

Female Director – Rob Buchanan

1. Background

- a. I'm married with three children who have all played hockey. The two playing this year are Ryleigh in Peewee and Mason in Bantam. I saw a need for a strong advocate for female hockey two years ago and have spent my spare time over the last two years fighting to make female hockey better in St Albert.

2. Why?

- a. I'd like to continue to bring equity to the female program. All too often I hear that you must treat the girls the same as the boys, that is not equity between the coed and female programs. First and foremost, the girls should be treated like hockey players, and methods that work for coed teams and divisions do not work the same for female teams and divisions. Case in point we had 7-8 girls signed up for the Knock the Rust off skates this year before making two of them all female and we ended up with a few still in the coed skates and 38 registered between both all-female ice times with less than a weeks notice.

3. What do I bring to the division and association?

- a. I bring two years of breaking down barriers with other associations female programs. Over the last two years the female directors within the region have gone from rarely talking to each other and fighting over boundaries to regular discussions and open conversations about how to grow and improve female hockey within the region and associations. From 5 directors to 12 having these discussions in the last year alone, including 3 associations that had never had female director before. Creating plans for how to share the small pool of goalies within the region so that all girls get a chance to play hockey and all teams get a chance to have a goalie.
- b. I also have a strong voice that isn't afraid to speak up and challenge the status quo.
- c. This includes piloting the all female hockey league for 8 U11, 8 U13 teams, to go with the existing U15 (12 teams) and U18 (11 teams) all female hockey division teams this year.

4. What is your vision?

- a. My vision over the next two years is to continue to promote female hockey through existing opportunities like:

- b. Esso Fun Days, where girls get to try hockey in a safe female lead (Slash) environment for the first time.
- c. Grow the World Girls Ice Hockey Weekend (WGIHW) once we return to normal conditions. For WGIHW a small group of active female hockey volunteers and I ran a 2:15hr fun all ages scrimmage with female referees for any and almost 100 girls that were registered in SAMHA last year.
- d. I'd like to continue the pilot and make permanent the female only hockey league that is being piloted for U11 and U13 this year based on the success in Calgary over the last five years which has seen their female hockey numbers double, and follows the existing U15 and U18 female hockey model in our region.
- e. We also need to create an annual all ages female tournament like Okotoks' or WickFest where girls of all ages come together to compete and share their passion for hockey. Please let me know if you have time to help organize this opportunity to grow female hockey.
- f. I'm always looking for assistance to grow female hockey and hope that win or lose the other Female Director candidate reaches out to me, to or for, help in growing the female program in St Albert.