



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Wheelchair Sports Alberta
Annual General Meeting June 13, 2017



OUR MISSION

To create a dynamic environment for wheelchair sport participation through inclusion in all levels

To facilitate sporting opportunities to Albertans from the development level to high performance level of participation in athletic competitions, technical development, leadership and integration.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Members:

This is my first message to you since I have been elected as the new Wheelchair Sports Alberta (WSA) President in the early spring, 2016. I have been involved with WSA since 1991 as an athlete in wheelchair racing. Since then, I have been involved with the [WSA Board of Directors](#) in different capacities: as an athlete representative, member at large, vice president, and now president. I am excited about my new role as I truly believe that I can make a positive difference.

WSA has served our community well. I believe that I am a good example of the outcome of WSA's services to our community. As an athlete, WSA's support has allowed me to compete at local, national and international levels. Not only did the support allow me to compete but it also opened-up many great opportunities. I truly believe that the values and the discipline that we learn from our sports endeavors' can be applied in other aspects of our lives. When I am able to share my experiences and knowledge back to the WSA community, I feel completely satisfied.

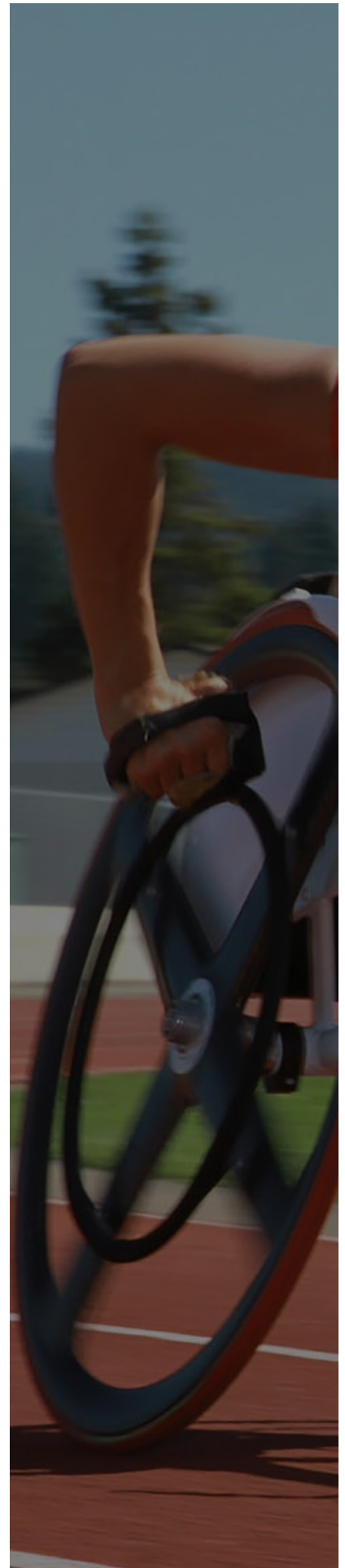
During my post as your president, I will continue to find ways to serve you better and strive to be more effective and efficient. Since the spring of last year, we have already made major changes in our programming. We welcomed a new Executive Director, Jennifer Sales. We've restructured the service delivery of [Bridging the Gap](#) and added two sports coordinators: Shawn Walter and Ryan van Keulen. Shawn will be responsible for the north zone (Edmonton and area), and Ryan for the south zone (Calgary and area). I believe that we hired the best people to do the job and I look forward to seeing positive results in the next few months. Success, however, is not a one-way street. It requires collaboration and partnership. I ask your participation in this process. I encourage you to [let us know](#) how we can make our organization better. I also ask you to contribute and participate in making us better. You are free to contact me personally or the staff at the WSA office. If you need to contact me, please ask my [contact information](#) from Jennifer, Shawn, or Ryan.

We will be heading to a strategic planning meeting this early spring and we want your input. We [sent you a survey](#) as to what you expect from WSA. **How can we serve you better? What are the needs of our members and the community?** My hope is that we will be able to develop a clear plan based on the needs of our members and the community.

Thank you and looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,
Tony Flores

President, Wheelchair Sports Alberta





2016 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Jennifer Sales

In 2016, Wheelchair Sports Alberta continued to support its mandate of supporting the five core sports in the delivery of wheelchair sports participation through out Alberta. 2016 was a year of growth in partnerships, competition, and organizational support. This annual report provides a snap shot of the association's activities.

2016 Funding Program Overview

Alberta Sports Connection

Wheelchair Sports Alberta continues to receive provincial sport organization funding by Alberta Sports Connection Core Block and Canada Games grants.

