



Inspiring the future.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

2025 Annual General Meeting of the BC Sports Hall of Fame

WORKING TOWARDS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

In an admittedly challenging year of financial circumstances that have spanned the bridging period between Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026 -- and the corresponding Board of Trustees term of 2024-2025 -- we have relied on the resilience of the BC Sports Hall of Fame & Museum and the dynamic supporters that stand behind us.

That includes you and everyone reading this Report from the Chair of the BC Sports Hall of Fame on the occasion of the 2025 Annual General Meeting., one year shy of the 60th Anniversary of the BC Sports Hall.

It is a resilience that has shone through on several occasions over the 59-year plus history of the BC Sports Hall. It was demonstrated most recently during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the resultant recovery in and around 2022 from the adversity that our community – and the larger sport system itself – faced collectively a half-decade ago.

We not only embraced those unique challenges head-on, we bounced back strong from COVID-19, generating several of the best financial and programming results that we've ever achieved together, from high-water marks in donations and three of the biggest events that we've ever held outside of Vancouver to one of the best-performing Banquet of Champions induction events in the event's history and the award-winning Digital Indigenous Sport Gallery, the biggest Canadian Heritage (Government of Canada) project in our history.

We have been reminded again of that resilience over the past six months and we'll rely on it more than ever before to ensure a full recovery from the deficits of last fiscal year.

A FOCUS ON FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND OUR COMMITMENT TO CELEBRATING HONOURED MEMBERS

As we wind down the 2024-'25 Board term, I wanted to thank you for your work under difficult circumstances. In particular, I wanted to acknowledge our Treasurer Ross Wolrige and his Finance & Audit Committee and our Banquet of Champions Committee co-chaired by Aziz Rajwani and Samantha Chang and also including Ross, Joanie McMaster and Gina Iandiorio. Those two committees and our Executive Committee vice-chaired by Wendy Pattenden and Gareth Rees have been the focus of our governance this calendar year, with most of our other committees in pause for the first 120 days of Fiscal 2026 while we worked with our key interest holders to map out a full financial recovery.

We also wanted to convey a special thank you to Curator & Facility Director Jason Beck and our core management team and staff for their passionate dedication to the BC Sports Hall, week-in, week-out. Operating without a Chief Executive Officer for more than six months and without a business development team for large parts of that, it is the resilience and passion of our staff led by Jason and Barb Chu that has helped us move forward with summer programming and planning for the fall, including around the inspiration and education associated with our school programs.

NEW SPORTS MINISTER THE HONOURABLE ANNE KANG

The love and appreciation that so many have for the BC Sports Hall of Fame is reflected in part in the support and encouragement of our core partners – including of course the Government of British Columbia through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport, and viaSport, which has been close at hand and willing to help at several levels in ways that have been much appreciated.

We look forward to working with the Honourable Anne Kang, the new Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport, to fulfil our goal of being the best Sports Hall that we can be in promoting sport history, heritage and culture in ways that help the Hall and the larger sport system continue to grow.

BEING PART OF THE BC PLACE DISTRICT

Special thanks go to the BC Pavilion Corp management team led by CEO Ken Cretney and BC Place led by GM Chris May. Even with the understandable focus required by their teams in preparation for one of the biggest events in BC sport history – the FIFA 2026 World Cup -- PavCo has, in words and in actions, shown that they are a special partner of the BC Sports Hall of Fame. They are intent on using the FIFA World Cup hosting opportunity to elevate staging opportunities for all of its tenants – including the BC Sports Hall – in the years to come. We are proud to be part of the BC Place District and we thank PavCo for their vision of long-term development of the Sports Hall as an essential community asset. PavCo’s attempts to minimize the disruption of the construction in-stadium has helped and will help us get through this recovery stronger “on the other side”.

We also thank our friends at Sport BC – including Chair Judy Joseph and CEO Rob Newman -- for their ongoing encouragement and collaboration. Sport BC’s contributions to smart shared events such as the Annual Summit of the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Sport BC’s Community Sports Heroes is a sign of bigger and better collaborations such as that one.

We are also appreciative of the steps taken by our agencies of record, including our long-term communications partners at Laura Ballance Media Group and The One Group, the latter standing strong behind our website and our new virtual creation, the Digital Indigenous Sport Gallery, established in 2024.

Meanwhile, there are two other stakeholder groups that have stepped up to show their own love and sense of community for the BC Sports hall of Fame. To that end, the BC Sports Hall of Fame Foundation and our Council of Chairs deserve acknowledgment for their ongoing support of the BC Sports Hall of Fame as we strive towards long-term sustainability. Their readiness to “be there” for the BC Sports Hall of Fame is appreciated more than simple words of thanks can convey.

HONOURED MEMBERS AS OUR HEART & SOUL

Finally, we acknowledge the heart and soul of the BC Sports Hall of Fame; our Honoured Members. With your support and engagement, we plan to bounce back from this rough patch the same way we did from COVID-19 so that we can continue to be the go-to voice of thanks and recognition to all those who have made British

Columbia one of the best athlete development and sport development hubs in Canada.

