



President's Report – Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association

2026 was an exciting year for Kelowna Minor Lacrosse, bringing continued growth, new opportunities, and several significant accomplishments across our association.

Before highlighting some of the year's accomplishments, I would like to thank our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, sponsors, and families. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors, whose countless volunteer hours help ensure the continued success and growth of our association. KMLA is entirely dependent on the people who give their time to support the game, and none of what we achieved this year would have been possible without your commitment.

One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the successful completion of the Kodiaks rebrand. Following consultation with our membership, KMLA introduced a new logo, color palette, and visual identity that has helped distinguish our association throughout the Okanagan and across British Columbia. The feedback from members, other associations, officials, and the BC Lacrosse Association has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you once again to our members for their input throughout the process and to Evelyn Alec for her guidance and contributions in helping bring the vision to life.

We also continued to see strong growth within our association. Box lacrosse registration increased from 158 athletes in 2025 to 198 athletes in 2026, representing a 25% increase. Coach registration grew from 37 coaches to 61 coaches. This growth allowed us to field three teams at both the U9 and U11 levels. We also saw continued growth in our field lacrosse programming, demonstrating strong interest in year-round lacrosse opportunities.

KMLA successfully hosted the U11 Josh Dubrett Memorial Tournament, U13 Bill McBain Memorial Tournament, U17 Andy Woods Memorial Tournament, and the U7/U9 Kodiak Kub Jamboree. These events provided valuable opportunities for our athletes while showcasing our association and community to visiting teams from around the province.

Several of our teams enjoyed success during the season. U11 Team 3 captured the Regular Season Banner, U11 Team 2 captured the Zone Championship Banner, and U13 Development captured the Zone Championship Banner before advancing to Provincials and finishing fourth in the C Division. We also sent a U11 Select Team to the Jack Crosby Tournament in Burnaby, where they earned a fourth-place finish in the A2 Division.

Congratulations to Max Heng, Cole Foster, Adam Turnbull, Jonathan Murphy, Jake Graham, and Teo Zumbo, who represented Zone 2 at the BC Summer Games; Easten DaCosta and Wyatt Clarke, who won gold in Czechia with the Interior Outlaws; and Sophie Heng, who helped Team BC capture the U15 Female National Championship in Halifax. We are incredibly proud of these athletes and all they accomplished this year.

Our officiating program continued to grow and develop throughout the season. KMLA officials received assignments across a variety of events, including Zone Championships, Provincial Championships, BC Summer Games, and Minor National Championships. We were also proud to see KMLA officials selected for championship gold medal games.

Last fall, KMLA launched a new off-season development program designed to provide athletes with additional opportunities to improve their skills, keep a stick in their hands, and remain connected to the game throughout the off-season. The program was well received and will be returning this year.

While there were many successes worth celebrating, several priorities remain as we look ahead. Recruiting and retaining volunteers, coaches, and officials continues to be a key focus, particularly as participation numbers grow.

One message I want to emphasize is the importance of respectful behaviour within our sport. Feedback received through our year-end survey included concerns regarding spectator conduct directed toward players, coaches, and officials. While these situations involve only a small number of individuals, they have a significant impact on the experience of everyone involved. This is particularly true when it comes to officiating. **Without officials, our athletes do not get to play.** Supporting, mentoring, and retaining officials must remain a priority for all of us moving forward.

As we look ahead to 2027, our focus remains on continuing to grow participation, strengthening development opportunities for athletes, supporting coaches and officials, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of lacrosse in Kelowna.

Thank you for your continued support of Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association and the game we all love.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Phillips
President (Interim)
Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association