Grants

Wheelchair Sports Alberta was supported on an endeavor to build the Wheelchair Tennis program provincially. WSA received a grant from Canadian Paralympic Committee in support of this project. Grants were also received from Canada Summer Jobs and the STEP Grants in support of bringing in a summer Marketing and Administration position. This allowed WSA to develop a marketing, communications and branding business plan.

Fundraising

Wheelchair Sports Alberta has many fundraising programs; tel-marketing, door-to-door and donor that have helped maintain the funding support we need. The funds raised through these programs have been able to offset the deficit in grant funding. Details on the fundraising programs are outlined in the Financial Statement.

AGLC

We ran a successful casino in January. Through this casino we received \$76,753.54. This contribution will support Team Alberta's travelling and accommodations' for their out of province events.

2016 BRIDGING THE GAP PROGRAM

In all BTG activities: Rehab Sports Program, Have-A-Go Days, Multi-Sport Events, Developmental Sessions, and School Presentations/Demonstrations. We continue to promote the WSA core sports while maintaining a fun atmosphere where clients and community members can enjoy a wide variety of adapted leisure activities. Bringing in peer athletes is key to delivering effective sport programming. It gives the participants a chance to interact with people with similar injuries and those who can describe the positive impact of wheelchair sports.

Rehab Wheelchair Sports Programs

Foothills (Calgary) – We continued to make two or more visits per month to Unit 58 to promote BTG/WSA programming. We did this by providing one-on-one information sessions, group presentations, and setting meeting for patients with WSA Peer Athletes who provide mentorship.

Glenrose WC Sports Night– We continue to promote the benefits of an active lifestyle through our weekly BTG rehab sessions for Wheelchair Basketball/Tennis/Rugby and also by providing information to people interested in other adapted sports such as Sledge Hockey and Athletics.

Have-A-Go Days and Multi-Sport Events

It has been a successful year. We have built the sports through a grassroots approach with the active start LTAD model. We are introducing new fundamental movement skills to participants through all levels of physical impairment.

Have a Go Day/ Multi Sports Events—170 Participants

Weekly Programs (Rehab & Tennis) - 195 Participants

School and Awareness Programs—500+ Participants

Alberta Wheelchair Tennis Coaching Clinic – April 29th

WSA/BTG collaborated with Tennis Alberta and Tennis Canada to host a Wheelchair Tennis Coaching Clinic in Edmonton on April 29th. WSA/BTG provided the sports chairs, Tennis Alberta provided the venue, and Tennis Canada facilitated the instruction for the clinic. 11 people attended the course, and out of that we had 2 coaches (1 in Edmonton and 1 in Calgary) contact WSA directly wanting to get involved with coaching Wheelchair Tennis.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

Edmonton & Calgary Wheelchair Basketball – We continue to work with the WSA Regional Wheelchair Basketball Reps to funnel adult and junior participants into the weekly development program at Mount Royal and the Saville Centre.

Edmonton Wheelchair Tennis Program – The weekly program at Osten & Victor and the Saville Centre ran throughout 2016 with consistent regular participant numbers all year. 4-8 Participants per week each.

Wheelchair Tennis Tournament - 5 athletes registered . We had a Men's Singles Draw (4 participants) and a Men's Doubles Draw (2 doubles teams).

Wheelchair Rugby– We held an inter provincial competition in November and had an excellent turnout from both teams. As a province, both teams saw growth in their participant numbers and competition opportunities.

Bridging The Gap
Getting Physically Active



2016 ATHLETICS

Para Athletics

The focus of Athletics- Wheelchair track for 2016 was purely identification of current athletes throughout the province, developing a provincial strategy and aligning with Athletics Alberta and Athletics Canada.

To accomplish these goals partnerships have been fostered between WSA, Alberta Schools Athletics Association, Athletics Alberta, Athletics Canada, Steadward Centre, and others.

The Steadward Center offered a high performance training program for para athletics, across all classifications. They had 3 wheelchair racers/throwers participate in this program.

Athletics is also in year 3 of Canada Summer Games planning for 2017. Wheelchair Sports Alberta partners with Athletics Alberta on team and coach selection, training and games participation.

WSA selected a provincial coach, Nathan Lennie, to lead Team Alberta's para athletics team. His role is to grow and develop the sport throughout Alberta, with the support of many coaches in the province.

Canada Summer Games 2017

The games are being hosted in Winnipeg July 28 – August 13, 2017. Athletics Alberta will send a team of 70 track athletes of which there are 7 on the Para side.

