



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

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To start, I'd like to thank all of those in attendance this evening, for our first semi-virtual AGM. I'm pleased that this new format has enabled members of our community to join us from all parts of the province.

I'd also like to preface the following report by acknowledging the hard work of the previous Executive Director, Ryan Giesbrecht and give not only him, but our Provincial Coach Justin Friesen, our Member Services Coordinator Marj Niemi, our volunteer Board of Directors, and the incredible number of volunteers that help this train roll ahead full credit for the 2019-2020 list of highlights. None of what we do at the MBA would be possible without the help, ideas, time, and feedback we receive from our membership. I walked into this position in early April and will do my best to present key points from the previous year.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The MBA hosted the 2020 Yonex Senior & Para National Badminton Championships at Prairie Badminton. This was the first time that both Para and Senior Nationals were held together, and the first-ever Para tournament in Manitoba. Thank you to the tremendous volunteers that helped make the event happen.
- A record number of tournaments was planned for the 2019-2020 season, with referees scheduled for all of them. While many needed to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still witnessed great turnouts and participation.
- Referee training took place in the fall of 2019. 8 new referees were trained from around the province.
- The cancellation of the MHSAA badminton season due to COVID meant that we were unable to collaborate with them as planned. We hope 2021 allows us to collaborate with the organization further.
- Discussions were had internally about Badminton Canada's new membership software system which is being implemented across the country; some preliminary planning was done. Meetings with clubs about the matter – originally slated for the season – were put off the 2020-2021 and will take place in the following months.
- Work was done to plan the transition of the Executive Director position. The job position was posted in early January and the position filled in late March.
- A coach mentoring program was started, thanks to funds received through the Grey Cup Legacy Grant. Future plans for these funds include mentorship opportunities with national-level coaches.
- The end of the season was marked with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several tournaments were cancelled or postponed and, in turn, later cancelled. The school season ended as it was starting, and planned school clinics were cancelled. The disruption in our season was accompanied by ever-changing guidelines and recommendations, both financially and as it related to our ability to be on court.
 - Marj Niemi, our Member Services Coordinator, had to be temporarily laid off. She returned to work in mid-August and we are thrilled to have her back.
 - The organization qualified for both the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) and CEBA (Canada Emergency Business Account) programs; both have proven advantageous to us. The CEWS allowed us to reduce costs and the CEBA funds were placed in a GIC.
 - A Return to Play document was drafted and approved in late May. The Badminton Canada Return to Play document has also been a great resource for clubs and programs.

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2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS & PLANS

SUMMER CAMPS

- Camps went ahead with modifications. Enrolment was quite low compared to previous years (6-19 athletes), yet camps required the same amount of physical court space to allow for physical distancing.
- The 2nd annual All-Girls camp was once again our most popular, with 19 girls (compared to last year's 40+) joining us from all regions of the province and as far as Deloraine, MB.
- We collaborated with the DAS (le Directeurat de l'activité sportive), which is the French-language PSO, providing sport programming in French. This collaboration was incredibly fruitful. The DAS holds multi-sport camps weekly throughout the summer at different schools in the province, and we were able to lead one afternoon each week, introducing kids to our sport en français. This partnership led to other clinics in French, and will continue throughout the 2020-2021 season, where we hope to offer clinics not only for junior athletes, but for adults as well. A huge thanks to Rylan Ramnarace for leading these clinics with me, and to Lionel Curé and Jici Roy for filling in and coaching some of these as well.
- We hosted the first ever bilingual summer camp! This camp was announced quite late, yet we hosted 10 athletes and generated interest for future years.
- Our new badminton/table tennis camps were very popular and we certainly hope to offer them again next summer. Thank you to the MB Table Tennis Association for your partnership.

PROGRAMS & TOURNAMENTS

- Developmental Winter Program is on hold indefinitely, due to the temporary ban on school Community Use permits.
- The Identified Player Program has been discontinued moving forward.
- The new Team Manitoba program has been launched. This new program will focus on less athletes in order to better support them as they compete nationally. In this first year, the Provincial Coach will be working with 5 athletes.
- The new performance pathway will include permanent Regional Teams, with rosters at the following levels: U19, U17, and U15. This program is set to be launched this fall and will include yearly training camps in each region (where we will also host coach or officials training, as well as Sport Initiation camps for those under the age of 13). The new pathway aims not only to strengthen our top-performing athletes, but also to increase both rural and female representation at all levels of the game, by redistributing our resources to more athletes more efficiently.
- We've been receiving requests for clinics and camps, seeing as most badminton programming is currently on hold. We are looking into different options for program delivery and hope to start offering clinics shortly.
- MBA-sanctioned tournaments are currently on hold. The 2020 Provincial and Junior Provincial Championships, which had been postponed, have now been cancelled. We will continue to assess the situation weekly and acknowledge the likelihood that we will not be able to host sanctioned tournaments until 2021.
- The Western Canadian Team Championships, originally scheduled in April 2020, has been rescheduled for April 2021. This tournament is to be held at Prairie Badminton.



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COACHING

- A Regional Coach Module 3 clinic was held in late June (rescheduled from March 2020). Justin Friesen and Jason Athayde facilitated the training. 9 coaches attended the training, and 6 long-time coaches started their Learning Facilitator training. Of these 15 participants, 11 were from rural Manitoba and all regions were represented.
- A Comp Dev module is planned for March 2021.
- Coach recruitment will start this fall for our Regional Team programs.
- A campaign to promote Respect in Sport will be launched in the coming months. All members with intentions to access the field of play at any tournament in order to coach do need to have valid RiS certification.

MANITOBA WINTER GAMES 2022 & CANADA WINTER GAMES 2023

- Technical Packages and outlines for MWG are being finalized. By the end of the season, coaches and managers will be identified, and we hope to have athlete rosters in place.
- Preliminary work for the 2023 CWG will start this season: identification of potential athletes, creation of committees, etc.

In closing, there are some people I'd like to thank. First and foremost, an enormous thank you to Ryan Giesbrecht, who worked for the betterment of our organization for nearly ten years as Executive Director. I wish you joy and success at Prairie Badminton and in your future endeavours. I'd also like to thank Justin and Marj who are, as they always have been, an absolute pleasure to work with. I've known both of you for nearly a decade and look forward to working alongside you. Also, thank you to our volunteer Board of Directors, and especially to Dan Savard and Ardelle Martin, who are stepping away after 4 years of service. Thank you for giving your time and energy to our organization for two consecutive terms. I'd also like to welcome the new incoming board members; I look forward to working with you.

Finally, I want to thank all of our volunteers and members. Whether your contribution to our community is one of time, money, coaching expertise, on-court energy, or stubborn competitiveness, we thank you. While I am new to this position, I am not new to the community. I've had the opportunity to meet so many of you over the years, both on and off the court, and I look forward to working with and for every single one of you. We have a tremendous community of people from all walks of life, and I hope that badminton is and continues to be an inclusive and welcoming home for each and every one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Curé", written over a horizontal line.

Mélanie Curé

Executive Director