



## President's Report 2018

### Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

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For the last twelve months it has been an honour and privilege to serve as President of Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI). Whilst never forgetting that we are here to serve the youth of Saskatoon in furthering their development and enjoyment of the “beautiful game”, this year has been both interesting and rewarding. I would like to thank the SYSI Directors, our zone board members, the committees and all the dedicated volunteers who make soccer in Saskatoon a fun, safe and thriving environment for our youth. A special thanks to our Past President Dave Taylor for his mentorship and encouragement and a huge thanks to the SYSI staff and in particular Amanda Probe our Executive Director for her leadership, tireless efforts and support.

Our year started with unexpected staff changes which was handled with professionalism by all those affected. A special mention goes out to the SYSI staff for stepping up and working above and beyond to maintain the continuous quality of service to our members.

Most notably in 2018, we saw the start and completion of one of the most in-depth organizational reviews of SYSI in its history. Over several months the process embarked on multiple surveys, stakeholder meetings, interjurisdictional and inter-sport interviews, focus groups and stakeholder collaboration sessions. This was all designed to identify the needs of the membership and understand what SYSI could do better to support and grow its membership. Recently, SYSI had experienced a decline in soccer registration numbers and was seeking to understand the root cause(s) and develop solutions to build capacity and membership. On a side note our indoor registration numbers are up this year over last year. The results of the study will be presented by Praxis Consulting on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30pm followed by this year's AGM.

In 2018, we continued to build our relationship with the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA). A meeting in September of SSA and SYSI office staff and board members resulted in an honest and open discussion leaving both organizations with a better understanding of each other's roles and expectations. This bodes well for future collaborations and our thanks go out to their President.

On behalf of SYSI, I would like to thank the zones for their continued support in sending their liaisons to attend SYSI board meetings as this practice has bettered our organization and provided openness, enhanced communication and transparency.

In conclusion, as we close off 2018 we look forward to the tasks of 2019. Next year will see the implementation of the organisational review recommendations. It will also see new opportunities to our membership with the introduction of Club Licensing as presented by the Canadian Soccer Association.

With the continuation of 'Parent Tot' and 'Kids in the Park' initiatives and the leadership of the zones, our numbers will grow. Change is a constant within all organizations and together we can surmount any and all tasks and go on to achieve wonderful things. SYSI's soccer community is in good hands and will continue to provide a fun, active and socially positive environment that continues to align with our mission for the youth of Saskatoon.

Sincerely,

Mark Millard  
President