudenosaunee Women) in Coquitlam, BC. Team Indigenous Men's competed in World Sixes, as the Haudenosaunee Men's Team withdrew in the last minute leading up to the games. The Haudenosaunee Nationals are a voluntary run organization, with no full-time and part-time staff, however, like the FNLA the organization does not have the necessary funding and human resources to properly plan, organize and implement successful strategies leading up to and including sending teams to world lacrosse championships.

### **What is Required to Support the Game and National Indigenous Lacrosse Organization and Strategy?**

Lacrosse Canada, US Lacrosse, Member Associations and Lacrosse Chapters play a role in helping to support the sport of lacrosse (e.g., player, coaching development and officials development) in Indigenous communities, however, without true engagement and dialogue with Indigenous people, stakeholders and partners, efforts are not fruitful and typically not in alignment with the communities vision, dreams and aspirations of Indigenous people who are directly involved in planning and organizing the sport of lacrosse in the communities.

### **Engagement and the Need**

In order to truly understand the communities needs, dreams, aspirations and realities, there must be an Indigenous led collective of stakeholders, partners and organizations who must engage and involve the core administrators, communities, teams, coaches, players and officials directly involved in supporting the sport.

Indigenous led bodies such as the Haudenosaunee Nationals and First Nations Lacrosse Association must have a Strategy and Long-Term Outlook in order to govern and manage their affairs more effectively relative to supporting the sport in their respective jurisdictions. Furthermore, Indigenous led national structures must be adequately funded and staffed in order to effectively plan, organize and execute strategies and operational deliverables relative to their vision and mandate.

I respect the fact, there are existing lacrosse structures, sport organizations and member associations in place, however, the existing structures and organizations do not adequately address the unique cultural, spiritual and sport needs of our communities and the kids, youth and adults who play this great game in our communities and off-reserve. We often have no voice within Lacrosse Canada, are often overlooked in discussions and considered an after-thought in most instances when it comes to planning, organizing or mobilizing resources designated for Indigenous communities.

### **What's Our First Step?**

The Truth and Reconciliation Report Five Calls to Action relative to sport is a starting point, however, many stakeholders do not understand what they mean relative to Indigenous people's and our position within sports. Creator's Game Cultural Education Awareness as told and voiced by Indigenous must be the norm on Turtle Island, highlighting our athlete's contributions in sport, along with supporting Indigenous and global led approaches to strengthen relations with Indigenous people.

If we can all acknowledge the principles of the Two Row Wampum, then what must happen is an Indigenous led lacrosse sport governing body, which respects our values and principles, determines the strategy, vision, mandate, mission and strategic goals relative to supporting, nurturing, leading and facilitating collaborative efforts to rightfully take back our game, as voiced by our people, for the benefit and joy of our people, as guided by our people.



Indigenous led structures, organizations and systems designed and developed by Indigenous people for Indigenous people is what works best to stimulate investment to support the kids, youth, adults and coming faces (future generations) not only in life, however, in our true national game and sport. The NAIG Council is a proven model, which can guide planning and mobilization efforts. The NAIG Council is supported by Indigenous people, Sport Canada, Provincial Sport Organizations, Municipalities and Corporate Canada, this is one model that warrants support from multiple stakeholders and funding agencies. It has worked for 34 years and will continue to stimulate investment and opportunity for Indigenous youth involved in multiple sports for many years. A true partnership was created prior to the 2010 Olympics with the establishment of the Four Host Nations (Squamish, Lil'wat, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh) as a coordinating body to infuse Indigenous culture, songs, dances, artistry, partnership and legacy opportunities for Indigenous youth and communities. The Four Host Nations, started with zero dollars and leveraged dollars to create opportunities for the youth and communities. The Invictus Games 2025, Vancouver Whistler is committed to working with each nation to address the TRC Calls to Action and ensuring the Four Host Nations languages, traditions, protocols and cultures are meaningfully acknowledged respected and represented in the planning, staging and hosting of the Games. In July 2018, the Indigenous Lacrosse Association unanimously received the support of the Assembly of First Nations (ANF) Chiefs in Assembly by presenting a business case supported by a governing document with rules and process driven by Indigenous lacrosse advocates. The result was a national resolution which supports the development of a grass roots Indigenous led lacrosse process and programs, not too many individuals in the lacrosse world are aware of this resolution. It can't be a handful of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people doing global education, coaching development, skills camps, creators game education and awareness, officiating development, plus advocacy, there must be a team approach led by Indigenous people and supported by strategic non-Indigenous alliances and friends.

### **The Strengths of Indigenous Led Process, Shared Values and Partnerships**

Since Creation, Shogwiyadisoh and the Thunder People, gifted the great stick ball game, to Haudenosaunee people. Many Indigenous nations across Turtle Island have a stick ball which comes with their own beautiful teachings, based on their way of life. The one true game which brings Haudenosaunee and Indigenous people together is our medicine game, and the sport of lacrosse. The strength of Indigenous led processes and structures, is based on our value system and worldview which is very different from our Canadian and USA counterparts.

Our proposed partnership and shared value governance, administration and sport development model will include, however, will not be limited to the following key components:

- Respect, peace, friendship, helping each other, kindness and humility
- Governance and administration models which reflect Indigenous worldview and thinking
- Strategic vision
- Strategic goals
- Measurable objectives
- Cultural knowledge transfer
- Individual development and community development
- Communication and engagement with the people
- Inspiration and empowering the children and youth
- Capacity building, innovative programs and services, and pilot projects
- Coaching and officiating programs rooted in our way of life teachings
- Diversity, equity and inclusive principles, the game is meant for everyone
- Volunteer recruitment and staffing





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- Leveraging resources and assets, financial and human resources
- Partnerships, private and public, collaboration, stimulating investment and return on investment
- Territorial competitions and nation building national championships rooted in sport, socials, music, songs and teachings about the game
- Support to emerging communities
- Monitoring and evaluation processes which reflect Indigenous values
- Acknowledges and responds to the voices of the people 9

### **Conclusion**

In the spirit of truth, and doing what is right, a National Indigenous Lacrosse Organization and National Indigenous Lacrosse Strategy which parallels Lacrosse Canada and US Lacrosse is long overdue and what is required inspire and empower our children and youth; effectively guide, plan, organize and mobilize people, stimulate investment and funding, coaching and officiating resources and sport development programming and services to Indigenous communities and people involved in our great game.

Indigenous led planning, Indigenous designed structure and systems, Indigenous collaboration and Indigenous partnerships for the benefit of the kids, youth and adults who play our great game.

The existing and coming faces recognize the work we do here today is in the best interest of our people, we will continue to honor and do the work Sho:giwiyadisoh desires until we find an adequate structure and process which respects and honors the Indigenous people, nations and families who play and are involved in our game.

Hope, dreams, inspiration and belief is our motivation to support our women, children, youth and men, who carry on the beautiful traditions of our ancestors.

Respectfully,

Kevin Sandy  
Director, Indigenous  
Lacrosse Canada



**Athlete Director Report**  
Submitted by Lesley Hawke

After being appointed interim Athlete Director when Katie Ranger decided to step down, there have been several World Championships taking place. We saw the U20 Women's Field Worlds in Hong Kong, August 15-24<sup>th</sup>, and the inaugural Women's Box Lacrosse World Championships and the Men's Box Lacrosse World Championships both in Utica, NY, Sept. 20-29, 2024.

It was amazing to witness the U20 Team come home with Silver, as well as the inaugural Women's Box Team that gained a lot of traction and attention at the Worlds, and then of course, the Men's team winning the Gold.

One of my goals since the last update was to become more involved with the tryout process and to ensure that I was available to the athletes for any comments or concerns they wanted to bring forward. I could then bring this feedback back to the board for discussion. I wanted the position to be more involved and not just admin based. Unfortunately, that was not the case. I did not attend any tryouts except for the U20 tryouts that I was running in Alberta. I was really looking forward to the opportunity to connect more on a personal level with the athletes and their supporters.

I also thought it would be beneficial for the Athlete Director to at least attend the World Championships in Utica, however that was not an option either. I did however support the teams from afar and took it upon myself to email the teams prior to and after the World Championships with words of encouragement and motivation and to let them know I was here rooting them on.

My term is coming to an end, and I realize that this role is changing. Between the High-Performance Director and the Athlete Director, there should be a concise divide in roles or more opportunity to work together otherwise the AD position seems null and void, in my opinion.

Lesley Hawke

Athlete Director  
Lacrosse Canada



**Director at Large (small MA) Report**  
Submitted by Abby MacDonald

I want to thank the entirety of the Board of Directors for the kind welcome when I joined as a Director at Large in November of 2023. I would especially like to thank Sheena Hubelit for her guidance as I stepped into this role. I have so much gratitude for the opportunity to learn and grow in my position this past year. It's been an enriching experience to learn about the organization and to take part in so many insightful conversations. I want to thank the board members and MA's across the country for sharing their experiences and ideas as we navigate each opportunity for growth together.

This past year has been a valuable learning experience for me as I gained confidence and insight to speak on various topics that impact our organization on the national and provincial levels. Engaging with the board and collaborating on decisions has opened my eyes to the innerworkings of a common goal much bigger than any one person. I believe we all want the same thing, the growth of the Creator's Game. I look forward to continuing my work on the board to see this goal come to fruition.

Something I struggled with this past term was the ability to hear the ideas and concerns from the MA's. As I am not a president of an association, I am not able to attend the Member Council meetings. I find it hard to represent the Small MA's when I am not privy to their thoughts and conversations at these meetings. Without direct access to these discussions, it's difficult to understand each perspective and need of the small provinces. This exclusion limits my ability to advocate effectively on their behalf and forms a disconnect, as I am making decisions based on incomplete information. It's a frustrating gap of knowledge for myself that I wish to resolve, by any means possible, moving forward.

