

AGM 2025-2026
President's Report

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I would like to begin by recognizing and thanking our Executive Director, Jean Pierre Cantin, for his outstanding work this year. His leadership has helped move the NWT Judo Association forward both programmatically and administratively. He has done significant work to strengthen partnerships, pursue grants, support community programming, mentor coaches and athletes, and improve the systems that allow the Association to operate more effectively. His commitment has made a meaningful difference in the continued growth and sustainability of Judo across the Northwest Territories.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing governance, guidance, and support. The Board met frequently this year, and members were actively engaged in the governance of the organization. The final drafting of the bylaws is a significant accomplishment and represents an important step in strengthening the Association's foundation. A big thank you also goes out to the many volunteers, coaches, officials, parents, and community partners who contribute their time and energy throughout the year. Finally, thank you to our members and families, whose participation and commitment are the reason this Association continues to grow.

This year, the NWT Judo Association continued to make meaningful progress toward the priorities set out in our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan: Engagement and Support, Development, Mentorship, and Operational Excellence.

Under **Engagement and Support**, the Association continued to strengthen Judo's presence across the Northwest Territories. Programs and outreach activities helped build stronger community relationships and introduced more children, youth, adults, and families to Judo. This work reflects our commitment to making Judo a meaningful, inclusive, and accessible activity across the North.

Under **Development**, we saw continued growth in participant opportunities, from grassroots programming to regional events and high-performance pathways. Athletes had opportunities to train, compete, travel, and build connections with others across the territory. These experiences are important not only for athletic development, but also for confidence, discipline, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging within the Judo community.

Under **Mentorship**, the Association continued to invest in coaches, volunteers, youth leaders, and local leadership. Coach development, certification, technical mentorship, and youth leadership opportunities are helping build the capacity needed to sustain Judo in communities over the long term. This is especially important as we continue working toward stronger local and Indigenous leadership pathways.

Under **Operational Excellence**, the Association continued to mature as an organization. While the Executive Director's report will speak more directly to the operational details, from a governance perspective this year included important progress in bylaws, policy alignment, funding development, partnerships, and organizational planning. These improvements help ensure that the Association can continue to grow in a responsible, transparent, and sustainable way.

Overall, this year demonstrated that the NWT Judo Association is moving steadily from planning into implementation. We are expanding access, strengthening development pathways, investing in leadership, and building the governance foundation needed to support Judo across the Northwest Territories. I am proud of the progress made this year and grateful to everyone who contributed to moving the Association forward.