Wheelchair Sports Alberta will be partnering with Athletics Alberta for the selection and preparation process of these games. As in past Canada Summer Games cycles, Athletics Alberta will be taking the lead with Wheelchair Sports Alberta playing a supporting role. There will be a series of camp and competition opportunities over the next year leading up to selections and the actual games.



2016 WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

WSA Introduced a Wheelchair Tennis Program to Calgary, at the Osten and Victor Tennis Alberta Facility. The program started with low numbers, but grew as the year went on. Edmonton's program did not see a lot of growth, however with the new sport development strategy WSA is optimistic about the sport for 2017.

Coach Development

Kai Schremayer, Tennis Canada's National Wheelchair Tennis Head Coach, came to Edmonton and put on a coaching clinic for any interested coaches. We had several participants, including WSA's Team Alberta coach, Mackenzie.

Competition Highlights for 2016

The Developmental Wheelchair Tennis Tournament was held at the Saville Center in Edmonton.

The tournament took place on Sept 9, 10, 11. The winners of the tournament were:

1st Place Singles- Laurence(Laurie) Zalmanowitz
1st Place Doubles - Kyle Thompson & Colin Mitchell

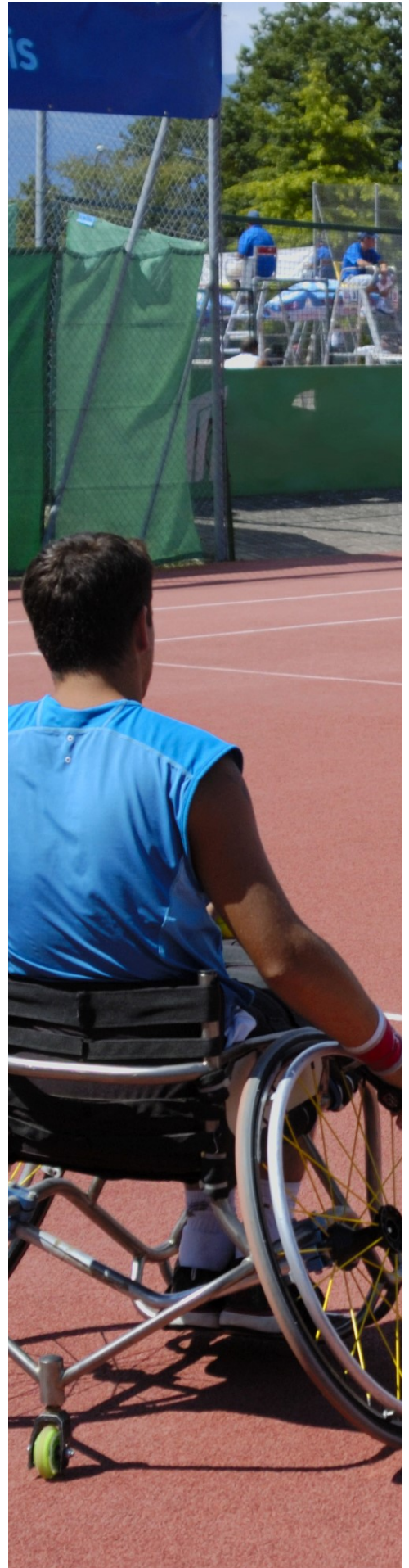
We had 4 registrants.

Nationals

Laurie finished first in Men's (Singles) Flight 1 putting him 6th place overall in the competition.

Kyle finished third in Men's (Singles) Flight 2 putting him 13th place overall.

Laurie & Kyle also competed as a Doubles team making it to the Quarter Final before being eliminated.





2016/2017 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Provincial Coach, Darrell Nordell

The Wheelchair Basketball Alberta Leadership Team has developed a sound Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) Structure and calendar of events for the 2016 - 17 season. Darrell Nordell along with Lorna Shannon continued to serve in the seasonal positions of Provincial Basketball Coordinators North & South. There were several developmental opportunities for Alberta's athletes, in preparation for the 2019 Canada Winter Games held in Red Deer. WSA received their year 3 funding which assisted WSA in hosting an ID Camp, and two developmental camps throughout the 2016/2017 season.

