



Pickleball Manitoba Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2025 – President’s Report for the Year 2024

President: Ted Fardoe

A Year of Growth and Momentum

What a busy and exciting year it has been for the Board of Pickleball Manitoba Inc. (PMI). Following the April 2024 AGM, we welcomed four new directors, bringing fresh perspectives, skills, and enthusiasm to the team. With existing directors transitioning into new roles, our Board was energized and eager to govern, promote, and expand the sport of pickleball across the province.

From our very first monthly meeting, we embraced meaningful discussions and tackled challenges head-on. We prioritized key initiatives and worked diligently to bring them to life. Many of these projects are still in progress and will continue to evolve through the dedication and passion of our ambitious Board.

2024 Highlights

Membership Growth

In 2024, Pickleball Manitoba was among the top three provinces in Canada for membership growth by percentage. Our membership reached 2,150, with approximately 1,400 active members at the time of this report’s composition. This remarkable growth reflects the increasing popularity and reach of the sport in Manitoba.

Affiliated Clubs

We were thrilled to welcome five new clubs and the Manitoba Pickleball League into the PMI family in 2024:

- Neepawa Pickleball Club
- St. Pierre Pickleball Club
- Minnedosa Pickleball Club
- Carmen Pickleball Club
- Kenora Pickleball Club

These affiliations represent a diverse cross-section of communities embracing the sport. If your club is not yet affiliated, we encourage you to reach out—we would be honored to have you join us.

Youth Programming

One of the Board's primary focuses in 2024 was youth development. We asked ourselves: *"How and where do we begin?"* The consensus was to prioritize:

- Free youth clinics
- Educating educators
- Facilitating youth competitions

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our board committees and the invaluable support of PMI volunteers, we successfully launched several youth programs:

- **SAG Conference Clinic:** At the Manitoba Teachers' Society professional development days, PMI conducted a clinic and demonstration. It was a huge success, and we were immediately invited to return in 2025 with an expanded presence.
- **Youth Clinic at the PMI Provincial Championship:** Originally planned as a competition, low registration numbers prompted us to pivot. Instead, we hosted a free "learn-to-play" skills clinic, which was well-received.
- **Selkirk Community Church Youth Clinic:** In December 2024, PMI hosted a free youth-only clinic that drew a fantastic turnout.

These initiatives laid a solid foundation for future youth programming, and we are excited to continue promoting the sport among young players.

Pickleball Paddle Drive

Launched in spring 2024, the Pickleball Paddle Drive was a resounding success. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we collected approximately 100 paddles, most of which were distributed to schools in need of equipment to start their own pickleball programs. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed—your support is helping grow the sport in schools across the province.

2024 Provincial Championship Tournament

Our 2nd Provincial Championship Tournament took place in May/June 2024, marking another major milestone for PMI. Athlete registration increased by 25% compared to 2023—a testament to the sport's growing popularity.

A massive thank you goes out to all the volunteers whose hard work and dedication made the event a tremendous success. We couldn't have done it without you.

2025 Canadian National Championship

In November 2024, after a lengthy bidding and negotiation process with Pickleball Canada, PMI was awarded the prestigious 2025 Canadian National Championship.

We are now preparing to host what we anticipate will be the best championship tournament to date. With 21 dedicated host committees in place, we are confident this event will showcase the sport at its finest while creating lasting benefits for PMI and its members.

We are still seeking volunteers—if you haven't signed up yet, please visit our website to get involved.

Sport Recognition by Sport Manitoba

In September 2024, I met with Sport Manitoba to discuss PMI's application for official sport recognition. While Sport Manitoba was in the process of revising their guidelines and temporarily not accepting new applications, the meeting was encouraging. It was clear that Sport Manitoba recognizes PMI's impact and the sport's growing popularity.

We are confident that PMI is well-prepared to submit a strong application once the process reopens.

Fall Lake Retreat

In the fall of 2024, the PMI Board held a two-day retreat at Lake Lac du Bonnet. This brainstorming session allowed us to reflect on PMI's present and future, including long-term strategic planning (LTSP). Of course, we also enjoyed some pickleball along the way!

Rankin Inlet "Learn to Play" Clinic

In summer 2024, PMI was approached by a former resident of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, seeking assistance in organizing a pickleball clinic for the community. Through collaboration with Pickleball Canada (PCO) and skilled negotiations by Board Member Kim Ezzard, PMI facilitated a two-day "learn-to-play" clinic. Two of our members traveled to Rankin Inlet, providing instruction to local residents.

PCO generously donated equipment, which was shipped to the community to support the development of their local pickleball program. This initiative exemplifies PMI's commitment to expanding the sport beyond our provincial borders.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, we are energized for the year ahead. With the 2025 Canadian National Championship on the horizon and our continued focus on youth programming, club affiliations, and community outreach, PMI is poised for even greater success.

Thank you to our Board members, volunteers, and passionate pickleball community. Your dedication and support make this all possible.

Here's to another year of growth, fun, and unforgettable pickleball moments!

Ted Fardoe
President, Pickleball Manitoba Inc.