The Board's commitment to inclusivity of all provinces showcases Lacrosse Canada's dedication to growing the Creator's Game and creating a lacrosse community comprised of many different voices. I look forward to continuing to represent the Small MA's with newfound knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm.



## **Executive Director Report Submitted by Terry Rayner**

2023-24 was a great year for the return of lacrosse and the building of our National Sport. We saw a dramatic increase in attendance at the Box Minor Nationals having over 45 teams competing from across the region compared to 12 in 2022.

Looking forward to the next few years, lacrosse is going to the Olympics in 2028 for Sixes along with adding qualifiers for National Teams before World Championships, World Games in China, next three World Championships in Korea and Japan and potential PanAM games. There is going to be an increase in exposure to the game of lacrosse and we need to be able to expose those at the grass roots to build on Canada's success on the global stage.

### **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

2023-24 is one that resulted in a lot of change in Lacrosse Canada with regards to staffing. Over the past few months I have been the Interim Executive Director while Jane Clapham was on leave and have continued through to October. We have welcomed new members to the staff, Ashley Bull as National Teams and National Championships Coordinator, Sarah Utting has become the Administration Coordinator, Samantha McKenzie as Manager of Partnership, Josh Dawick Sponsorship Coordinator and new Technical Director Rachael McKinnon.

With the engagement of the Olympics, Own the Podium and the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) Wendy Dobbin has become the High Performance Lead as this requires a full-time person attached to this next chapter of lacrosse. Kealan Pilon is our Communications Coordinator and attended both the World U20 in Hong Kong and the Mens and Womens Box in Utica, New York this past summer providing us with a lot of exposure on social media.

We have transitioned the office back to a hybrid model and have secured office space in Oshawa at 102-350 King St W, Oshawa L1J 2J9

### **LC GOVERNANCE:**

#### **Governance Working Group:**

With Members in support of LC becoming a member of the (COC), LC began stage one of changes to our board composition last fall at the AGM in Toronto.

The Governance working group alongside Steve Indig, Sport Law & Strategy Consultant have met a few times to begin preparation for stage two and the final stage in the fall of 2024 to ensure compliance for Sport Canada and the COC.

Steve Indig provided a Town Hall in October to provide the information about the final stage in changing of bylaws. A special meeting of the members will be held before the AGM for approval of two changes.

#### **Communications:**



Since the AGM and with a large turnover in staff Communications between all levels of LC and Members needed to improve. We have transitioned from using the archaic E-room to now using Microsoft Teams to facilitate communication between committees and within the organization.

LC needs to create a Communication Plan which and is something that has been identified within the strategic planning meetings and will be addressed in 2025.

Suzanne Belanger our Director of National Championships alongside Ashley Bull have worked extensively on creating new platforms for communications for hosts, convenors, officials in charge for all of our National Championships. This will allow for consistent messaging and reporting for all involved, convenors, hosts and officials in charge.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

In 2024 our Strategic Plan expires. This was identified early in 2024 and a committee was created to review and identify the needs of Lacrosse Canada as the National Governing Body. The Committee has met twice and has begun the process of creating a new plan to be presented at the AGM in the fall.

### ***BUSINESS PLAN***

A Business Plan was developed early in 2020 by Shawn and Jane Clapham and was presented to the Board and Members in the spring of 2020. They received some great feedback which led to Shawn and Jane meeting with each Member Association in 2020 to answer questions and discuss how the Business Plan would fit with each MA.

This resulted in the following:

In LC Fiscal Year 2024/2025

- U7 players to not pay LC participant Fee
- Participant Fee \$10
- Coaches Fee \$20
- Officials Fee \$25

In LC Fiscal Year 2025/2026

- U7 players do not pay LC Participant Fee
- Participant Fee \$15
- Coaches Fee \$20
- Officials Fee \$25

As part of the quadrennial cycle for Sport Canada and the COC, Lacrosse Canada has developed an Organizational Plan for Implementation that will run from 2025-28 for review by the Members and also the Board of Directors at the AGM.

### **OPERATIONS MANUAL/POLICIES:**

An updated and new format of the Operations Manual was posted on the LC website in 2024. Policies are updated through Sector Meetings at the SAM, Board meetings and/or Meetings of the Members.

We continue to make formatting changes of the Operations Manual to improve accessibility on mobile devices. In the fall of 2024 LC will be hiring a Manager of Finance/Governance who will oversee changes needed for policies and bylaws.



## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING:**

**Finance & Audit Committee:** The Board is actively looking for members to join this committee.

**Budget 2023-2024:** A draft Budget for 23/24 was presented and approved by the Members at the 2022 LC AGM with a deficit of \$530,912 to be balanced by retrieving \$530,912 from the CLF to cover the deficit.

Membership Fee revenue is back in place for LC Fiscal year 23/24 after being reduced in 2022/2023 and waived in 2021/2022 and 2020/2021 due to the pandemic.

Fee Increases were approved at the LC 2022 AGM as mentioned earlier in my report. The increase in Fees should significantly reduce an LC deficit budget in 24/25 and eliminate a continuous budget deficit, in 25/26 going forward allowing LC to begin funding development opportunities within the organization (Based on 2022 membership #'s).

The budget was proposed in the fall of 2023 and was approved for 2024-25 at the SAM.

## **SAFE SPORT:**

Lacrosse Canada is fully committed to the principles of safe sport and ensuring safety and well-being of all participants in its sport.

Along with the Independent Third Party Safe Sport Officer and mechanism in place to address allegations of maltreatment in lacrosse, Lacrosse Canada is pleased to announce that it signed an agreement to join the Abuse Free Sport Program for its national stakeholders and group of UCCMS participants effective March 31, 2023.

The Board of Directors approved LC's updated Safe Sport Policies on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 that align with the Abuse Free Sport Program [HERE](#)

Lacrosse Canada and its national stakeholders –the group of UCCMS [Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport](#) participants, will have access to the services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) [HERE](#), which serves as the central hub of Abuse-Free Sport.

The primary group of UCCMS Participants comprise National Volunteers (LC Board of Directors, Sector & Committee Chairs), LC Staff, National Team Athletes, National Team Coaches, National Team Staff and National Team Event volunteers. All Primary UCCMS Participants were required to complete, sign and return an Informed Consent form to maintain their privileges as a member of Lacrosse Canada prior to March 31, 2023.

National Championship athletes, Convenors, RIC's and officials will also be considered UCCMS participants for the duration of the respective championship. An Informed Consent form will be sent to the respective MA's once athletes/teams have been identified for the respective championship athletes to complete and return to LC. An Informed Consent form will also be sent to National Championship Convenors, RIC's, and officials once they have been identified for them to complete and return to LC.



In 2024 it is the requirement of these partners and members to do training online and take a course. Ashley Bull and Sarah Utting have taken the lead to ensure all are in compliance.

### **PARTNERS, FUNDING PARTNERS AND SPONSORSHIP:**

**Sport Canada:** Sport Canada's new Funding Framework that was supposed to be implemented in the summer of 2021 has been delayed twice and is currently being reviewed by the Sport Minister. LC has been informed that LC's reference level of a total of \$445K, \$435K and \$10K specifically allocated to translation will be maintained for 2024/2025. As well the Gender Equity and Safety in Sport funding will be separate applications going forward.

With a second review of the Framework it is unclear if SC will make more changes to the Framework. The three key areas that were previously being evaluated in the new Framework were – Olympic sports, carding of athletes, and attending major events (Pan AM Games, Commonwealth Games etc). Should these three areas remain it is expected there will be a significant decrease in our SC funding in the future if we do not become members of the COC (Canadian Olympic Committee). With the full recognition from the IOC we are now able to apply to the COC for membership but our current governance structure impedes us from being approved (as mentioned under Governance section of my report). Sport Canada is changing the way in which we get approved for funding and that will begin in November 2024. Presently there isn't a lot of information from Sport Canada and if it will begin then compared to spring as per normal. Sport Canada is conducting their own internal changes and this is one of them.

**Canadian Olympic Committee (COC):** With lacrosse having received full recognition by the IOC, LC can apply for COC membership. Lacrosse Canada has begun the application process and has met with Own the Podium on May 8<sup>th</sup> to begin conversations. Wendy Dobbin will have submitted our proposal and met with OTP and COC between this report and the AGM. Justin Oliveria from OTP will be attending the AGM for a small presentation and will also be answering some questions.

**CCES:** Ashley Bull is presently the contact in the office for any questions related to anti-doping.

As an organization that supports the WADA and CCES Anti-Doping Code (CADP), LC is now required to disclose the identity of High Performance Athlete Support Personnel to these organizations. Furthermore, as part of the 2024 CCES Anti-Doping Code (CADP) our Athlete Support Personnel, for National Teams, must complete education and sign an agreement to expressly confirm they are subject to the CADP. Athlete Support Personnel includes High Performance coaches, trainers and individuals assisting athletes in Canada which would include Lesley Hawke, our GM's, their coaching and support staff, and currently myself in the LC office.

**CAC:** Report as per Technical Coordinator

**National Team equipment sponsors:** Information can be found in the Director Marketing/Communication report.

### **NATIONAL TEAMS PROGRAM:**

Reports as per Director High Performance & International Relations & High Performance Coordinator.

**International events:** As per Ashley's and Matt's reports.



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**CONCLUSION:**

I would like to thank Shawn, Paul, the Board of Directors, Member Council, Sector Chairs, committee volunteers and MAs for your continued support to the LC Office, for your partnership and trust and for your many, many hours of hard work to grow and improve the game.

Yours in lacrosse,

*Terry Rayner*

Terry Rayner  
LC Interim Executive Director





**Technical Director/High Performance Lead Report**  
**Submitted by Wendy Dobbin**

**High Performance:**

Congratulations to the World Champions in Men's Box and Silver medalists in Women's Box and U20 Women's Field. We would like to thank all the athletes, coaches and everyone that contributed to the development of these athletes and teams. Thank you to BCLA, Marisa Di Bari, Ashley Bull and everyone that contributed to hosting the Super Sixes event in October.

