

President's Message - October 2026

Edmonton Keyano Swim Club Annual General Meeting

It's hard to believe another season has already come and gone. When I look back at the 2025–2026 season, I'm incredibly proud of what the Edmonton Keyano Swim Club accomplished—not just in the pool, but as a club and as a community.

There is a lot that happens at EKSC that people see every day: swimmers training, coaches on deck, families travelling to meets, and athletes standing behind the blocks ready to race. But there is also a tremendous amount of work happening behind the scenes to make all of that possible. As a Board, we've been focused on making sure the club has the people, structure and support it needs to continue moving forward.

One of our important accomplishments this year was completing new contracts with our staff. These agreements provide greater clarity around roles, expectations and compensation, while also helping us build a strong foundation for the future of the club.

We also established our **Safe Sport Committee**, recognizing that creating a safe, respectful and positive environment for every athlete, coach, volunteer and member has to remain a priority. Safe Sport is not simply a policy—it is part of the culture we want to continue building at Keyano.

Another initiative I'm particularly excited about is the creation of the **Keyano Alumni Resource Network**. Keyano has an incredible history, with generations of swimmers, coaches and families who have been part of this club. We want to reconnect with that community and find ways to draw on the experience, knowledge and support of our alumni to help today's athletes and the club as a whole.

This season also marked the **inaugural year of our Para Swimming Program**. This is an exciting step forward for EKSC and an important part of our commitment to creating opportunities for athletes of all abilities. Starting a new program takes a tremendous amount of work, and we are proud of the athletes, coaches, families and staff who helped get this program off the ground. We look forward to watching it grow in the years ahead.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous work that goes into running our swim meets. This year, EKSC hosted some outstanding events, including the **Canadian Open, EKI 2026, Candy Cane, Blue Bears and the Edmonton Open**. Hosting these meets takes an enormous amount of effort from our coaches, staff, officials, volunteers, Board members and families. These events not only provide important racing opportunities for our swimmers, but they also showcase Keyano and Edmonton as a strong swimming community.

And while the meets we host are important, it's what our athletes accomplished throughout the season that really stands out. EKSC was crowned **Provincial Series Team Champion for the 2025–2026 season**, finished **third overall at the Alberta Summer Championships with 92**

podium finishes, and our Keyano Bears travelled to Montreal to compete at the **Canadian Swimming Trials** alongside some of the best swimmers in the country.

Those results don't happen by accident. They are the result of talented and dedicated athletes, outstanding coaches, supportive families, committed volunteers and staff, and a club culture that continues to push our athletes to be their best.

As President, I want to thank everyone who contributes to Keyano. To our athletes—thank you for your commitment and for representing the club with pride. To our coaches and staff—thank you for the countless hours you put into developing not only better swimmers, but better people. To our parents and families—thank you for the early mornings, long drives, hotel stays, volunteer shifts and unwavering support. And to our volunteers and officials—our club simply could not operate without you.

I also want to thank my fellow Board members. Much of what we do is behind the scenes, and often goes unnoticed, but the Board has worked hard this year to ensure that the pieces are in place to support our athletes, staff and membership. We may not always be on the pool deck, but we are working to make sure the club is moving in the right direction.

There is a lot to be proud of at Edmonton Keyano Swim Club. There is also a lot ahead of us. Our goal is to continue building a club that provides our athletes with the opportunity to dream big, work hard, have fun and see how far they can go.

Thank you for being part of the Keyano family. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

Go Keyano!

Sara Pretzlaff

President, Edmonton Keyano Swim Club