**VP Development Report**
Submitted by Nicole Golden

2019-2020 has been a year of major change and increased focus in development for Saskatchewan Rowing. Beginning with our Board directed transition to increased funding and support to development initiatives across the province and the strategic aligning of job descriptions for our two provincial coach positions to achieve these goals. Below are a few of our highlights in development this past year.

**Summer Development Coordinator/Coach**

The Development portfolio focused most of its budget and activity on the priorities established for the Summer Development Coordinator. In this position, Gill Cattet worked with all four clubs to strategically support the unique development priorities of each Zone. Feedback from the clubs has been positive and we hope to build on this initiative. Canada Summer Jobs Grant funding was applied for again in January 2020.

Over the course of the summer two trips to Prince Albert were made offering introductory learn to row sessions for 7 participants. In addition, the SRA supported the PADRC through the purchase of a coastal double, the first of its kind in Saskatchewan.

Additionally, trips to Lloydminster supported by Michelle Lopez and the Lloydminster Rowing Club, engaged several schools.

Along with coaching existing members while in Lloyd, Gill was able to run learn to row sessions for new members and one session for 6 junior participants with varying degrees of experience.

**CAAWS Grant**

An additional development initiative of the 2019 on-water season, was the creation of the Indigenous Girl Learn to Row opportunities. The Mother Theresa Middle School program in Regina was a success and fully funded through the CAAWS Grant. Through this initiative, we have made a number of new contacts in both Saskatoon and Regina, and hope to coordinate youth participation well before the formal school year ends in future years. We are so grateful to the CAAWS organization for making this opportunity possible.

**Provincial Development Coach - Brenda Colby (60% development focus)**

Highlights

Since Brenda’s start date in May, we have worked toward several priorities at the Regina club including offering a focused winter indoor rowing session for senior/masters. For outreach in Regina, Brenda visited three schools contacting more than 280 high school students. Our goal is to promote indoor rowing as part of the physical education curriculum for students in grade 9-12.

Provincial wide priorities focused on developing a resource of training for current non-rowers using social media posts, posters, and online training opportunities. There is significant potential for growth in this area.

A focused development program in Lloydminster was formalized and with the SRA’s support, we were able to provide ergs for local athletes to train on. A formal visit from Brenda was well received and a number of athletes continue to train and have moved to the High-Performance focus.

Two new programs that were initiated by Coach Andrew through his Development efforts were the Community School Indoor Rowing program at Confederation Park Community School in Saskatoon. Thanks to the Saskatoon Rowing Club 4 ergs were able to be used permanently through the winter season by these youth. More than 40 under-represented youth were included in this program.

**High Performance Coach - Andrew Knorr (20% development focus)**

Andrew also initiated an indoor rowing opportunity through the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and although COVID prevented this program from running, Andrew has begun preliminary discussions around getting regular programming for youth in this organization.

In addition to these activities, both coaches have spent the past year working with Juniors from all clubs continuing to develop our youth programming and grow our Junior program across the province.

**Thanks**

I would like to express thanks to Coach Andrew and Coach Brenda for all their work over the past year and look forward to continuing to develop clarity around our provincial development goals.

Special thanks to Chad Jedlic and Bryan Hillis for providing the ongoing mentorship and guidance to our Regina based provincial development coach. Their ongoing efforts to maximize the success of this role is greatly appreciated. And thanks to Willy Bingham for his support of Andrew’s development initiatives.

And finally, major thanks to our funders Sasksport, CAAWS, and the Government of Canada through the Canada Summer Jobs grant, for their continued support and guidance.