

**Manitoba Badminton Association (MBA)**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday September 24, 2014**  
**Sport 4 Life Center**

Name: Robert-Jean Bétournay

Position: Vice President Badminton Manitoba

Over the years the MBA has faced many challenges. Currently the loss of private clubs and facilities is of great concern. While in past years the private clubs played a major role in the association's focus, today the MBA needs to reach out to community based groups. These small splintered groups represent the majority of the badminton community.

Club rivalries created a strong sense of community. The new challenge is to develop this sense of community to a less organised group. This is the pool of people that will provide us with the players, volunteers, ideas and direction, resulting in the growth of the sport.

The MBA has put forth several initiatives including various access programs such as: IPP, Wheelies, reaching out to rural communities and schools among others.

The MBA has also won the bid to host the 2015 Jr. Nationals, an opportunity to bring some attention to the sport and will also be bidding for the 2016 senior national championships.

The MBA will also be working in conjunction with Sport Manitoba to increase participation with programs such as Sport for Life and Girls in Sport.

I cannot stress enough that the foundation of the MBA has and will always be the volunteers who give their time and energies. The formation of volunteer based committees ensures that the community as a whole is represented.

In the past four years as a board member I have seen many positive changes starting with the finances and book keeping to the development and implementation of various new initiatives and direction.

I would like to thank Ryan for his dedication and positive attitude. Ryan has with the help of Cam Inglis and Don Snider re-invented the role of E.D. to make it his own.

We are fortunate to have Justin as provincial coach and I trust that Ryan along with the new board members will help guide Justin to take ownership and re-develop the role of provincial coach in these dynamic times.

I believe the MBA is on the right path. We are blessed with young leaders with fresh ideas and a new perspective.

I would like to take this time to thank current and past board members for their efforts and to wish the very best to in coming members and the new board.

Sincerely,

Robert-Jean Bétournay