



President's Report 2023 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

For the past six years it has been an honour and privilege to serve as President of Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI). I would like to thank the SYSI board of 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 huge thanks to the SYSI staff and in particular Amanda Probe our Executive Director for her leadership, tireless efforts, and support.

I would be remiss not to extend a thank you to Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. and Saskatoon Soccer Centres Inc. staff and leadership for their support, in particular the service teams at both facilities. These individuals rise above and beyond expectations and ensure a safe environment is enjoyed by players and spectators alike. I wish to also extend a special thanks to all the players and parents for their support and commitment.

Let us always remember that we are here to serve the youth of Saskatoon in furthering their development and enjoyment of the "beautiful game".

Last year, I wrote the following in the President's Report, "Out of the ashes of the pandemic, Saskatoon Youth Soccer arose like the proverbial phoenix. Registrations for the 2022/2023 indoor season are up by 802 players, we have 47 more teams in our leagues, numbers we haven't seen since 2015. The groundwork laid down during the pandemic, the reorganisation of our leagues along with the birth of The Alliance has paid dividends. The cooperation born of necessity of our five zones, united in a common cause to provide excellence and to further meet the needs of all players has born fruit." So having said that, a reasonably realistic goal for 2023 would have been to make sure that our organization was able to retain those numbers. Not only were numbers retained but further outstanding growth occurred in the 2023 outdoor season with 88 additional teams (or 900+ players) which marks the highest outdoor registration numbers since 2016. This substantial growth continued into the 2023-24 indoor season where we experienced an additional 54 teams (or 600+ players) most notably in the under-11 to under-15 age groups bringing our indoor participation numbers to an all time high since 2006!

There are many factors that contribute to this growth such as the successes of our national men's and women's teams bringing soccer into the national spotlight; the increase to Saskatoon's population and area from 275,000 to 342,000 over the past 10 years including many newcomers creating a more culturally diverse and more vibrant community where many new families see soccer as their main sport; as well as quality programming, wonderful facilities, and a fun, active and socially positive environment that continues to align with the mission of Saskatoon Youth Soccer. All these factors create a recipe for success and growth.

Thank you,

Mark Millard
President, Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

***SYSI's mission statement is to create the culture and opportunity
for every child to enjoy participating in soccer.***