In preparation for LA2028 Olympic Games, work has begun with Own the Podium (OTP) and the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC). Lacrosse Canada is in the midst of our first review process with OTP, COC, Sport Canada and high performance partners. The review process shares a high performance plan, presentation and discussion to optimize the development and support of the sixes high performance program, athletes and coaches leading to LA2028.

- Oct 31 - Presentation
- January - Notification of recommendations for funding and opportunity to revise plan
- February - Notice of enhanced funding for 2025/2026 fiscal year
- April 1 - March 31 - OTP / Sport Canada fiscal year

**Coaching:**

Domestically, Lacrosse Canada continues updating and simplifying the NCCP coaching programs with the Competition Introduction context the focus of 2024/2025. To continue to develop our coaching community and provide opportunities for quality professional development, Lacrosse Canada is currently in the process of drafting a professional development strategy. Stay tuned for the rollout of a series of professional development opportunities for the winter of 2024/2025.

**Canada Games:**

The Canada Games programming is now moving forward after a number of delays. After hosting two successful Competition Development weekend one workshops, the locations and plans are set for the weekend two workshops coming up in December and January. The value of bringing coaches together from different provinces supports the shared learning environment that is a central element of the NCCP design and is sure to benefit all MAs. As well as the weekend two workshops, there are two upcoming offerings of a virtual delivery of the performance planning section of the workshop. By moving performance plannings to a virtual delivery, it has allowed greater sharing of technical and tactical content when the coaches are together in person.

**Ballcharts Database:**

Lastly, as was communicated throughout the past few months, the ballcharts database platform (nccp.lacrosse) that provinces use to track coaches credentials was compromised early in the fall. It appears that twelve different sports that use ballcharts experienced the same issue. We are working with the provider and other sports to determine next steps and establish a new way forward. As this breach occurred on the weekend that the Competition Introduction workbook was being retired, we will continue to work with MA's as needed to support any coaches that had work in progress. Thank you to the staff, Board of Directors, MA's and committee chairs for your time and dedication in advancing the sport of Lacrosse.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Dobbin



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**Partnerships Report  
Submitted by Samantha McKenzie**

This month, we welcomed two new members to the Partnerships department, Samantha McKenzie and Josh Dawick, and we're excited about the direction we're headed. We're focused on building a strong foundation of partnerships and sponsorships that align with our operating plan. Our key priorities include growing the sport of lacrosse, creating strategic alliances with professional leagues, and extending our audience reach. Additionally, we're working to support our high-performance athletes and engage our alumni in new and meaningful ways. We look forward to the upcoming year and the continued growth of our efforts.



## **Administration Coordinator Report Submitted by Sarah Utting**

I would like to begin by taking the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, Member Council, Sector Chairs, and Member Associations for their ongoing support, as well as the LC Staff team for the work they all do on a day-to-day basis to make Lacrosse Canada a success.

### **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

Administration and financial responsibilities continue to be very demanding, but we continue to work on streamlining processes. We have been grateful to have the experience and expertise of Kathy Hare and Suzanne Gipp at Sport Law supporting the finance side of the office.

The submission of expense reports has seen an increase since the 2024 SAM for officials, coaches, players and staff, due to a busy summer and fall with National Championships and many national teams travelling. A large part of this time is spent following up with individuals who have not submitted forms/receipts properly, are missing supporting documents, or are claiming expenses that LC does not cover, and requesting new expense reports to be submitted for accurate reporting. We will continue to look for opportunities to work on streamlining this process.

### **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

All Lacrosse Canada staff continue to meet both in person and virtually as a team for topic-specific meetings. The office is pleased to welcome the following new staff since our 2024 Semi Annual meeting:

- Samantha McKenzie - Manager of Partnerships
- Rachael McKinnon - Technical Coordinator
- Josh Dawick - Sponsorship Coordinator

In August 2024, Lacrosse Canada entered into an agreement to lease out an office space in Oshawa, Ontario and the LC Staff team has begun to transition into working in person. The address of the new office is:

*Lacrosse Canada  
360 King Street West Unit 102  
Oshawa, Ontario  
L1J 2J9*

### **AM**

I look forward to seeing the Board, MA Presidents, and MA Executive Directors at our Annual meeting in Toronto! The organization of both the SAM and AM continues to be an exciting and rewarding growth opportunity.



## **PLAYER TRANSFERS**

The transfer season came to a close on June 26 2024. The office saw a total of 286 transfers come through from the Major Box Sector. It was a pleasure to work with all Transfer Representatives, who I learned a great deal from. Although there were many new individuals within these roles, everyone was committed to learning the process and working collaboratively.

This year's transfer period began with some difficulty around negotiation list duplicates and errors. LC staff have been working diligently to assess our current transfer process and offer recommendations to the Board to help with the efficiency of this process for all players, coaches, managers and transfer representatives for future seasons.

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

I had the pleasure of working closely with MAs for the 2024 National Championships. I would like to thank all of the Sector/Committee chairs, our Director of National Championships, Suzanne Belanger and our High Performance Coordinator, Ashley Bull for their hard work and support as we tackled the exciting events from this past summer.

## **CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS**

In partnership with Parachute, LC distributed a copy of our new Concussion protocols to all MAs, which was in line with Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The updated protocols can be found here: [Lacrosse Canada Concussion Management Guidelines](#)

## **OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The most recent version of the Operations Manual with changes from the 2024 SAM was distributed in August. The Manual as well as the Summary of Revisions can be found here: [Operations Manual & Summary of Revisions](#)

## **NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL**

Lacrosse Canada has officially switched from "E Rooms" to "Microsoft Teams" as our main method of communication and file sharing for Staff, Board of Directors, Committees, Sectors and MAs.

In closing, I am confident that change can be beneficial. By embracing simplification and thinking creatively, we can develop more user-friendly approaches to our processes. I am always open to suggestions and welcome any best practices that other organizations or MAs are utilizing to see if they may work for us at Lacrosse Canada. I am very grateful to all those who have helped me learn and grow within my role over the past six months and look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future.



## **Technical Coordinator Report Submitted by Rachael McKinnon**

### **Canada Summer Games**

We are 10 months away from the 2025 Canada Summer Games where Box Lacrosse will be a sport participating in St. Johns, Newfoundland. One of the main priorities of the Technical Coordinator portfolio has been to ensure that all MAs are aware and up to date with the requirements of each coach to participate on the bench. Each MA has received an overview of each coaches' credentials and has highlighted what each coach needs to be working towards in order to be trained or certified to coach. For the 2025 Games, only head coaches will be required to have the certified status.

We have offered two Competitive Development Part 1 workshops; one in Halifax and one in Calgary. We have also coordinated dates for the Performance Planning portion of the training to be delivered virtually. This was done to accommodate the in-person sessions having a more technical and tactical focus. Part 2 Competitive Development workshops are being hosted in Toronto in December and in Saskatchewan in January.

In partnership with the Aboriginal Sports Circle, Lacrosse Canada has coordinated and hosted a virtual offering for the Aboriginal Coach Module. Coaches have been provided with a link to register from their MAs with two offerings; October or November.

We have continued meetings with our Canada Summer Games Sports Advisor to ensure that logistics are taken care of in terms of equipment needs, scheduling, venue setup, meals and rooming for athletes and staff. The council is looking at hosting a second technical session on site in April, with more details to come at a later date.

### **Coaching**

We have retired the Coaching Workbook as of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024, so we are ensuring that coaches who did complete their workbooks are recorded as completing the requirement. These competencies will be evaluated at the time of certification.

By the end of November, we are expecting to receive an updated report for the MOC (Maintenance of Certification) on all coaches. We will work with the provinces to assist them in supporting coaches that have not maintained certification and to get back to in 'good standing' in the CAC locker.

### **Growth Opportunities and Future Developments**

Discussions are progressing to see how different disciplines of lacrosse could be supported with the help of Lacrosse Canada such as Wheelchair Lacrosse and Mixed Ability Lacrosse offerings. This includes looking at the model of coaching certifications being offered and working with coaches who are currently leading these programs.

### **Officiating**

Conversations are underway on how the certification process works across all disciplines and how we can update how resources are being shared.

### **Women's Field Lacrosse Rule Submissions**

Ashley Bull and I have reviewed feedback submitted from the Women's National Team programs to propose rule changes for the next cycle of Women's Field Lacrosse. We have also worked with WF officials in Canada to put together a list of items that we would like to see changed or adjusted. These changes would not only impact rules at International level but domestically as well, as we play by International rules across Canada.



## **High Performance and National Championships Coordinator Report Submitted by Ashley Bull**

### **NATIONAL TEAMS**

#### **WOMEN'S U20 FIELD LACROSSE:**

Team Canada competed at the U20 Women's Field Lacrosse World Championships from August 15-24 in Hong Kong, China. The women showcased exceptional talent and determination, ultimately securing a commendable second-place finish. Throughout the tournament, they demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and thrilled their supporters with impressive performances. It was a hard-fought battle in the gold medal game and Canada at the U20 level is beginning to close the gap to the top.

#### **MEN'S U20 FIELD LACROSSE:**

In June of this year, Lacrosse Canada officially begun the search for the next set of athletes to represent Canada at the World Championships taking place August 15-24, 2025 in Seogwipo, Jeju Island, South Korea. The selection process began on the West Coast, hosting the first round of tryouts in both British Columbia and Alberta, and concluded on the East Coast in Ontario. The coaches narrowed it down to 68 for the second round of tryouts which took place over Thanksgiving weekend, October 11-13. Coaches will continue to evaluate these athletes until the final roster is selected. For the eligible athletes, this is an exciting opportunity to showcase their abilities and contribute to Canada's rich lacrosse legacy as they look to compete for gold in 2025.

