

President's Report (January 7, 2025)

First of all, a Happy New Year and all the best in health and curling for the new year.

The PCMCA's new season looks positive in that its membership is once again enjoying a slight increase in numbers. With membership approval for an increase of dues from \$5 to \$8, two financial aspects of the Board have improved for this year. First, the Board now has an extra \$1 per member to add to the operating budget. Secondly, all the Zones enjoy an extra \$2 per member to host playdowns and operate their local executive expenses. Currently, I have no results re Bonspiel attendance but on a very positive note the PCMCA is showing a slight increase in overall playdown team entries. Hopefully this will assist in team subsidies to the BC Masters Combined Championship (BCMCC). As to Zone expenses, the consensus on all fronts is that the cost of ice is dramatically increasing. Coupling this with a decrease in ice availability, the PCMCA's growth is increasing its costs.

This leads me to comment on the latest expansion with the inclusion of the 80+ category at the BCMCC, into the slot where the Stick Curling event is being reduced to 8 teams. We are at the point where the smallest venue for a BCMCC must have 12 sheets of ice. If we were to retain Stick Curling at 16 teams of 6 end games, we would require 13 sheets this March. The result was a decision to use the 12 sheets to host 6 events, all featuring 8 teams with 8-end games.

This leads me to mention that next year the members will incur another change. The 2026 BCMCC at Kelowna has 12 sheets and will use an identical format as the 2024 Vernon BCMCC. It will not be offering the newly created 80+ category. Therefore, the PCMCA will host a standalone 80+ Championship on the coast in 2026. I have personally been working on 80+ curling for many years, so I am excited that the 80+ category is secure for the next two years. This may or may not add to the PCMCA's expenses. However, if we take an in-depth look at the changing demographics, it is fair to say that soon the PCMCA will be catering to a membership with 50% of the curlers being over the age of 80. As you are aware, last September the PCMCA applied for a \$24,000 federal government grant. The

outcome will be known by the end of this month. If it is positive, then of course it will allow the PCMCA to proceed with its plans and there will be no shortage of funds for this new category. However, if the grant is denied then the PCMCA will need to find another source of funds.

Treasurer Cheryl Eason has experience with grant applications and is seeking other opportunities to apply for grants.

Through the Curl BC platform, the PCMCA offers a scholarship. Curl BC's range extends to all parts of the province, but the PCMCA plans for its scholarship to be offered to the area of the province where its curling clubs are located. To that end, a list of those clubs has been provided to Curl BC.

At each BCMCC, there is a Joint Meeting of the PCMCA and the BCIMCA. Directors are asked to consider agenda items. A recent item of discussion has been the PCMCA decision to have 8-end games for the Stick Curling event in 2025. The BCIMCA has indicated that it would like to discuss the length of Stick Curling games in 2026, when it hosts the BCMCC in Kelowna.