



Pickleball Manitoba Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2026 – President’s Report for the Year 2025

President: Ted Fardoe

2025 Growing and Building

Another busy and exciting year for the Board of Pickleball Manitoba Inc. (PMI). Our entire board stayed in place for 2025 allowing continued momentum on numerous PMI initiatives across the province.

Highlighting our strategy to build on youth development we remained as a presenter at the Manitoba teachers society professional development days. Our board reached out to a great many regional recreation directors in an attempt to build a data base and improve Pickleball Manitoba presence across the province. This initiative has proved extremely valuable and created an opportunity to reach numerous youth across the province with the Pickleball Manitoba road show learn to play series scheduled for the summer of 2026.

Our clinic series was well received with more than 20 youth, learn to play and intermediate clinics hosted at various venues

Competition opportunities reached a new high this year with our largest provincial championship tournament and our hosting of the 2025 National Championships.

2025 Highlights

Membership Growth

In 2025, Pickleball Manitoba was again one of best provinces in Canada for membership growth by percentage. Our membership reached 3,000 mark, with approximately 2100 active members at the time of this report's composition. We are proud of the remarkable growth that reflects the increasing popularity and reach of the sport in Manitoba. Retention of membership is always a hot topic of discussion amongst our board.

Affiliated Clubs

- Pickleball Manitoba now has 17 affiliated clubs throughout the province

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

Again in 2025 youth development is on the top of our list of initiatives .

Continuing initiatives such as Free youth clinics, Educating educators, Facilitating youth based programming has been front and center.

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

- **MTS professional development Conference Clinic:** At the Manitoba Teachers' Society professional development days hosted at the sport for life center PMI conducted our second clinic and demonstration. This event was again a huge success as our team trained the trainers for a full day of coach skill development.
- **Recently we hosted our second High School provincial tournament.** Registration increased year over year by more than 50%. This 50% increase did not include one of our largest school participants from last year due to unforeseen circumstances. Proof that our inroads into the school system is definitely paying dividends. This year's tournament was hosted by PMI at the PICKLR. By all accounts a resounding success and we expect next year to be bigger again.
- **As noted above, our inroads with the provincial recreation directors has prompted the development of our first ever "Pickleball road show" where we are sending coaches to numerous locations of the province bringing one and two day youth clinics directly to the communities.** This initiative is being watched closely by Pickleball Canada and other provinces as a benchmark to creating rural youth development for the sport of pickleball.

Youth programming has endless possibilities, and we are taking meaningful steps each year to continue building and strengthening this important part of pickleball. Through community outreach, skill development, and fun, inclusive experiences, we aim to create opportunities for young athletes across Manitoba to discover, enjoy, and grow within the sport.

2025 Provincial Championship Tournament

Our 3rd Provincial Championship Tournament took place in May/June 2025 and has become our flagship event. Athlete registration increased by 25% once again compared to 2024

Once again a huge 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 Pickleball Championship

The 2025 Canadian National Pickleball Championship, hosted by Pickleball Manitoba this past August, proved to be a resounding success and a defining moment for the sport in our province.

At the heart of this achievement was the extraordinary commitment of our local pickleball community. The tournament organizing committee—composed of two dedicated tournament directors and 21 specialized committees—was supported by an incredible 250+ registered volunteers. These individuals contributed across all aspects of the event, including planning, set-up, operations, athlete and guest experiences.

Notably, the true scope of volunteer support extended well beyond those formally registered. The overwhelming turnout during set-up and tear-down days demonstrated the depth of passion and pride within our community. The willingness of so many to step forward showcased not only organizational strength but also the camaraderie that defines pickleball in Winnipeg and across Manitoba.

This spirit of volunteerism was matched by an outstanding week of competition. Hosted at the Taylor Tennis Centre—transformed into a high-quality pickleball venue—the event delivered an exceptional experience for athletes and spectators alike, fostering both competitive excellence and national camaraderie.

Manitoba athletes also rose to the occasion, earning a bronze medal in the inaugural Provincial Team Competition—a Pickleball Manitoba initiative that has since been adopted and will continue as part of the 2026 National Championships.

This event not only highlighted the strength of our athletes but also solidified Manitoba's reputation as a leader in hosting premier pickleball events in Canada.

We could not be prouder of our community and the role it played in delivering a truly national celebration of sport.

Sport Recognition by Sport Manitoba

Over the past year, Pickleball Manitoba has taken significant steps toward formal recognition within the provincial sport system. Following initial discussions with Sport Manitoba, we developed a comprehensive submission—compiling the necessary documentation, governance structures, and long-term forecasts—and formally submitted our application in November 2025.

We are proud to share that pickleball has officially been recognized as a sport in Manitoba, effective May 1, 2026. This milestone represents a major achievement for our organization and for the continued growth of pickleball across the province.

Recognition, however, is not the finish line—it is the starting point. Over the next four years, our focus will be on strengthening our infrastructure and aligning our programs with Sport Manitoba's standards and guidelines. This includes continued development in areas such as coaching, athlete pathways, referee development, governance, and community programming.

This recognition validates the progress we've made, but more importantly, it sets the stage for the work ahead as we build a sustainable and thriving future for pickleball in Manitoba.

It is nice to be the official PSO for the province of Manitoba.

Manitoba Pickleball Grant Program

This year a committee of board members took on the task of creating an Initiative Grant Program to promote and grow the sport throughout Manitoba and the community of Kenora. There was a sub-committee organized and they put forth a policy that supports affiliated clubs and communities working to expand participation. There were guide lines set up to make it as easy as possible on our website to enroll in the Initiative Grant Program. This grant that will be available every year will help support new opportunities for players of every age. There is the opportunity to receive \$700.00 with a 25% matching contribution.

We urge your club or community to access the grant information on our website at pickleballmanitoba.ca.

Looking Ahead

I must say there was a collective sigh after the completion of the National Championship competition at the end of August. A sigh well deserved by our board and volunteers. It was a couple of months until the spirit of our board bounced back and we were back scheming and planning for 2026. The Road show, provincial championships and continued clinic facilitation are in store for this year. More to come for sure as we review our strategic plan and long term goals at this fall's retreat and planning session.

We are losing three board members this year and they will be missed. Denny Quigly has decided 6 years has been plenty. Kim Ezzard Simpson has spent the last two years conducting learn to play, intermediate and youth development clinics on behalf of Pickleball Manitoba. Kim has also been the content provider for instagram and facebook. We are fortunate that Kim has agreed to maintain the social media work after leaving the board. Arnie Waddell has been our manager of the website and event posting for the past two years. Thank you to all three outgoing board members for your time and service building pickleball within our province.

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

Keep tuned for exciting news regarding PMI and our new website. Launch date has yet to be determined however we will keep you informed.

Ted Fardoe
President, Pickleball Manitoba Inc.