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FOURTEENTH EDITION • OCTOBER 2026



Curling Alberta Welcomes New and Re-Elected Board Directors!

Please see personal and professional bios of our new and re-elected Directors at Large.

Kirk Mearns - Bio

A prominent leader in Alberta's curling community, Kirk brings over a decade of hands-on club and high-performance experience. He recently retired after nearly ten years as General Manager of the Lethbridge Curling Club and currently serves as head coach for the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns curling program. His extensive background spans marketing, media, sales, and major event hosting, including co-chairing the 2022 Brier and the 2016 World Mixed Doubles and Senior Championships, as well as serving on the organizing committee for the 2019 World Men's Championship.

Michael Heeb - Bio

Originally appointed to the Board in May 2026, Michael was officially elected to a full term at the AGM. He brings valuable corporate executive experience with portfolios covering human resources, safety, culture, risk management, and long-term sustainability. On the ice, Michael has served on the Boards of both the North Hill and Crestwood Curling Clubs and played key leadership roles in major events, including the 2024 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, the 2025 PointsBet Invitational, and the 2026 Women's World Championship.

George Mitsopoulos - Bio (Re-Elected)

First joining the Board in 2023, George returns for another term, continuing to lend his executive governance expertise and passion for sport development. A Certified Competition Coach, George has mentored U18 and U20 teams, spearheaded junior curling initiatives in Fort McMurray, and currently contributes as a coach at SAIT.

Curling Alberta extends its sincere gratitude to Kirk, Michael, and George for volunteering their time and dedication to strengthening accessibility, growth, and community connection for curlers provincially.

Want to learn more about the people helping guide Curling Alberta? [Get to know the Curling Alberta Board of Directors.](#)

'Click' below for more Curling Alberta News & other Curling 'biters'

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Stronger Connections, Stronger Clubs!

To support local facilities beyond traditional competition hosting, Curling Canada and Curling Alberta partnered to launch a two-year Relationship Manager Pilot Project. The initiative focuses on improving direct communication, increasing awareness and adoption of existing operational resources, and ensuring local club perspectives directly inform provincial and national strategies.

Primary Drivers & Key Findings

- **Expanding Support Roles:** While national and provincial bodies historically focused on running championships, today they offer extensive resources, including governance guidance, insurance programs, operational tools, advocacy, and educational resources. The pilot addresses the challenge of making these tools easily accessible and actionable for local clubs.
- **Year 1 Club Engagement:** Relationship Manager Cori Morris conducted one-on-one sessions with 40 diverse Alberta clubs to assess real-world facility conditions. These meetings identified several widespread, complex operational challenges:
 - o Escalating energy and operating costs
 - o Volunteer recruitment, burnout, and retention
 - o Governance, regulatory compliance, and risk management
 - o Insurance coverage and long-term financial viability
- **Data-Driven Solutions:** Rather than creating unnecessary new materials, Curling Alberta is using these insights to deliver targeted, high-impact solutions. Recent implementations include a four-part educational webinar series focused on utility and energy management, with further initiatives in development for group procurement, governance, and risk mitigation.

Year 2 Implementation & Strategy

In its second year, the pilot will introduce customized support models to match individual club needs and capacity:

1. **Peer-Learning Networks:** Connecting club leaders for shared problem-solving and knowledge exchange.
2. **Direct Strategic Support:** Providing hands-on assistance focused on planning, execution, operational problem-solving, and accountability.

Ultimately, the pilot aims to establish an effective, sustainable support framework for more than 170 curling facilities across Alberta while providing valuable insights to help shape club support models across Canada.



Anita Ford Johnston,
Director of Club Development

Anita leads Curling Alberta's Club Development portfolio, which includes programs, education, resources, communications, and services that support clubs and their curlers across the province.



Cori Morris
Relationship Manager

Cori works specifically with participating pilot clubs to better understand their opportunities and challenges, ensure they are aware of and have access to available resources, and facilitate connections, collaboration, and information sharing among clubs.



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Strong Minds, Strong Women, Strong Game!

The **2026 Women in Curling Summit**, presented by Co-operators in partnership with Curling Canada and Curling Alberta, took place on Saturday, October 3rd, at the Red Deer Curling Centre. Guided by the leadership of Red Deer Curling Coordinator Darcy Smith and a dedicated team of volunteers, the event brought together women from across the province, ranging from recreational curlers and competitive athletes to coaches, officials, and club executives, for a day dedicated to personal growth, skill development, and community building.