#### **MEN'S SENIOR BOX LACROSSE:**

The men's box lacrosse team competed from September 20-29 and has achieved another remarkable victory by clinching their sixth straight Gold at the World Championship in Utica, NY. Their exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination were on full display throughout the tournament and they were led by an all-star coaching staff that led them to secure the top spot once again. This victory highlights the dominance that Lacrosse Canada has had and continues to have in the sport and adds to the legacy that box lacrosse has throughout this nation.

#### **WOMEN'S SENIOR BOX LACROSSE:**

The inaugural women's box lacrosse championship was held concurrently with the men's box lacrosse world championship in Utica, NY. The women competed from September 20-29 in a fast paced, physical, and talent driven tournament. This championship marked a historic milestone for the sport, showcasing the dedication, passion, and commitment to women's box lacrosse on the world stage. The Canadian women went undefeated in pool play and held opponents to 0 goals, being scored on for the first time in the quarter finals. They battled but faced a tough battle in the gold medal game, ultimately finishing in second place. Despite the loss, the inclusion of women in this championship is ground-breaking and is a significant achievement. This championship highlights the growth of women's box lacrosse around the world and is paving the way for future generations. The visibility achieved at this championship will undoubtedly inspire more women to embrace the sport and continue its development globally.

#### **WORLD SUPER SIXES (MEN'S AND WOMEN'S):**

This year, the World Super Sixes was hosted by the BCLA in Coquitlam, BC. Canada was represented by a men's and women's team in their respective divisions and each competed in a 3-team pool. The men competed alongside First Nations and Mexico, while the women competed alongside Great Britain and Haudenosaunee. The event was hosted over Thanksgiving weekend, October 11-13, and provided non-stop, action-packed lacrosse to the province of BC. The event was also live streamed which was an



incredible addition to those watching from afar. Spectators, both in person and virtually, were able to see the version of lacrosse that is to be played at the Olympic level in 2028- a frequent comment was how fast and exciting this game is! Each game was back and forth action and the talent and precision of the games was excellent. The teams played a double round robin and the gold medal games were played on Sunday afternoon. Two incredible gold medal games were played and the Canada women and the Canada men both claimed victory and finished on top in their respective divisions.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

This summer has been filled with excitement as teams competed in various National Championships at both the Minor and Major levels, showcasing their skill and dedication. Suzanne, the Director of National Championships, played a pivotal role in the success of this year's championships, providing invaluable support in preparing Hosts, Convenors, and Officials in Charge (OICs) for their upcoming events. Suzanne has taken the lead on looking at the gaps in the current process and has dedicated a lot of time and effort behind the scenes to help improve the experiences of future National Championships. While this year has made progress, we recognize that there are still areas of improvement and we look forward to implementing the suggestions that we received from the various reports to ensure each year brings enhancements and growth to make the experiences better for all involved.

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PROGRAM:**

The initial beginnings of The National Development Team Program (NDTP) are underway. There is a men's Canada East and Canada West as well as a women's Canada East and Canada West. Each program consists of a team at the U15, U17, and U19 level for a total of 6 men's and 6 women's teams across Canada. Coaches are in the process of being finalized with press releases to follow, tryout dates have been confirmed in the West as well as in the East, and a tentative schedule of competition has been created. The program will be up and running with coaches and their rosters for 2025. By focusing on player and coach development, the initiative seeks to strengthen overall performance of lacrosse in both regions and create a pathway to excel at the National and International levels.



## Communications Coordinator Report Submitted by Kealan Pilon

### Overview:

Lacrosse Canada has had a successful summer season that contained many changes. After a Summer of National Championships and National Team events, there is a lot to update.

### Social Media

Here are our updated social media following as of October 21, 2024

#### Instagram:

Followers: 26k  
Reach: 504,165  
Views in last 3 months: 3,623,302  
Interactions: 114, 293  
Highest Post Outreach: 42.8k (Women's Jersey Reveal)

#### Facebook:

Followers: 11.2k  
Reach: 294.5k  
Likes: 28.3k  
Highest Post Outreach: 22.9k Men's Box Lacrosse Roster

#### Twitter:

Profile Visits: 5k  
Impressions: 641k  
Followers: 13.3k

#### NEW Tik Tok

Followers: 1,094  
Post Views: 72k  
Profile Visits: 2,105  
Likes: 2,252

This past summer we made significant growth on our social platforms. Between National Championships and National Team events, there was plenty of opportunity to build our platform. Our biggest growth was on Instagram. We successfully hit our goal of 25k followers, as we saw 5k new followers join our Instagram since the SAM. Through collaboration, National Championships were well represented on our Instagram which drove content to not only our page, but also each National Championships socials. Events such as U20 Women's and World Box Championships also helped us provide great social content to grow our brand. We also recently started a Tik Tok account. Tik Tok has risen to a top-level platform and we see opportunity here through things such as a content series. As we enter the Winter months lookout for new content that has never been done at LC before across all platforms.

### Website:

For the past few years, we have used the same main website. We are currently in the beginning phase





of making a new more interactive website that is easier to follow. This will lead to more website interactions along with a more professional and up to date design. We are excited to take our website to new heights, with a goal of a new website being ready to go this winter

### **Registration:**

National Championship registration went much smoother this year, however I am aware of the issues that came up during the summer and have now taken these issues to RAMP of how this process can move along even better. Starting with finding the easiest ways to transfer team roles to managers after MA's sign up their teams. ED's were very helpful in registering their teams so that every team's manager did not have to try and learn the RAMP system. The goal this winter is to work on the issues and apply them to next year's registration which should make the process even easier for our MA's. Any additional questions from MA's are encouraged.

### **Newsletter:**

Our Newsletter has had a great first year. With tons of new content every month, our friends at Brock University have done a great job collaborating with us. This year we would like to include more content from the MA's so we can help spread information you may need. Along with applying giveaways throughout the year.

### **Next Steps:**

This year our goal is still not to simply maintain, but to take Lacrosse Canada to the next level. We will continue working with the communications teams of MAs to amplify events and initiatives, as well as celebrating the good work our members are doing. As we continue to grow our team at LC, our content and reach will be a focus as we look to expand to areas we have never been before. Through these goals, we aim to develop the profile of Lacrosse Canada, demonstrating our diversity, passion, and dedication to the sport and general lacrosse community.



## **Minor Box Sector Chair Report** **Submitted By Chris Gallop**

This past year has held numerous exciting events for Minor Box Lacrosse.

We were excited to see a full roster of Minor Nationals in Saskatchewan this past August. This was the second year of a two-year rotation for the host group and they have done an excellent job over the past two years. The Minor Box sector put together a working committee to look at revising the format for minor nationals. After much discussion and great collaboration among the members of this committee, a new format was adopted and implemented at the 2024 minor nationals. This fall the working group is reconvening to review, assess and report back to the Box sector on that initiative.

The U13 Female festival was a success this past year as well. A proposal is coming forward to make U13 female into a full national championship for parity with their male counterparts. This can only lead to good things for female box lacrosse.

The U22 Female Box Nationals competing for the Carol Patterson Trophy once again took place at minor nationals as well. This has been a great success, but a move is occurring to look to have these championships moved to a truly Junior national championships to allow these athletes the recognition they deserve. The success at this division is a direct result of the work put forward by our Provinces to attract our female box players.

At time of writing the Minor Box sector is considering the following:

1. Putting forward a rotational schedule for Minor Box Nationals.
2. Being part of a standardized schedule for proposals to host Minor Nationals
3. Examining the schedule of hosting and whether the committee wants to propose to move to 2-year hosting agreements. The committee is going to get back to naming hosts 2 years in advance of the tournament (as per the OPS manual) so that hosts have lots of time to plan and ready to host. The feeling amongst the committee as of October 2024 is that should a host want to offer a two year agreement we should move forward with that but if not go with a 1 year agreement. This will require further discussion.
4. Some other items the committee is looking at are proposals to:
  - a. Change the number of games assessed for Match penalties
  - b. Ensuring there are adequate medals for teams players and staff at Minor Nationals
  - c. Adding to the number of players that can be rostered at Minor Nationals
  - d. Being part of a discussion to have the due date for lists of officials for Minor Nationals only moved back to June 15 to allow for adequate planning to take place.

At the time of report for the Lacrosse Canada AGM in Nov 2024, Canada Games Council has met numerous times to work on:

1. Coach certification. Provinces have really done a great job of getting their coaches registered for Coach Clinics for CSG 2025 in Newfoundland.
2. Ensuring all provinces are moving forward with their identification of training groups for CSG 2025.

Some items we will be working on next:

1. Ensuring each provincial team has correct jerseys.
2. Finalizing coach certifications
3. Test event on site for 2025.



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We want to express a huge thanks to Wendy Dobbin and Rachel McKinnon for their efforts in supporting the Canada Games committee.

I want to thank all the volunteers across Canada who work tirelessly on Boards, committees, benches and behind the scenes. Your dedication is unparalleled, and we appreciate it. The fastest game on two feet would not be the same without you!!!

Yours in lacrosse,

Chris Gallop



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**Major Box Sector Chair Report  
Randy Trobak**

**No report submitted.**



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**Women's Field Sector Chair Report  
Heidi Bates**

**No report submitted.**



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**Men's Field Sector Chair Report  
Chris Doyle**

**No report submitted.**



### **Sixes Sector Chair Report Submitted by Wendy Cuthbert**

The Sixes Sector's focus will be on development in 2025 and beyond.

The plans for the 2025 season in the Sixes Sector will emphasize the need for learning facilitators for coaches and officials, and the re-evaluation of the Long-Term Athlete Development program. It is very important for the Sixes Sector to concentrate on the development of athletes, coaches, and officials. Lacrosse Canada has Member Associations reluctant to develop Sixes because there aren't any approved formal technical certification programmes.

