



## PICKLEBALL BC CHARITY TOURNAMENT FACT SHEET

### ABOUT PICKLEBALL BC

PICKLEBALL BC (PBC), is the Provincial governing body for the sport of pickleball in BC.

Dedicated to the growth, development, promotion, and enjoyment of pickleball. PBC encourages people of all ages and skill levels to experience pickleball and discover the enjoyment of friendship and participation in an active lifestyle.

PBC became a registered not-for-profit society in 2019 and garnered Provincial Sport Status as a Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) in 2021.

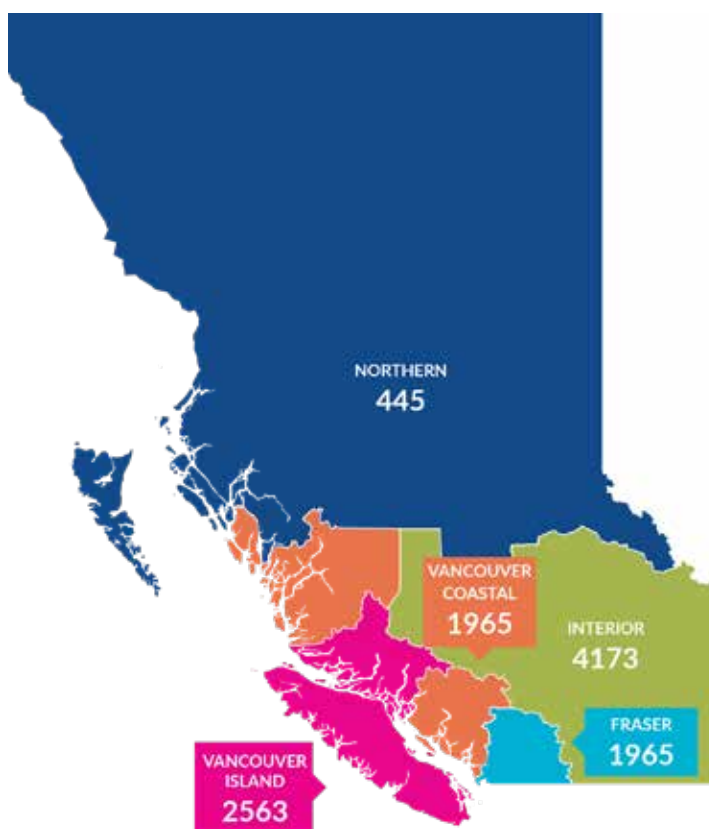
**Website:** [pickleballbc.ca](http://pickleballbc.ca)

### PICKLEBALL POPULARITY

With over 15,000+ Pickleball BC members spread out over more than 100 communities across BC, it is currently the fastest growing sport in the province, and according to a recent survey by Pickleball Canada, more than 1.37 million Canadians play the game at least once per month!

### PICKLEBALL BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Pickleball players by region in BC:



Walter Knecht and PADS Forelle  
Photo: Bill NG

### ABOUT WALTER KNECHT

Walter is the president and founder of Pickleball BC, he is also honoured by Sport BC as a recipient of their Presidents' Award.

He has worked tirelessly to promote pickleball in BC and elsewhere growing membership to over 13,000 members, and signing partnerships with 84+ affiliated or associated clubs in BC. In addition, he has spearheaded pickleball policies and procedures recommendations throughout the Province, and established the first BC Provincial Tournament scheduled in Vernon last May.

**PICKLEBALL**BC



**PADS**

CHANGING LIVES. ONE DOG AT A TIME



## ABOUT PADS

Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS) breeds, raises and trains fully certified assistance dogs.

Our service (mobility & PTSD) and hearing dogs provide life-changing independence to those with disabilities. Our accredited facility dogs work with community professionals such as teachers, RCMP and psychologists to help support healthy communities.

PADS is a fully accredited member of Assistance Dogs International.

**Website:** [pads.ca](https://pads.ca)

**Additional Photos:** [pads.ca/pickleball-photos](https://pads.ca/pickleball-photos)



## PADS DOGS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

In our over 35-year history, PADS has successfully created hundreds of assistance dog teams across Canada and consistently oversees the well-being of over 200 puppies-in-training and 130 certified working teams. Also, with over 500 passionate and dedicated volunteers in the Lower Mainland and Okanagan regions, you will have most likely seen a PADS dog in your community.

## ABOUT LAURA WATAMANUK

Laura Watamanuk has been changing lives of Canadians with disabilities for over two decades – she's served two terms as PADS executive director and has been instrumental in building PADS from a small local charity to an internationally regarded assistance dog program with over 35 staff in 4 regions.

She is also passionate about partnerships like this one that bring together organizations that share core values of inclusivity, wellness and community engagement.



*Laura Watamanuk and PADS Reese (retired)*