

2020-2021 EKSC AGM Report of the Board of Directors

Good Evening. I would like to start by thanking everyone for attending tonight. I think we were all truly hopeful that we would be able to have the 2021 AGM in person this year and we were planning for it, but as the fourth wave has hit our province particularly hard, the focus changed to hosting it again online.

I think that sums up this past year perfectly. Change, adaptability and safety have been the guiding principles of the club and the board. We have spent this past year primarily focused on the longevity and sustainability of the club by supporting our Head Coach Paul and General Manager Chris. They have worked tirelessly, within the multitude of changing restrictions and policies, to maintain the program, either via Zoom workouts, dryland workouts or in pool workouts. Finding as many opportunities as possible for lane space to be able to continue swimming as much as possible has been the ultimate goal. Applying for grants, government covid assistance, and the wage subsidy program as well as utilizing our club's contingency funds has allowed the majority of our coaches to remain working throughout this past year. Recognizing one of the key strengths of our Club is in the quality of the coaches we have working for us - and doing our best to look after our staff during the past 12 months, has been important to us. Thank you to our coaches.

One of the committees that continued to meet regularly this year was the Safety Assessment working group. This group has been ensuring the Club has done everything with the utmost safety in mind, by reviewing changes to restrictions and allowances on an ongoing basis while maintaining the advice of Public Health and Alberta Health Services. We appreciate that sometimes the advice has been confusing and has changed frequently. Thank you for everyone's patience navigating it all.

The competitions committee also met several times throughout the year to plan competitions and discover new ways of officiating with fewer volunteers. While almost all of the competitions didn't happen, we learned valuable things that will be carried through to the future. In the end, Keyano hosted the Summer Finale in August which was amazing. The swimmers, coaches and volunteers all seemed to have had a great day and it was nice to see everyone on deck again.

What has happened without fail, is that all our Board members have continued to meet on a monthly basis to guide, direct and support the Club through the past year. I wish to extend my thanks on behalf of all our members to those on our Board who have given their time, knowledge and expertise to the benefit of our Club. Thank you.

We have had a few changes within the board this past year. Karol Basler stepped down as her family moved provinces due to job changes. Thank you to Cathy Shepherd-Finlin for stepping forward to be appointed in the interim. Clare Hickson will also be leaving the board as she and her family have moved back to the UK also for job opportunities. Clare has been the Vice President for the past 3 years as well as heavily involved on the Search and Selection committee responsible for the hiring of our Head Coach Paul, the Bylaw Review committee, and the HR & Legal committee. Her expertise will be missed by the club and I would like to thank her for her dedication. On a personal note, while I will remain on the Board for another year to complete my term, I will be stepping down as President. While it

has had its challenges over the past few years, especially during the uncertainty of covid, the rewards have far outweighed the bad. I wish the upcoming president all the very best in the role.

I know I had imagined by this point in 2021 that we would all be in the stands watching our swimmers, meeting old friends and making new ones, volunteering on deck and cheering on the races. While we are not quite there yet, we can see glimpses of this and I am confident that we will be there again one day. Thank you to all the swimmers, the parents, the coaches and especially to Paul, Chris and my fellow Board members for ensuring that Keyano will weather this “bump in the road” and remain successful for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jill Edwards
President, Edmonton Keyano Swim Club