The Summit directly addresses research highlighting that women and girls participate in sports at lower rates than men and remain significantly underrepresented across playing, coaching, officiating, and leadership positions. By offering a holistic experience that went beyond traditional technical instruction, the event empowered attendees to take on active roles and thrive within every level of the sport.

Key Sessions & Featured Presenters

- **High-Performance Insights & Resilience:** Two-time Olympian Jocelyn Peterman delivered an inspiring presentation detailing her journey through elite athletics, the transition into motherhood, managing mental wellness, and pursuing excellence at the highest levels of the game.
- **On-Ice Technical Analysis:** Accomplished athletes and national-level coaches Dana Ferguson, Beth Iskiw, and Heather Nedohin led on-ice clinic sessions focused on precise delivery mechanics and sweeping analysis to refine individual skill sets.
- **Athlete Health & Lifelong Sport:** Kim Richardson, Performance Therapy Lead with Curling Canada, provided practical strategies for mobility, targeted stretching, recovery, and injury prevention tailored for sustained, lifelong participation.
- **Community Connection & Advocacy:** Dr. Heather Mair (University of Waterloo) presented research on how local curling facilities foster a vital sense of social belonging and community. Complementing this, Lindsay Wright from the InMotion Network discussed broader strategies for increasing physical activity and sport access for women and girls.
- **Recruitment & Engagement Strategies:** 2010 Olympic silver medalist and Girls Rock Ambassador Cori Morris highlighted creative programming models designed to attract, engage, and retain female curlers, creating clearer pathways toward long-term leadership in local clubs.



The Joy of Curling Panel

A central highlight of the Summit was the **Joy of Curling Panel**, which brought together a diverse group of voices including local Co-operators manager Sherri Ryckman, longtime club advocate Mary Gardiner, Dr. Heather Mair, and Dana Ferguson. Representing different generations and life experiences, the panelists discussed how curling enriches lives beyond championships, focusing on the lifelong friendships, personal development, and deep sense of community that the sport creates across Alberta.

Women in Curling Summit testimonial;

"This engaging summit highlighted the importance of continued support for the advancement of women in sport. It was inspiring to celebrate progress while connecting with compassionate, like-minded individuals who share a passion for creating positive change. I would highly recommend this event to anyone seeking inspiration, encouragement, and the motivation to make a difference. What a wonderful reminder of the strength and support within the curling community!"

** The Red Deer Curling Centre, Curling Alberta, Curling Canada, Co-operators, and the many volunteers, presenters, and supporters who helped bring the Summit to life extend their sincere thanks to everyone who participated. Together, they helped create a day that celebrated learning, connection, leadership, and the enduring impact of women in curling.*



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The **2026 Alberta-Gangwon International Sport Exchange (ISE)** took place from September 28 to October 5, as Alberta welcomed a visiting delegation of youth curlers, coaches, and sports leaders from Gangwon State, South Korea. This initiative stems from a long-standing government sister-province relationship between Alberta and Gangwon. After an Alberta group of 15 traveled to South Korea in July 2025 to experience Gangwon's Olympic facilities and culture, the 2026 return leg was designed to match that hospitality through athletic development, cultural exchange, and regional sightseeing across Alberta.

Comprehensive Itinerary & Program Highlights

- **Edmonton Capital Region & Indigenous Culture:** The exchange kicked off in Edmonton with guided tours of the Alberta Legislature Buildings and West Edmonton Mall (including Galaxyland). On Truth and Reconciliation Day, the delegation visited Fort Edmonton Park to explore the Indigenous Peoples Experience and attended an Indigenous fancy dance performance at the Fantasyland Hotel.
- **On-Ice Technical & Tactical Training:** The Korean athletes trained at two of Curling Alberta's designated Regional Training Centres:
 - o *Saville Community Sports Centre (Edmonton):* On-ice skill development led by guest coaches Danielle Schmiemann and Jason Ginter.
 - o *Okotoks Curling Club:* Tactical tune-up sessions to prepare both teams for their competitive showcase.
- **Rural Alberta Hospitality in Drayton Valley:** The Landry family and Team Androschuk (Alberta's exchange athletes) welcomed the Korean delegation to their acreage for an authentic community visit. The evening featured local cuisine, horseback riding, lawn games, pumpkin carving, and interactive line dancing.
- **Mountain Sightseeing & High-Performance Facilities:** The group traveled south through the Canadian Rockies, taking in the Columbia Icefields, Canmore, and Banff before arriving in Calgary. In Calgary, they toured WinSport and the Canadian Sport Institute – Alberta (visiting the bobsleigh starting track at the Icehouse and the arena that previously hosted the "curling bubble") before racing on