The Sixes Sector strategic plan includes a national championship from the U19 division and up, with Festivals in the U17 division. Sixes National Championships will create interest in the game, and will allow high-performance lacrosse athletes developed in one or more of Lacrosse Canada's traditional sectors the ability to develop at this new Olympic Lacrosse game

Next steps for the Sixes Sector

- Member Associations to develop learning facilitators, master course conductors and master course developers (officiating and coaching respectively) for Sixes Lacrosse.
- The Sixes Sector to re-evaluate the current long-term athlete development program for Sixes, with a lens focused on age groups from U17 to senior divisions with pathways to multi-sport world events.
- Member Associations to prepare for offering Sixes Lacrosse events in 2025.
- Re-evaluate the Sixes Sector strategic plan, to include National Events that will support the mandate to develop the Sixes game at the U17 level and higher.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Cuthbert  
Sixes Sector Chair



## Coaching Committee Chair Report Submitted by Roxanne Curtis

A warm welcome to the new Technical Director of LC, Rachael McKinnon. She has jumped in with both feet and is navigating all things NCCP and coaching related – great job so far! Our coaching committee meetings have consistent representation from across the country as we endeavor to assist all MA's in delivering a consistent, positive coaching message to new and returning/experienced coaches.

### **POLICY CHANGE**

In the "Policy Changes" package we have put forward a **COMMON chart for Minimum Coaching Standards**; our committee feels this will be an easier reference for all MA's to utilize when letting their coaches know what is required for all Sectors. One stop shopping!

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

Many of our MA's trialed the new "common" slidedeck in their clinics this spring which covers all things "NCCP" and 'need to know when starting into coaching'. This can then be followed by a SECTOR specific on floor/field component. Coaches then only need to attend the first part of the workshop once, and can add on their SECTOR specific technical pieces. (must use the revised common slidedeck to take this approach)

This seemed to be well received. If MA's have not attempted this approach, I would be happy to assist in bringing your LF's up to speed in delivery methodology.

### **COMPETITIVE INTRODUCTION**

The workbook has now EXPIRED. Coaches who completed Competition Introduction clinic prior to 2023 – and did not get it submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 – will NOT BE IN GOOD STANDING, must re-take the Comp Intro clinic

The move toward certification by completion of Make Ethical Decisions and an in-person evaluation is "next steps" for your coaches. The Portfolio Evaluation Package is available through Lacrosse Canada; this approach utilizes a growth mindset to assist coaches in their continuing coaching journey.

### **COMPETITION DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you to Duane Bratt and his leadership in continuing to build our Comp Devt coaches and LF's. Canada Summer Games workshops are underway. We will be looking for means to more widely deliver the Comp Devt workshops for other interested coaches in future.

### **BODY CONTACT RESEARCH – Ash Kolstad, U of Calgary**

The Coaching Committee had a great presentation from Ash Koldstad at our meeting in May titled, "is it time for Checking Policy in Child and Adolescent Box Lacrosse?"

In case the results info graphic was not shared with you, I've attached it to my report. Food for Thought!

I look forward to continuing to dialogue and work with MA's to continue to grow our coaching pool across the country.





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**Officiating Committee Chair Report  
Steve O'Shaughnessy**

**No report submitted.**



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**LTAD Committee Report**

**No report submitted.**



### **Equipment & Safety Committee Report Submitted by Ryan Preston**

A new committee was formed in August 2024. The committee consists of Ryan Preston (chair), Wendy Dobbin, Steve O'Shaughnessy, Paul Lehmann, Ted Cordingley, Marc Bourret, Rachel McKinnon, Bryan Baxter. The committee met for our first meeting in early September 2024.

We are planning to meet twice a year virtually, once in September and once in March. The September meeting was just a broad overview of what is expected from our committee. We also discussed specifically about the size of goaltending equipment and how we can possibly implement some rule changes to equipment to make sure players are wearing the right size to not only keep them safe but also so there is not a competitive advantage.

The topic of female specific goalie equipment also was discussed. Since then, I have been on several phone calls with Jason and Alan of Boddam Lacrosse. They have already developed a chest protector prototype, the (Valkyrie) and hope to have it being worn by female athletes this December, so they can get feedback from the athletes.

Thanks,

Ryan Preston  
Equipment and Safety Chair



## **Gender Equity Committee Report Submitted by Donna Goguen**

The Lacrosse Canada Gender Equity Committee meets regularly, and lively discussions are shared around what each MA is doing to grow the game for girls and women. We hear about the work being done to increase opportunities for them to play lacrosse, in each sector, here in Canada.

We are very fortunate to have so many women from lacrosse communities across the country willing to be part of this committee and while they are all busy, they bring their stories and experiences to this table, as players, coaches, officials and as board leadership.

Our recommendations to the board around gender equity have centered on education and awareness. This includes those Canadian Women & Sport workshops and programs that the Board has participated in. We know that this consciousness raising will continue to move the needle at Lacrosse Canada. Progress can be slow, but we are headed in the right direction.

Gender is only one equity issue to be considered when bringing under-represented groups into our sport in Canada. However, by finding ways to increase the number of girls and women playing lacrosse, we pave the road to having lacrosse players, coaches, officials, and administrators reflect the rich, cultural diversity now represented in our country.

We still have a long way to go to achieve gender equity in our MAs. Equitable programming is not available in every province. The World Lacrosse Senior Women's Box Championships in Utica with provide more impetus for the growth of box lacrosse for girls and women. We remain hopeful that with more resources and support, solutions will be found to address inequities.

As Chair, I would like to thank the committee for their commitment to this important aspect of growing the game of lacrosse in Canada. I would also like to thank those on the Lacrosse Canada board who were open to participating in the CW&S programs to learn more about why lacrosse programs should be planned using a 'gender equity lens'.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goguen  
Chair



**Canadian Lacrosse Foundation Report  
Submitted by Jim Burke**

To Lacrosse Canada as of October 18, 2024

The purposes of the Foundation are:

- (a) To advance the public understanding of the role of Lacrosse in the history and cultural development of Canada;
- (b) To educate and instruct Lacrosse coaches and officials on the rules of the game and player development;
- (c) To provide Lacrosse programs to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities and troubled youth; and
- (d) To receive or maintain a fund or funds and to apply all or part of the principal and income therefrom, from time to time, to qualified donees under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

**Investment Portfolio Results**

We have not received our quarterly report for the period ending September 30, 2024 which will be produced later this month. Our last quarterly report was June 30, 2024 and at that time the balance of the portfolio was \$2,822,310 after a withdrawal of \$140,000 to the Foundation to fund their existing projects and meet their quota distribution requirements. The balance of the portfolio today is \$3,206,211.

Economic conditions have greatly improved over the past six months resulting in the TSX hitting record levels. Interest rates have started to fall, inflation is coming back into line, employment is good and the overall prospects are healthy. We continue to have serious conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East and we continue to have political uncertainty in the US as this is an election year and the election is very close in the polling information provided. These conditions are affecting both the US and the Canadian markets where the funds are invested.

We have sufficient funds in our current account to meet all our current obligations. We continue to generate dividends and interest earned at a good rate. In the last four quarters, we have generated dividends and interest of \$106,000 and our annual quota distribution requirements are for \$140,000.

**Update on Activities for 2024/ 2025 Fiscal year.**

Canadian Lacrosse Foundation Project – Lacrosse Talks and Video Project – Approved \$20,000

The Foundation has completed all the work on this project and we are continuing to roll out the finished product weekly. We expect to process all the remaining bills this quarter and will close off this project.

N60 Wellness Project – Approved \$72,425 – Remaining \$65,445



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This program has been worked on for over four years and has been delayed due to the pandemic and the slow recovery from the pandemic in the North. Modelled after the program featured in the movie "The Grizzlies," this project will introduce a wellness program in three communities for the youth of Nunavut using the game of lacrosse. We continue to work with the ED of Hockey North in Yellowknife and this individual is an active member in the roll-out of the program. We are looking at clinics in Iqaluit and Yellowknife over the next few months and hope to have this project wrapped up by next summer / fall.

Kingston Project - Approved \$23,400 - Remaining \$20,986

This project was completed in the month of September and we are just processing the final invoices. We will be fully complete this quarter.

Jim Burke

*Chair*

*Canadian Lacrosse Foundation*



## **First Nations Lacrosse Association Report**

Greetings,

I write you today on behalf of the First Nations Lacrosse Association and present our 2024 year-end report. The past 12 months have been focused on the growth and development of our association for both, current leagues and future ones. We are proud of the hard work our Team First Nations management staff put in to resurrect our minors' program which ultimately led to our return at the Minor Nationals. While one of our teams from the Three Nations Lacrosse League did take a year off, both our Jr B league and CanAm experienced solid expansion. We hope to see more expansion from all three of our current leagues for the 2025 season. Regardless of the number of teams within our leagues, we feel the level of play, on-floor, took another step up across the board. We look to continue this growth and development through the upcoming winter and are eager to see all of our teams back on the floor in the spring of 2025.

In terms of growth, the FNLA has been engaging in talks with the North American Minors Lacrosse Association (NAMLA) going back to November of '23. Both the FNLA and NAMLA have AGM's coming up in early November and one of the big topics at both tables will be the potential of finally developing a FNLA minors' system by bringing NAMLA under our umbrella. In addition to a Minors' sector, we are in the early stages of developing a Women's sector, Field sectors, Sixes Sector and Masters sectors. There is a growing interest in our territories for all sectors of our great game and we plan to offer our athletes every opportunity we can. The idea of creating both Sr and Jr A teams have been brought up and will be discussed at the upcoming FNLA – AGM. Questions needed answered from LC prior to our discussion at the FNLA table would be, does the FNLA have the ability to represent ourselves at both the Mann and Minto Cup? While we may not be able to house multiple "A" teams at the moment, we do believe we have enough players within the FNLA to produce competitive teams at both levels. By not being able to offer that level of play to our current FNLA members, they have to leave our MA in order to gain that experience. We are looking to LC to aid in developing a way we are able to offer our players that "A" level of player without having to leave the FNLA. We would also consider the possibility of playing crossover games with other MA's that would be interested.