Jr West Regionals

Finals Standings

1. BC Royals
2. SK – White
3. AB – White
4. AB – Black
5. AB – Blue
6. SK – Green
7. BC Blazers



All Stars: Kaelen Hoffmueller (SK – Green), Ryleigh Bissenden (BC Blazers), Garret Ostepchuk (SK – White), Jask Kosterman (BC Royals),

MVP: Ben Moronchuk (AB – White)

Sportsmanship Award: Joel Ewert (BC Blazers)

Team Alberta - Jr West Regional Wheelchair Basketball Championships

Alberta won the bid to host Jr West for the 2016/2017 championships. This event was held April 29-30, 2017 in Penhold, AB. WSA hosted 7 teams total across three provinces. There was excellent competition and developmental opportunities for Alberta's young athletes. These athletes are all competing for a spot on Alberta's 2019 Canada Winter Games Wheelchair Basketball Team. Alberta was fortunate enough to field 3 teams at the Jr Wests. These teams placed

Class 2	Savannah Hauk	Calgary
Class 1	Jonathan Bilan	Edmonton
Class 2.5	Heliana Cyr	Sherwood Park
Class 4.5	Romissaa Hassan	Calgary
Class 4.5	Enrique Smith	Lethbridge
Class 4.5	Dylan Lawrence	Grand Prairie
Class 4.5	Julia Cyr	Sherwood Park
Class 4.5	Brandon Troutman	Lloydminster
Class 4.5	Jayna Doll	Camrose
Class 4.5	Ben Tumack	Edmonton
Class 4.5	Ben Moronchuck	Edmonton
Class 4.5	Braden Doll	Camrose
Class 4.5	Jamie Cole	Camrose
Class 4.5	Reed D'Aerth	Sherwood Park
Class 2.5	Anne Nitchke	Grand Prairie
Class 4.5	Jaleen Shanoon	Calgary





2016 WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Bruce Crosby and Cliff Wooden

2016-2017 rugby season was a good one for Wheelchair Rugby in Alberta even though we attended less tournaments then previous years . Club teams from Edmonton and Calgary competed in all two of the prairie league tournaments this year.

Edmonton Report:

Edmonton Steel Wheels attended 4 tournaments this season. Two tournaments in the USA (Reno NV and Dallas TX) and two tournaments in the prairie league in Calgary AB and Saskatoon and will be attended one other Canadian tournament this summer in Kamloops BC.

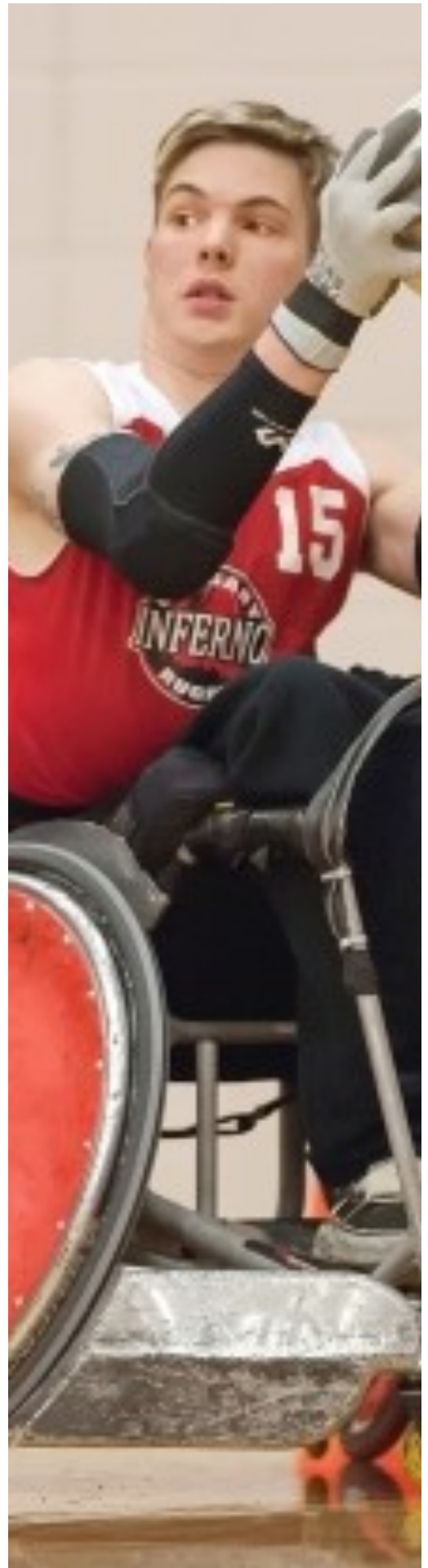
The club had good finishes in all the tournaments including (2) 4th place finishes in Seattle WA and Dallas TX, 3rd finish in Calgary AB, 2nd place finish in Reno NV and 1st place in Kamloops BC. Unfortunately, Edmonton lost a few key members to injuries but our developing players stepped up and filled in the roles.