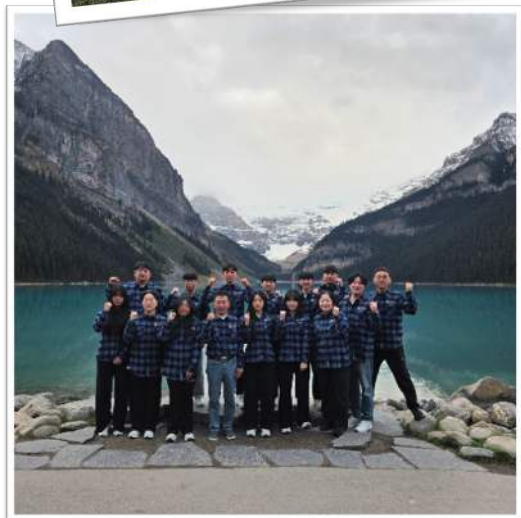
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The Official Exchange Match

The competitive highlight of the week took place at Calgary's historic North Hill Curling Club. Opening rock honors were delivered by Olympic medalist Amy Nixon alongside Team Canada's Boys FISU Universiade squad.

- **Girls Division Match:** Alberta's Team Else (Brooke Else, Marie-Soleil Lefebvre, Ava Dumont, and Seolah Kim) controlled their match against Gangwon, finishing with a 7-1 victory.
- **Boys Division Match:** Gangwon's boys team broke open a tight early game in the second half, defeating Alberta's Team Duncan (Nolan Duncan, Robert Nelson, Charles Snider, and Max Ingram) by a final score of 13-4.

Cultural Impact & Organization

The week concluded with a farewell banquet at Heritage Park's historic Canmore Opera House in Calgary, complete with a Western gunfighters show and dinner. Despite language differences, the event highlighted the universal connections and shared culture within the international curling community.

The successful exchange was organized through key contributions from:

- **Government & Sports Bodies:** The Government of Alberta (Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation branch) and the Gangwon State Sports Council.
- **Curling Alberta Leadership:** Board members Mickey Pendergast and Chantelle Bowman.
- **Host Facilities & Families:** Saville Community Sports Centre, Okotoks Curling Club, North Hill Curling Club, alongside host families Mike & Dayna Landry and Penny & Brian Duncan.



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Curling Canada's new Youth Curling website is full of exciting resources, programs, and opportunities for curling centres, coaches, parents, and athletes! Check out the website [HERE](#) or explore a few of our favourites below.

2026 Youth Curling Webinar Series

Don't miss out! The final webinar of the 2026 Youth Curling Webinar Series is coming up on October 20th!

Are you a U-15 coach, parent, or program leader? This one is for you!

The **2025-26 season saw 11 Provincial/Territorial Member Associations host 18 U-15 RockFest Qualifiers** across Canada, creating exciting opportunities for young athletes to develop their skills, have fun, and connect with new friends. Top performers from each qualifier earned invitations to Curling Canada's U-15 RockFest regional events!

Join us to learn more about U-15 RockFest plans for the 2026-2027 season and hear insights from Dustin Mikush (Curling Canada), Jill Brothers (Nova Scotia Curling), Laura Forget (Curling Ontario), and Rebecca Rankin (Curling Alberta)!

Tuesday, October 20th at 5:30 PM MT [REGISTER HERE](#)

RockStars Program

We are thrilled to share an opportunity for your curling centre to offer an engaging program that empowers youth ages 6-12 to build skills, gain confidence and foster a love for curling that lasts a lifetime.

Purchase your kit though Curling Canada today and receive:

- Two 12-week lesson plans (U-9 FUNDamentals & U-12 Learn to Train)
- A series of fun skill-building activities
- Achievement report templates for instructors
- 30 official U-12 RockStars bag tags (additional bag tags available for purchase)
- PLUS digital program updates annually!

Become a RockStar curling centre today! [CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS](#)

Girls Rock, presented by Scotties

Along with our partners at Curling Canada we are thrilled to share a new funding opportunity to support community efforts to run a Girls Rock, presented by Scotties, event! **Apply before the October 18 deadline**, and your curling centre could be selected to receive the official Digital Start-up Kit, including all the program resources needed to execute a successful event and \$500 of program support funding.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS](#)



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The curling season is underway, and Curling Alberta competition registration deadlines are already around the corner!