With all of these potential opportunities of play additionally offered by the FNLA, we also foresee a potential rise in teams wanting to join that may seem to fall within another MA's territory, or jurisdiction. We want to remind all that the FNLA holds the right and ability to have leagues and teams on any First Nations Territory found on Turtle Island from coast to coast. It was very disheartening to see so much pushback on our attempt to return to the Six Nations Territory for the 2024 season. Our members hold the right and deserve the opportunity to play against or with family within one another's territory without restraint. Regardless of the obstacles presented to the FNLA during our 2024 expansion, we plan to offer these new leagues to ALL First Nations athletes on First Nations' Territories from coast to coast found on Turtle Island. We hope to have LC's support in this plan of growing our MA.

As we develop our relationship with NAMLA, we have created both a player's and coaches' developmental course for this winter. Sessions will be running once a month from November until March and has been offered to current FNLA & NAMLA members as well as potential members from the local areas, not registered with any other MA under LC. Coaches will have the opportunity to learn from local experienced coaches regarding practice & game planning, decision making and targeting development of players. In addition, we are targeting the last weekend of January to get both our new and current coaches in with a Learning Facilitator to ensure all are ready for the 2025 season. Through



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our on-floor player developmental program, we will also be able to offer additional opportunities to game official development as well through scrimmages and exhibitions.

While a lot of our 2024 was geared towards growth and development, there are a few things the FNLA would like clarified. When was the decision voted on to make National Championship rules universal? Also, what was the official vote for the decision to make the BCLA Champion be a tier 2 team when attending the Mann Cup? We have seen it published more than once than Ontario was the only opposition to this amendment. I personally voted against it on behalf of the FNLA along with Ontario and just want to make sure it was recorded as such. The rule which allows players to fly through the crease from all angles needs a serious review by Lacrosse Canada before we see one of our game's best injured. We also question why we are allowing players to dive from behind the net to slam dunk the ball at National Championships? The final clarification the FNLA needs is the new rule which limits the number of "Professional Players" a Sr. B team is allowed to carry. How is this rule being policed? Why are the findings not published and why was an apparent protest from multiple teams not given the time and attention it deserved at the 2024 President's Cup? There was many different protests on how many players exceeding the game limit were carried on the host's roster and those protests have seem to be ignored. We are asking what the official number of "Professional Players" on each 2024 President's Cup Roster was and how those results we're achieved? Furthermore, how will the 2025 rosters be policed, and will those results be made public prior to the tournament?

As representatives of all First Nations when at National Championships, our teams come to play hard and play fair with respect for the game, its' participants, organizers and its' spectators. We ask we receive that same treatment in return both on and off the floor.

Nyawwe (Thank You),

James Rickard – FNLA President  
716-514-0092  
james@firstnationslacrosse.com





**British Columbia Lacrosse Association  
Submitted by Gerry Van Beek**

**BC Lacrosse Association President's Report to Lacrosse Canada 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The BC Lacrosse Association (BCLA) had a lot of wins in 2024, but also many struggles.

Field Lacrosse – The season was successful, with all competitive divisions completing provincials. BC teams participated in all National Championships successfully. We had many teams compete internationally also. The list of BC women and men athletes at various school lacrosse programs in Canada and the USA continues growing.

Box Lacrosse – All the leagues operated in 2024 with full programming including provincials. BC teams participated in all National Championships. BCLA was the host MA for Minto Cup (Coquitlam) and President's Cup (Ladner). The events were fantastic.

Sixes Lacrosse – we had a several 6s events including the Super Sixes in October. BCLA Sixes programming is evolving in conjunction with both Box and Field Lacrosse groups.

The BCLA and its' Directorates and Technical Groups had annual meetings and elections. The dedicated groups of leaders elected to run programming for lacrosse in the future of the BCLA are

...

Field Lacrosse

Chair – Beth McLucas

Senior Directorate

Chair – Dave Wilkie

Minor Directorate

Chair – Gord McIntosh

Coaches Group

Chair – Travis Gillispie

Officials Group.

Chair – Doug Wright

BCLA Board

President – Gerry Van Beek

Vice President Administration – Nichola Manning

Secretary – Liz Hyland

Vice President – Operations – David Bensmiller

Vice President – Performance Programs – Tyler Codron

Vice President – Development – Terry Mosdell

Vice President – Technical Programs – Russ Aunger

Director At Large – Rita Stroup

Yours in Lacrosse,

Gerry Van Beek – BCLA President.



## **Alberta Lacrosse Association 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



## Saskatchewan Lacrosse Association Report

It has been an incredibly eventful year for Saskatchewan Lacrosse, filled with numerous activities, transitions, and the arrival of new faces. Following our AGM in March, we welcomed six new Board Members to various positions, while also bidding farewell to seven dedicated volunteers. Sask Lacrosse is excited to embrace fresh perspectives and is deeply grateful to those who have contributed their time and effort to bring the organization to where it stands today.

One significant change this year was the shift of our Field season from spring to fall. After years of discussion, the Field sector opted to make the move, as many players found it challenging to balance both Field and Box Lacrosse within the same busy three-month summer period, especially during Nationals season. While the transition had its hurdles, overall participation in Field saw a significant increase, particularly in the younger divisions, where numbers doubled. Notably, 72 players who had only played Box Lacrosse tried Field for the first time, effectively doubling their time with sticks in hand. This shift also marked the return of Field Festivals, and we saw our U15 division compete in Provincials using a 10's format instead of 7's.

The summer was bustling as we proudly hosted the inaugural Prairie Cup Regional Championship and once again welcomed teams from across the country for the Minor Box and U22 Women's Box National Championships. It was a privilege to host our colleagues nationwide, and we hope everyone had a memorable experience. The Prairie Cup is a major milestone for lacrosse development in the Prairie Provinces, and we couldn't have been more honored to serve as the first hosts. We also host our third Premier Lacrosse League camp.

In terms of participation, we experienced a slight dip in Box Lacrosse numbers, particularly in the U17 division, as we continue to adjust post-COVID. However, there was growth in our younger age groups, which is critical for building the future foundation of the sport. Female participation remains strong, with this year marking an all-female program development. Provincial Championships for Box Lacrosse (A, B, and C) and Field Lacrosse (U13 to U17) were successfully held, along with U11 Box and Field Provincial Festivals. A highlight of the Field Provincials was the U20 All-Star North vs. South series, showcasing the talent of our younger athletes.

We were proud to send six teams to Box Nationals, with five finishing in the top four and bringing home four bronze medals. Although we could not field a U19 Men's Field team this year, it was due to a unique circumstance: many of our athletes had committed to university programs, leaving us short on numbers. While disappointed, we take pride in seeing so many of our athletes leverage their passion for lacrosse to pursue educational opportunities. Our U17 Men's team performed well, also finishing in the top four. We were also excited to see Sask's return to Women's Field Nationals for the first time in over 30 years. We are immensely proud of the ladies who took on this challenge! As the fall season continues, we are already looking ahead to preparations for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

Overall, it has been another busy year for Sask Lacrosse. As we take a break from hosting duties for the next few years, we are eager to focus on our Strategic Plans for 2025 and beyond, with a goal of increasing participation and strengthening our grassroots programs.

Thank you.



## **Manitoba Lacrosse Association Report**

Steady growth again for lacrosse in Manitoba in 2024 across all sectors.

Our box lacrosse participation surpassed 1,000 for the first time this year, as the sport grows both in Winnipeg and throughout rural Manitoba.

Field lacrosse in Manitoba also continues to grow, primarily led by our great High School league that in 2024 had 32 teams – the most yet.

The female game is where the most growth is found in Manitoba – in both the box and field games. 2024 saw the successful launch of our first all-girls box lacrosse league, as well as continued expansion of the Women's division of the Manitoba High School Field Lacrosse league which has grown from 3 to 10 teams in just three seasons of operation. We expect this number to increase to potentially 15+ teams in 2025. The Sixes game has been an excellent tool to help facilitate the growth of Women's Field Lacrosse in Manitoba.

2024 was the busiest year yet for the Team Toba program. 12 teams represented Manitoba at various National and Regional events – indicative of the increasing interest in the sport at its higher levels among Manitoba kids. This increasing interest of late has also resulted in more Manitobans playing college/university lacrosse than ever before.

We were thrilled to host the 2024 Jenny Kyle Cup in Winnipeg this year and hope the attending provinces had a good experience. We can't wait to host our next National event in 2026 as the First Nations and Alumni Cups return to Winnipeg.

2024 also saw the launch of the Prairie Cup – a new regional box lacrosse championship between MB, SK, and AB. The event's inauguration was hosted in Regina in 2024, and we are excited to be bringing the event to Brandon, MB in 2025.

Lacrosse in Manitoba continues to be on the rise, and we are looking forward to an even better 2025.



## Ontario Lacrosse Association Report

The leadership councils of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's 14 leagues, as well as our staff and our Board, continue to lead in both of the athlete development pathways; grassroots/community and high performance excellence. Our programs continue to experience growth in breadth and depth, and the players, coaches and officials throughout Ontario are strong ambassadors for the sport within and beyond our province.

We have completed the first stage of our governance and leadership reform with the assistance of third parties, and look forward to the next set of revisions that will provide clarity and strength to our organization. Our plan provides an inspiring vision, clear mission and strong fundamental values to guide growth and development within our association. Our strategic plan, which is built on five key pillars and referenced to our members within all major materials, reinforces a culture where lacrosse is the premiere choice for athletes in Ontario. Our overall strategy, as we continue to extend our reach, is to modernize our organization so that we can best lead our membership into the future.

We continue to be amazed at the accomplishments of our coaches and officials, who provide safe, fair and fun environments for our players to participate and our spectators to enjoy the game. With over 6,300 games played across four sectors in Ontario this summer, we recognize and applaud the efforts of our members who continue to give their talents to the game so that participants have a place to play. We are thankful for all of our participants, and are committed to developing resources that support them.

