



President's Report – Swim Manitoba 2021-2022 AGM

The 2021-2022 swim season started with the continued challenges of COVID. We started in September still unable to get together with our teams and swim friends but continued to do what we could virtually. Then, the restrictions opened slowly, and we were all happy to ease back into some training. Today, we are back to dryland training, swim practices in the pool, and racing in competitions. Although there are still a few precautions in place for everyone's safety, we are returning to a new normal.

It is wonderful to hear the excitement from young swimmers as they receive a speeding ticket in a racing league meet, to see swimmers splash the water with success as they take time off, and move towards their personal goals. To once again see coaches, volunteers, and swim parents laugh and catch-up after being away for so long. It's good to be back.

During this swim season we continued to apply for and receive funding from Sport Manitoba, distributing \$210K onto the swim clubs. We did, however, have financial challenges which are reflected in the financial report and will be reflected in the plans made for the next swim season.

Unfortunately, not all swimmers returned to the pool and we, as many other sports, saw a drop in athletes. Anticipating this, we engaged in a marketing program to increase awareness of swimming as a great activity to participate in throughout Manitoba, whether a new swimmer, Master, or para swimmer. Our goal now is to build further recognition and attract more to the sport through the summer swim program and continued marketing programs.

I would like to congratulate each swimmer on their personal success while highlighting the Olympic trials where three Manitoba swimmers were invited to compete. Congratulations to Kelsey Wog who, at the end of the trials, was selected on the Olympic team and competed at the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

We also saw a change in Swim Manitoba, welcoming Lainie Wintrup as the new Executive Director. Lainie is a seasoned sport management leader and brings experience in sport marketing, sponsorship, youth programming, and long-term athletic development for all ages.

Thank you to the staff and the Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work during this challenging year, and to the swim community for staying positive and continuing to love the sport of swimming.

Janice Kostelnyk
President, Swim Manitoba