From U15, U18 and U20 competition to Men's, Women's, Seniors, Masters, Mixed, Mixed Doubles, Wheelchair and Club Championships, there are opportunities for curlers across Alberta to compete for a provincial title this season.

With qualifiers and championships taking place across the province, now is the time to check your category, confirm your eligibility and mark your registration deadline. Some categories also include pre-qualifying requirements and deadlines that teams should be aware of before registering.

Don't wait until the last minute, review the complete 2026–27 Provincial Qualifier & Championship schedule, including event locations, registration links and important deadlines.

[VIEW QUALIFIERS, CHAMPIONSHIPS & REGISTER](#)



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It has been a busy start to the season for Alberta's umpire community!

Curling Alberta recently hosted two in-person Umpire Skills Reviews in Sherwood Park and Okotoks, led by Brett Waldroff and Cheryl Minns. New candidates who completed Curling Canada's online Game Umpire course were able to complete the hands-on Skills Review portion of their training, while many certified Game Umpires joined the sessions as a preseason refresher.

The sessions combined classroom and on-ice training, giving umpires an opportunity to review rules, procedures, timing, measurements, brush checks and other practical skills ahead of championship season.

New Season, Updated Rules

Beginning in 2026–27, Curling Canada has adopted the World Curling rulebook, creating greater consistency between Canadian and international play. Curling Alberta is following Curling Canada's lead and will use the updated rules for sanctioned competitions this season.

[Learn more about the universal rulebook](#)

Interested in Becoming an Umpire?

The new training pathway combines Curling Canada's online learning with Curling Alberta's practical, on-ice Skills Review and supervised championship experience.

Whether you're interested in becoming a timer, an umpire or continuing to develop your skills, [explore Curling Alberta's Umpire Education Pathways](#).

Thank you to Alberta's umpire community for your continued commitment to fair, consistent and professional competition across the province, and to everyone who has already volunteered their time for the season ahead. We appreciate your dedication and look forward to seeing you on the ice!



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The countdown is on for the **2027 RME Alberta Summit of Champions**, presented by Sentinel Storage and Best Western Hotels & Resorts in Drayton Valley - and there are two great ways to be part of the action: **join our volunteer team or secure your Early Bird tickets!**

From **January 11–17, 2027**, the Team Auction Centre in Drayton Valley will welcome **Alberta's top 12 men's and top 12 women's teams** as they compete for provincial titles and the opportunity to represent Alberta at the 2027 Montana's Brier and Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

Get Your Early Bird Tickets

Want to experience the action from the stands? **Early Bird Full-Event Passes are on sale until October 31!**

Adult Full-Event Pass: \$200

Senior (65+) Full-Event Pass: \$125

Kids 12 & Under: FREE*

Your full-event pass includes every draw of the championship, including playoffs.

Early Bird pricing ends at **midnight on October 31**, after which full-event pass prices will increase. **Individual draw and day tickets go on sale November 1.**

GET YOUR TICKETS

Join the Volunteer Team

It takes an incredible team to bring a championship like this to life, and there are a variety of volunteer roles available throughout the week — both behind the scenes and in the heart of the action.

Whether you're a longtime curling volunteer or looking to get involved for the first time, this is your opportunity to experience championship curling up close, meet new people and help showcase Drayton Valley to athletes and fans from across Alberta.

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER



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Whether you're developing as a **coach, ice technician or umpire**, Curling Alberta's education and certification pathways provide opportunities to build the skills that support great curling experiences across the province.

Several courses are still coming up this fall — but **registration deadlines are approaching quickly!**

Upcoming Coaching Courses

Club Coach

- Red Deer Curling Club - **October 17–18**
- Slave Lake Curling Club - **October 17–18**
- Drayton Valley Curling Club - **October 24–25**
- Delia Curling Club - **November 21–22**

Club Coach Youth

- Granite Curling Club, Edmonton - **October 24**
- Fort Saskatchewan G&C Club - **November 21**

Competition Coach

Competition Coach training now combines on-demand online learning with a one-day, in-person course, allowing coaches to complete the theory at their own pace before putting those skills into practice on the ice.

* [Explore Coaching Courses, Requirements & Registration](#)

Ice Technician Training

Curling Alberta also offers training for both Assistant and Head Ice Technicians, supporting the people responsible for providing quality playing conditions in curling centres across Alberta.