In addition to the success of our women's field, minor and men's field, and box lacrosse programs, we proudly launched a strong foundation for Sixes earlier this fall, allowing participants to fall in love with the newest version of the game. Registration in our inaugural divisions exceeded our expectations, and we are energized by the immediate embracing of this emerging sector. Through the next several months, we look forward to implementing the lessons and building upon the accomplishments that we experienced this past season.

Our minor field and women's field teams competed for a combined 22 divisional titles this season, while our minor box provincial Festival crowned a total of 34 championship teams from U9 through U22, including twice as many teams competing in our U13 Girls division. Our successes this season are not simply limited to game play within Ontario; on the national stage, Team Ontario rosters combined for two gold, four silver and three bronze medals, while our Ontario Provincial Championships finished in both gold and silver in Founders Cup, silver in Minto Cup, and gold in Mann Cup competition. We extend our congratulations to our teams and programs on these remarkable achievements.

We graciously acknowledge representatives of the Manitoba Lacrosse Association (Women's Field Nationals), Saskatchewan Lacrosse Association (Minor Box Nationals), Alberta Lacrosse Association (Minor & Men's Field Nationals), as well as the host committees in Coquitlam BC (Minto Cup) and Delta BC (Presidents Cup) for their efforts to coordinate national championship competition this past season. Your organization's commitment to welcoming teams and staff from each territory and province to celebrate our shared love of lacrosse is appreciated. Thank you.

Finally and most importantly, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many OLA volunteers that dedicate countless hours of work to help us achieve our goals. From soft lacrosse to Senior "A" and all divisions in between, your passion and commitment is how we succeed. Thank you for being there with us; our accomplishments are yours. Our unified partnership with all stakeholders will be the key to our success and the achievement of our goals, and we encourage everyone to be part of that journey together with us.

Sean O'Callaghan

Ontario Lacrosse Association President  
On behalf of the Ontario Lacrosse Association



## **Fédération de Crosse du Québec Report**

2024 was a year of restructuring for the Quebec Lacrosse Federation. The FCQ worked closely with the Ministry of Education and the RLSQ's legal department to achieve full compliance under Quebec's not-for-profit governance code.

In box lacrosse, the year started off strong with the NLL coming to Quebec for a first game in the province since 2002. The Toronto Rock and New York Riptide played a regular season game at Laval's Place Bell and fans packed the house. This event served as a wonderful preparation for the minor box season. 13 associations were able to take part in an exciting and organized season that concluded in an exciting end-of-season tournament. The FCQ hired a registrar to assist and aid the associations' leadership in getting their members in the registration system and ready to go while the FCQ's Executive Director served as commissioner for the season. For 2025, the goal is to facilitate the creation and administration of minor box leagues across the province that will operate independently from the FCQ's staff. That being said, associations and the FCQ will put their main focus on growing participation numbers and opportunities, especially for female participants.

2024 marked the creation of an officials' association backed by the FCQ. It is one of the federation's priorities to recruit, develop and retain more officials in the years to come. In Field and Sixes, the FCQ was able to count on the RSEQ (Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec) as a partner member to deliver superb leagues and programming for our high school participants. It is the federation's hope that this relationship will continue to flourish and lead to additional teams and leagues being created across our province, especially at the Cegep level where there currently exists a gap between high school and university.

Nationally, the FCQ was able to send 5 teams to Nationals. 3 in box lacrosse (U15, U17, U17 women's) & 2 in field lacrosse (U17 & U19). The FCQ hired a director of provincial teams to oversee the administration of these teams. The FCQ wishes to thank the ALA and SLA for hosting these great events and congratulates every association that took part and made this experience so valuable for our participants. We are looking forward to fielding more teams as a result of heightened participation numbers in future years and are now putting a lot of our focus on Canada Games.

Best regards,

Philip Dubeau Chicoine  
Executive Director, FCQ



## Lacrosse New Brunswick Report

**President's Report (Stephanie Frenette):** Lacrosse New Brunswick has six Minor Lacrosse Associations that under its jurisdiction. The six Associations are:

Capital Area Lacrosse Association in Fredericton, NB

Codiac Lacrosse Association in Moncton, NB

Fundy Lacrosse Association in Saint John, NB

Harvey Lacrosse Association in Harvey, NB

Miramichi Lacrosse Association in Miramichi, NB

Tantramar Lacrosse Association in Sackville, NB

There are also two University Lacrosse Associations:

Mount Allison University Lacrosse Association in Sackville, NB

University of New Brunswick Lacrosse Association in Fredericton, NB

There is one Junior Lacrosse Association:

Sant John Rapids Lacrosse Association

In 2024, registration numbers in both box and field lacrosse are estimated to be 37% higher in comparison to 2023. In 2024 there were 862 players in NB (including U7) in comparison to 627 in 2023 and 288 in 2022.

In 2024 LNB sent a U15 Co-Ed box team and a U17 Co-Ed box team to the National Minor Box Championships in Regina, SK. The U15 team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place which is the highest placing ever for a NB Provincial Box team at a National Championships. We also sent a U19 Field Lacrosse team to the National Field Lacrosse Championships in Calgary, AB. Lastly, the Male Junior A Rapids team played in the Founders Cup in Hamilton, ON.

One of our biggest obstacles across the Province for all MA's is finding available Facilities to rent for Box and Field Programs. Many facilities will not allow lacrosse to be played or is too expensive. Many Arenas are keeping the ice surface on longer and even when the ice is removed the Arenas will often not allow lacrosse to be played or will prioritize other sports over lacrosse. This is becoming an important issue that is hindering the growth of lacrosse in New Brunswick.

Overall, lacrosse is gaining more popularity in New Brunswick and we remain positive that lacrosse will continue to grow and develop across the Province. With the 2029 Canada Games coming to New Brunswick we are hopeful that this will highlight the sport of lacrosse in our Province and continue to increase participation numbers.



**Women's Field Report (Nancy Huckla):** Unfortunately, LNB still has not produced a Women's Field Lacrosse Team. Part of the problem is trying to find qualified coaches and officials. Possibly, going to Sixes will help this issue in 2025 as the Sixes teams require a smaller number of players.

**Men's Field Report (Stephanie Frenette):** New Brunswick, Men's Field Lacrosse is played at the High School and University Levels. We have three MA's with a High School Field Lacrosse League. As well, we have two University Teams, Mount Allison University and University of New Brunswick that play in the Maritime University Field Lacrosse League (MUFL). In total New Brunswick had 154 players for Men's Field Lacrosse in 2024. Also, in 2024 New Brunswick sent a U19 Male Team to the Canadian National Field Lacrosse Championships.

Men's Field Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sectors in New Brunswick right now and we are hoping that it will continue to grow and develop.

**Sixes Report (Stephanie Frenette):** In New Brunswick, there were three (3) MA's in 2024 that had a Sixes Field Program. There were 98 players in total that participated in Sixes throughout the province. However, we expect these numbers to increase in 2025. The largest division was the High School Sixes program in Fredericton with 40 players. Also, there were some smaller Sixes programs in the U11, U13, and U15 divisions throughout Saint John, Fredericton, and Moncton regions.

**Box Report (Chris Burgess):** Since the pandemic, Lacrosse New Brunswick (LNB) has transformed its box lacrosse landscape, growing from below 300 members pre-COVID-19 to nearly 1,000 participants in 2024. This significant growth is a direct result of our strategic focus on Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles, recreation and high-performance pathways alike, and enhanced coach and athlete development programs. We have achieved historic milestones, including our U15 team's best-ever placement at the Box Nationals, while simultaneously addressing gaps in organizational effectiveness and strengthening our program offerings. LNB is committed to driving continued growth and success in box lacrosse at both the grassroots and high-performance levels, with a clear vision for the future.

## **1. Program Numbers and Membership Growth**

Lacrosse New Brunswick has experienced remarkable growth, increasing our membership from under 300 members pre-COVID-19 to nearly 1,000 in 2024. This growth has been especially prominent in Member Associations (MAs) that have fully embraced LNB's LTAD-supported initiatives. MAs adhering to these development frameworks are demonstrating stronger growth and retention rates, while those that are not are lagging behind.

- MAs compliant with LTAD best-practices: 12% annual growth and improved retention.
- MAs non-compliant with LTAD best-practices: 3% growth, indicating stagnation in development and retention.

This clear correlation reinforces the need for alignment with LTAD principles as we continue to prioritize sustainable, long-term athlete development across all levels of play.

## **2. New Brunswick Performance Pathway Initiative (NBPPI)**

The New Brunswick Performance Pathway Initiative (NBPPI) is a province-wide, multi-sport project led by the Canadian Sport Institute Atlantic and Sport New Brunswick, designed to enhance high-





performance sport development across the province. As a participant in this initiative, Lacrosse New Brunswick (LNB) is committed to delivering a five-year high-performance plan aimed at producing elite athletes and coaches.

In year one of the NBPPI, LNB will offer a comprehensive Performance Pathway for its top athletes and coaches, featuring the following programs:

- **Competition Introduction Plus:** A program for coaches to receive Comp. Intro training, access to additional coaching resources (tech, hard goods), and a handful of other non-NCCP PD activities
- **Coach Mentorship Program:** A structured mentorship opportunity where experienced coaches work with a handful of up-and-coming coaches to build high-level coaching capacity within the province. Advanced coaching resources, multiple in-depth small group events, funding for PD and more.
- **Athlete Centered Excellence (ACE) Program:** A cornerstone of LNB's high-performance efforts, offering elite training in areas such as strength and conditioning, mental performance, and nutrition for U17 athletes. Integrated with the 2025 Canada Summer Games and Provincial Teams programs.
- **Provincial Teams Program:** A focus on identifying and developing athletes to compete for provincial teams at national events.
- **Canada Summer Games Teams:** A dedicated program preparing athletes for the 2025 Canada Summer Games, with intensive, year-round training and competition.
- **Goaltending Development Program:** A specialized initiative targeting the development of high-performance goaltenders.
- **Junior Support Program:** Targeted at U21 athletes, this program supports athletes in their off-season training by utilizing CSI-A resources, taking significant financial strain off-of our Junior Box programs.

