



April 16, 2020

## LETTER FROM THE BCLA PRESIDENT RE: COVID-19

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The BC Lacrosse Association remains hopeful that we will see box lacrosse this summer. We continue exploring options for returning to safe play with the focus on participation. Of course, this is dependent on updates determined by government and local health authority directives and situational changes; and when facilities will open again. It is still too early to make any decision on whether the box lacrosse season, or some format of the box lacrosse season, will take place. We urge all our members; including teams, associations, leagues, and directorates to take the same approach.

The BCLA office remains operational and the BCLA Board will continue to review finances and cash flow over the next several months. We have revised budgets based on multiple scenarios. We plan to maintain the office and payroll, down to three full-time staff on May 1 as Jeff will be taking over from Rochelle as the Executive Director and we are not replacing the 4<sup>th</sup> staff position at this time.

We are already receiving the 10% wage subsidy through CRA and the staff is ready to apply for the 75% federal wage subsidy when the application process becomes available.

We have received most of the initial registration/insurance fees from Senior and Minor box lacrosse associations/clubs/leagues, and these fees will not be refunded. It is expected that those who have not yet submitted their payments will do so. We have invoiced for referee clinics/registration fees, as well as, the few box clinic registration fees that have occurred. It is expected that these invoices will be paid since the BCLA incurred these expenses. Whether there is a box season this summer or not, since referees must re-certify each year, we will work with the BC Lacrosse Officials Technical Support Group to allow an adapted (possibly on-line) clinic at no cost for 2021 for those participants who took the course this year.

Team BC programs are break-even programs and have a neutral effect on the budget. We have communicated with the participants as the tryout dates are cancelled and postponed. The Canadian Lacrosse Association will not be making a decision regarding 2020 Nationals until after May 15<sup>th</sup>, so we will react accordingly at that time.

The BCLA Board has made the decision to not hold the Annual General Meeting in Whistler this year, and we will roll out alternatives for the AGM and Special Sessions in the coming months. This decision was based on the financial impact on the BCLA and on our membership. As well, BCLA travel, including Directorate and CLA meetings, has been suspended until further notice.

We are taking advantage of the various federal programs being offered for small businesses. A recent announcement from the federal government includes a new rent subsidy for businesses that will be investigated.

Another option that the federal government has offered is the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) available through various banks and credit unions. This is an interest free loan of \$40,000. If you pay 75% of the balance of the term loan between January 1, 2021 and before December 31, 2022, the remaining balance of your term loan will be forgiven. In other words, the BCLA would receive \$10,000 when we return the other \$30,000. However, the BCLA ByLaw Number XIII: Exercise of Borrowing Powers states that in order to borrow, "that none of these powers shall be exercised except in accordance with the sanction of a resolution passed by a three-fourths vote of the members of the

Association present and entitled to vote at a regular or Special meeting; and provided each member of the Association shall be given fourteen days notice of the meeting and of the proposed scheme to raise or secure monies to be voted on at the meeting". The Board is currently looking at a process to call an electronic Special Session format for this purpose.

The next few weeks are going to be difficult for everyone. We will continue to communicate with lacrosse leadership groups and will update you when more information is available. We thank you for your patience and calmness, and look forward to better news in the coming weeks. In the meantime, stay safe!

Yours in Lacrosse,  
Gerry Van Beek, BCLA President