Upcoming courses include:

- Assistant Ice Technician - Fairview CC, **October 16**
- Head Ice Technician - Vauxhall CC, **October 31 - Nov 1**

* [Explore Ice Technician Courses & Registration](#)

From behind the glass to behind the hacks, continued education helps strengthen our clubs, competitions and curling community. Find the pathway that's right for you and keep building your skills this season!



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Creating safe, welcoming, and respectful environments is a shared responsibility across our sport. That's why Curling Alberta recently implemented the **Alberta Safe Sport Complaint Mechanism (ABSSCM)**, an independent process for reporting and addressing concerns related to maltreatment and prohibited behaviour in sport.

The ABSSCM is available to athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, board members, and staff participating within Curling Alberta-affiliated clubs. It provides a clear, independent reporting pathway for concerns such as harassment, discrimination, abuse, retaliation, and other prohibited behaviour.

The mechanism helps protect participants by providing an independent place to raise concerns, while also supporting club leaders and Board members who may not be trained or equipped to investigate complex Safe Sport matters.

Most importantly, you do not need to determine whether your concern falls within the ABSSCM before reporting it. If you believe it may involve prohibited behaviour, report it. Your concern will be reviewed and directed through the appropriate process.

Participants are encouraged to review Curling Alberta's [Notice to Participants](#) for information on who is covered and how the process applies.

Learn More & Report a Concern: Visit [Curling Alberta's Safe Sport page](#) for reporting options, resources, and additional information.

FIND YOUR NEXT CURLING OPPORTUNITIES!

Whether you're a new or experienced curler, and you're looking for a place to curl, your next bonspiel, a team, or even some new equipment...Curling Alberta can help connect you with opportunities across the province.

[Leagues & Programs](#) – Discover Green Horn Leagues, Try Curling, Learn to Curl and other club programs.

[Bonspiels](#) – Find upcoming events and bonspiels hosted by clubs across Alberta.

[Classifieds](#) – Find teammates, coaches, team opportunities, equipment and more.

Member clubs: Keep your listings up to date and help more curlers discover what's happening at your club.

Find your next opportunity, make a connection and get curling!



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Added Protection When Accidents Happen!

Did you know that registered participants in Curling Alberta-affiliated curling clubs have access to Supplemental Personal Accident Insurance coverage?

While nobody expects to be injured participating in the sport they love, accidents can happen. Curling Alberta's Supplemental Personal Accident Insurance Program through Gallagher Insurance provides an additional layer of protection that may help offset costs associated with injuries sustained during sanctioned curling activities.

Following feedback received from clubs across Alberta, Curling Alberta recently enhanced this program to provide increased coverage and stronger protection for participants. While we hope you'll never need it, the program is designed to provide valuable support when unexpected situations arise.

This is one of the many benefits available through affiliation with a Curling Alberta member club. It reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting participants both on and off the ice.

Learn More: Visit the [Curling Alberta website](https://www.curlingalberta.ca) for details on coverage, eligibility, and claim procedures.



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Written by Randy Olsen, President Alberta Stick Curling Association

We now have over **3000 stick curlers** in Alberta. Stick curling in Alberta continues to grow.

The Alberta Stick Curling Tour now includes nine events hosted from September to January. This tour is sponsored by Olson Curling and the top teams earn a free entry into the Alberta championship. For details, please visit albertastickcurling.ca

The Alberta Stick Curling Association will be hosting four Alberta Championships this year with the winners earning an opportunity to play in the national championships in Kelowna, B.C. March 30 – April 3, 2027. The Mixed championships will be hosted by Spruce Grove, Jan 30-31, 2027. The Men's and Women's championships will be hosted in Medicine Hat, Feb 20-21, 2027. The Alberta Club championship for Stick Curlers has been hosted by Curling Alberta the last two seasons. This year the Alberta Stick Curling Association will be hosting the stick club championships in Leduc, Feb 27-28, 2027. Each club will be allowed to send two representatives to these championships. All entries for all championships can be made at the [albertastickcurling.ca website](http://albertastickcurling.ca).

We would like to recognize two teams that were very successful at last year's national championships. Sandy Kaufman and Jan Chateauvert of St. Albert are the Canadian Women Stick Curling Champions. Al and Glenys Edwards of St. Albert placed third in the mixed division.

The Alberta Stick Curling Association is now selling top quality delivery sticks. Please see albertastickcurling.ca for additional details. A Stick Curling Training Center is opening soon at the St. Albert Curling Club. Additional details coming soon.



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