A special shoutout to those of you Honoured Members who have stepped up with donations or pledges – and even fresh ideas around creating new, perennial revenue streams -- to help us generate the resources we need to continue to Honour the Past and Inspire the Future. More on you – including a very special gift to the BC Sports Hall of Fame by the family of one of our storied Honoured Members -- in the coming weeks.

GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTABLE OPERATING OUTCOMES

It is a 2024-'25 Board term that was obviously limited in scope and focused on the financial challenges of the past year, but that didn't prevent us from having some important wins in the work of our team and the support it's received from our Board:

- **A national award for our team from the Canadian Association of Sport Heritage (CASH) for the Digital Indigenous Sport Gallery** project in partnership with Canadian Heritage (with the CASH award coming in the spring of 2025).
- **The tangible and intangible support of the BC Sports Hall of Fame Foundation chaired by Blair Horn and the Council of Chairs comprised of the former Chairs of the BC Sports Hall of Fame.**
- **Strong support from the Government of British Columbia** and, in particular, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sports reporting to the Honourable Anne Kang, along with the Sports Branch under the direction of Amy Schneider and David Currie, and the equally important support of CEO Andrew Price and Chair Geoff Wong of viaSport.
- **The Kamloops 2024 Annual Summit September 19-21, 2024.** We garnered 400 people at the two core events of Kamloops 2024, making the Defining Moments Luncheon and Council of Chairs Dinner the two biggest events ever convened outside of Vancouver by the BC Sports Hall of Fame. It was also one of the biggest media events in the history of the BC Sports Hall, with all-

time record media impressions for a non-induction event. Big thanks to the local organizing committee efforts of TrusteeCarolynn Boomer and Kamloops Sports Hall of Fame Executive Director Duncan Olthius.

(With the postponement of the Banquet of Champions to October 21st at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, we made the difficult decision to reschedule what would have been the Abbotsford 2025 Annual Summit from this month until the fall of 2026 – more details to come out of a series of strategic planning, organizational visioning and business modelling discussions that will happen this fall).

- **Co-hosting of special events of historical significance**, including partnering with the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame, Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission and the Victoria Hockey Legacy Society on celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the Victoria Cougars’ Stanley Cup milestone in 1925.
- **The designation of the City of Kamloops and Greater Victoria as Sport Heritage Communities**, ushering in the principle of recognizing those communities that have always put sport first and thereby have served as the training ground of the athletes, coaches, builders and other pioneers who have made BC what it is, a national leader in athlete, sport development and active living, both in absolute and per capita terms.
- **The publishing of the spectacular baseball book Play Ball! written by BC sport historian and media personality Tom Hawthorne – who has often served as a member of the BC Sports Hall of Fame’s Selection Committee - - was made possible by the support of the family foundations of BC Sports Hall of Fame Honoured Members Jake Kerr and Jeff Mooney.** All proceeds from the books sold go to the BC Sports Hall of Fame. Here’s to the Kerr-Mooney model being replicated by other Hall of Famers or other community leaders as part of a series of such books. They are strategically aligned with the very mission of the BC Sports Hall of Fame. They are history. They are a fundraising vehicle. Taken together, Play Ball! is one of the special highlights of the first six months of Fiscal 2026.

THE INSPIRATION 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

We are looking forward to your continued support and leadership in the new Board of Trustees term ahead, including the accent being placed on making the Inspirations 2030 strategic plan a priority for our Board of Trustees and key partners in 2025-'26. By this time next year, we'll be nine months into the historic 60th Anniversary of the BC Sports Hall of Fame, founded in 1966 by Eric Whitehead and a group of community leaders who well understood the power of sport and how vital a strong sense of self is, especially that shaped in part through a strong sense of sport history, heritage and culture.

And to that end, that is the upside to some of the challenges we've faced this year -- the notion that by asking the right questions and pursuing new solutions, we can become even stronger as a BC Sports Hall of Fame in the period coming out of the FIFA 2026 World Cup, our 60th Anniversary year and leading to the end of the planning cycle in 2030.

In the last two planning cycles, we have made so much progress on many fronts – including in digital, social and virtual platforms, along with some important steps towards growing a truly provincial footprint throughout British Columbia. Yet we have also learned that attention is required for other aspects of our business model that have not adjusted and adapted as much as they could to new marketplace conditions, including economic, political, social and technological.

The themes of financial efficiencies and functional effectiveness – along with capacity and focus – will set the tone and tenor for our planning going forward.

Working as a Board of Trustees with the Foundation, the Council of Chairs and our core partners outlined above, that will be the push behind Inspiration 2030, creatively identifying new opportunities to make the BC Sports Hall of Fame highly sustainable as the go-to storyteller of BC sport history, heritage and culture.