These programs represent LNB's commitment to fostering excellence and preparing athletes and coaches for success on the provincial, national, and international stages as part of the broader NBPPI framework.

### **3. Competitions and Achievements**

*2024 Minor Box National Championships:* LNB sent both U15 and U17 Male teams to Regina for 2024 Minor Box Nationals. We received great feedback from participants, coaches, volunteers and parents alike.

*Founders Cup:* In 2024, Lacrosse New Brunswick sent a team to the Founders Cup, where they finished 7th overall. We will be returning to the Founders Cup in 2025. LNB is actively preparing a bid to host the Founders Cup in 2026, which will serve as a crucial platform to showcase New Brunswick's growth and potential in box lacrosse.



*U15 Achievement at Box Nationals:* LNB's box lacrosse program reached a major milestone in 2024 with our U15 team placing 4th at the Box Lacrosse Nationals, marking the highest placement in New Brunswick's history. This achievement is a direct result of the investment in structured athlete development programs, high-quality coaching, and the commitment to long-term planning and preparation.

#### 4. Officials Development

Officials' development remains a critical and unresolved issue for box lacrosse in New Brunswick. Despite LNB's proactive efforts, there has been no clear guidance or support from Lacrosse Canada on officials' development, creating a bottleneck in our progress. Without a national framework, the standardization and growth of officiating in box lacrosse will continue to be a challenge, potentially hindering the growth of the sport. We urge Lacrosse Canada to prioritize the creation of a comprehensive officials' development program.

#### 5. The Nelson Cup

The situation surrounding the Nelson Cup has deteriorated significantly. This tournament, which holds historical value, has been disregarded by other Member Associations, who have chosen to prioritize their self-interests over the collective benefit of the lacrosse community. This undermines not only the tradition of the event but also the spirit of cooperation that should define our sport. We call for renewed dialogue to restore the Nelson Cup to its rightful place as a cornerstone of box lacrosse in Eastern Canada.

#### 6. Expansion of Senior C and Junior B Programs

To address the growing demand for post-junior and recreational lacrosse, LNB is expanding its programming to include both a Senior C team and a Junior B team. These additions are in line with our Lacrosse for Life philosophy, ensuring that athletes of all ages and skill levels have opportunities to compete and continue their lacrosse journeys. This expansion is critical to building a robust lacrosse ecosystem in New Brunswick, where athletes can stay engaged with the sport throughout their lives.

#### Conclusion

Lacrosse New Brunswick's box lacrosse sector has made significant strides in 2024, marked by historic achievements, membership growth, and the expansion of high-performance and grassroots programs. However, there are still critical issues that need to be addressed, such as the development of officials and the future of the Nelson Cup. We remain assertive in our commitment to advance box lacrosse across all levels, and we look forward to working with Lacrosse Canada to resolve these challenges and continue building on our successes in the years ahead.

**Coaching Report(Chris Burgess):** This year, Lacrosse New Brunswick (LNB) made significant strides in coach development, enhancing both the quality and capacity of our certified coaches. One of our key achievements is the establishment of multiple in-house Learning Facilitators (LFs) and Coach Evaluators, enabling us to train and certify coaches up to the "Competition Introduction" level. These efforts have increased our autonomy in developing coaches and strengthened our provincial coaching pipeline.

#### Key Highlights:



1. **Certification Advancements:**

- LNB now has multiple in-house Learning Facilitators (LFs) and Coach Evaluators, allowing us to train and certify coaches up to the "**Competition Introduction**" level.
- By the end of this year, we will have **five new "Competition Development" coaches** in New Brunswick, significantly boosting our high-performance coaching capability.

2. **Coaching Foundations & Futures Initiative – Managing Growth:** As our participation base grows rapidly, LNB has designed the **Lacrosse NB: Coaching Foundations & Futures Initiative** to manage this expansion while maintaining the quality of coaching. This initiative is our solution to ensuring that our coaching capacity increases without compromising the standard of education and development provided to our athletes.

The initiative includes the following key programs:

- **Community Development Stimulus Project:** Offering the **Community Development Course** in each Member Association (MA) at no cost, ensuring grassroots coaching continues to thrive as our sport expands.
- **Female Francophone Development Project:** Targeting the **untapped French-speaking demographic** in New Brunswick, this project will develop a **French-speaking Learning Facilitator** for the Community Development course, expanding lacrosse's reach into new communities.
- **Competition Introduction Plus Program:** Designed to elevate "Competition Introduction" coaches who are ready to further develop their skills and certification, ensuring they can effectively lead growing teams and programs.
- **Coach Mentorship Program:** This hands-on program pairs experienced coaches with up and coming High Performance coaches, focusing on key areas like season planning, practice design, and team culture, ensuring our High Performance Sector continues to develop and thrive.

3. **Professional Development (PD) Integration:** We are also committed to placing as many coaches as possible into **Sport New Brunswick-driven Professional Development (PD) activities**. These opportunities will enhance the quality of our coaching and also promote lacrosse within the broader multi-sport coaching network in Atlantic Canada, ensuring we remain visible as an increasingly important player in the regional sports landscape.

**Looking Ahead:** With initiatives like the **Coaching Foundations & Futures Initiative**, LNB is addressing the challenges of a fast-growing participant base head-on. We are focused on increasing our coaching capacity while maintaining and even improving the quality of coaching provided to athletes at all levels. These efforts align with our mission of "Lacrosse for Life," ensuring a sustainable future for lacrosse in New Brunswick through well-trained, supported, and certified coaches.



## Lacrosse Nova Scotia Report

Since our last meeting in May, LNS has been actively engaged in both our Box and Field seasons. Our programs continue to demonstrate growth, both in our registration numbers and the visibility of lacrosse throughout Nova Scotia. Our Board is near capacity as we continue to seek representation province-wide. Most significantly, I am extremely fortunate to have dedicated, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable staff members; Donna Coguen (Executive Director) and KJ MacNeil (Technical Director). The entire membership is grateful for their devoted support in all aspects of our game.

Our Strategic Plan continues to guide the LNS pathway, anchored by our five pillars (Participation, High Performance, Technical Leadership, Organizational Effectiveness, and Promotion and Collaboration). A key focus has always been grassroots, and to introduce the sport of lacrosse to an inclusive audience from young to old, recreational to high performance, as well as advancing our successful and ongoing programming targeting under-represented groups in Nova Scotia.

Box season unfolded with increased participation at both gender and age levels with League and Club structures continuing to strengthen year by year. There has been a budding interest with willing local volunteers to establish new clubs in previously untapped regions of Nova Scotia. We continued to introduce and develop our game with introductory lacrosse programs open to all, across the province. We remain committed to our gender equity goals and with advancing Canada Women and Sport initiatives and the Playbook program. We continue to progress our Sixes initiative, progressing cautiously in a deliberate fashion and in step with LC direction, as we await LC accredited courses for both coaches and officials.

Our Nova Scotia Senior Privateers won back-to-back championships at the Ales Hrebesky Memorial Tournament in Prague in April. This was the first time since 2009 that a team was able to defend their title. Our Provincial teams were fully represented with great success this year in Box Minor Nationals in Regina. We look forward to taking the baton to host the tournament here in Nova Scotia next year. Our plans are already underway as we form the hosting committee and build the volunteer base. For the first time in several years Nova Scotia was able to send a team to the Founders Cup in Hamilton. We plan to continue our future representation. As well, our men's U17 Field lacrosse team participated in the Alumni Cup in Calgary over Labour Day weekend. We reinstated our own Provincial Tournament in Halifax with over 44 teams participating, making it clearly the largest tournament ever. With overwhelming success and many lessons identified, we plan to continue its growth next year and beyond. Our Canada Games preparations are well underway as we establish the athlete identification process. Our High-Performance goals were certainly met with our training and participation in these key local and national events.

A determined focus on coach accreditation has driven an increase in participation in coaching courses. Although the numbers are improving, we continue to be challenged in providing enough officials to meet the increasing demand, as our sport increases its popularity and growth across the province. We are addressing a retention issue for officials as well as instituting a solid viable plan to train and increase the cadre of Facilitators in both coaching and officiating. This will be key to advance the goals of our Technical Leadership pillar.

Organizational Effectiveness has been a major goal for our Board over the last six months and will be the single priority over the upcoming 'off-season'. We will review and institute a revised framework for proper governance and policies to be translated into our bylaws and operations. These will include the mandated policies and directives resulting from our enlistment in the Sport NS SafeSport program.



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Our transition to RAMP interactive was successful over the summer. Although there were some growing pains through its implementation, the benefits and efficiencies of RAMP were clearly demonstrated as the season drew forward.

Finally, and most importantly, congratulations to Wayne Finck, the 'Father' of lacrosse in Nova Scotia, for being posthumously bestowed the esteemed honour of this years' Lester B Pearson award. The popularity and enthusiasm of our game is evident and mounting. The visibility has ramped up significantly through the hard work of our dedicated lacrosse community, as well as the presence and the positive influence of the NLL Halifax Thunderbirds. Many thanks to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Aquanno - President LNS



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**Lacrosse Prince Edward Island Report**

**No Report Submitted**



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### **Lacrosse Newfoundland Labrador**

The NLLA began 2024 with its winter Masters league as the only active club in the province comprised of 15 members ranging in age from 19 to 64. The league played box lacrosse from January to April and will transitioned to field lacrosse in June until August.

In addition the NLLA has provided support to the development of a minor box program on the Burin peninsula comprised of 35 athletes. We have also provided support to the development of minor programs in Grand Falls -Windsor and Conception Bay North.

Currently our U17 continues training in St. John's and on the burin peninsula ahead of the 2025 Canada Games. We are in the process of getting our Canada Games coaches