Calgary Report:

Calgary Inferno attended 3 tournaments this season, Due to the additional cost and players unavailable we did not attend any tournaments in the USA this year. We attended the two prairie league tournaments with two rosters in Calgary and Saskatoon and brought one roster to the Vitoria's tournament. We will also be attending Kamloops BC tournament this summer. This season we have seen good player development and we are looking forward for this trend to continue. This year we attracted two additional players. One has been out to almost all practices this year and the other one just attend one of our last practices of the year but will be out next season! Two of our players have decided to take a break from playing rugby but this has provided opportunity for other players to develop their game quicker. We would like to have a couple high pointers join our team but we will continue to work with what we have.

PROVINCIAL REPORT

We selected 13 great athletes to be on our two provincial teams this year. The last weekend of May we attended the Wheelchair Rugby Nationals in Hamilton with a team in Division I and the other in Division II. Our Div I team had our quicker and younger players on it. They took this experience and the strong competition they faced as a challenge and developed quickly throughout the weekend. Our Division II played well together and made it to the gold game and achieved silver. We will need to make a few changes to make next year more successful. Things that we are currently planning is an Alberta league which will allow us to develop all of our Alberta wheelchair rugby athletes through additional official court time and instruction. We also will be holding additional provincial practices and will be looking at attending a tournament with each provincial team be-





2016 SLEDGE HOCKEY

Dean Krawec

Program Overview

This is the 19th year that Wheelchair Sports Alberta has been involved with the sport of sledge/sled hockey. There are 6 different organizations that are looking after sledge/sled hockey in Alberta. For the 2016-17 season, the Alberta Sledge Hockey League (ASHL) continued with 2 divisions; a Junior level & an Intermediate level.

Team Alberta defended its National title and won its second title in a row last weekend, May 12-14, in Boucherville, Quebec. The team went undefeated in the tournament with a 4-0 record. They won the Gold medal with a 3-0 victory over Team Quebec. There were 6 provincial teams at the Championship.

Final Standings

- 1st – Team Alberta
- 2nd – Team Quebec
- 3rd – Team Ontario
- 4th – Team BC
- 5th – Team Manitoba
- 6th – Team Nova Scotia

Calgary Stingers/Scorpions hosted the 13th Annual Western Canadian Sledge Hockey Tournament.

JUNIOR DIVISION

- 1st Place - Calgary Venom
- 2nd Place - Kindersley Klippers
- 3rd Place - PSA Blades
- 4th Place - Regina Avengers
- 5th Place - Calgary Venom U10

INTERMEDIATE C DIVISION

- 1st Place - Surrey Eagles
- 2nd Place - Regina Avengers
- 3rd Place - SK Ice Tornadoes
- 4th Place - MH Hockey Hounds
- 5th Place - PSA Dogs

INTERMEDIATE C+ DIVISION

- 1st Place - Calgary Scorpions
- 2nd Place - EASA Storm
- 3rd Place - Bruno T-Birds
- 4th Place - Calgary Stingers
- 5th Place - Edmonton Impact





2016-17 Team Alberta Sledge Roster

Goaltenders

Bullen, Jeremy	1978	Calgary, AB	Calgary Sledge Hockey Assoc.
Rietveld, Tyson	1999	Fort Saskatchewan, AB	EASA Storm

Defensemen

Coulter, Geneva	1999	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Impact
Fandrey, Tanner	1996	Lacombe, AB	Edmonton Impact
Kovacevich, Micah	1997	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Impact
Lang, Steven	1998	Calgary, AB	Edmonton Impact
Lucas, Shawn	1980	Calgary, AB	Edmonton Impact

Forwards

Bullchild, Jordan	1997	Sturgeon County, AB	EASA Storm
Close, Braden	1995	Kindersley, SK	Kindersley Klippers
Dolan, Cody	1995	Calgary, AB	Edmonton Impact
Hall, Jeremy	1991	St. Paul, AB	Edmonton Impact
Lavin, Zachary	1997	Essex, ON	Calgary Sledge Hockey Assoc.
Mah, Alanna	1999	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Impact
Sison, Branden	2000	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Impact
Thorowsky, Austin	1996	Hilliard, AB	Edmonton Impact
Whitson, Derek	1989	Medicine Hat, AB	Medicine Hat Sledge Hockey

Coaching Staff

Head Coach		Director	
Steve Arsenault	Spruce Grove, AB	Andy Wigston	Sherwood Park, AB
Associate Coach		Team Manager	
Kieran Block	Edmonton, AB	Dean Krawec	St. Albert, AB
Trainer		Assistant Team Manager	
Dr. Travers Roy	Leduc, AB	Brenden Dolan	Calgary, AB