



**REPORT NAME:** Chairman's Report  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Pat Aldous  
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2015 will be remembered for some great successes. Our Women's Sevens won a World Series Cup in Amsterdam and qualified for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games as a top four finisher in the 2014/2015 Series. Our Men's and Women's Sevens teams won exciting Pan Am Games Gold Medals at home in a packed BMO Field. It was one of the most entertaining rugby days ever!

However, 2015 will be most remembered for the failure of our National Senior Men's Fifteens Team at Rugby World Cup 2015. In spite of some outstanding play, we were unable to sustain it sufficiently to win a game. In sport, winning is how we are measured. Rugby nations are often measured by the performance of their Men's Fifteens. So, in spite of our successes, Canada were losers in 2015. As your Board Chair, I am directly accountable for your disappointment.

Why then am I feeling so upbeat about where we are with Rugby Canada? We have never been better placed for success. 2016 is a year of change – positive change! Firstly, we welcome Allen Vansen as our new CEO. We are extremely fortunate that our need matched Allen's completion of his work with the Pan Am TO2015 Organizing Committee. The key to our success starts with the professional leadership at the top. Allen brings that leadership to Rugby Canada. Our department heads are solid. Mark Lemmon has grown our sponsorships and fundraising significantly. Myles Spencer has become an outstanding manager and administrator. Linh Nguyen is a quiet lady with a big stick skillfully controlling the financial and accounting management, and Jim Dixon has already demonstrated a determined commitment to reform and success in the rugby department. Dr. Pat Parfrey brings his wealth of experience and unbelievable determination to the World Rugby Council Member position. We have some of the best coaches in the world and welcome our new National Senior Men's Fifteens Team Head Coach, Mark Anscombe, to his position.

Already in 2016, we have the success of hosting the HSBC Canada Sevens in Vancouver, BC. A huge thank you to John Furlong, Bill Cooper, Jamie Levchuk and the whole Canada Sevens team for delivering the best and most successful tournament, far exceeding expectations.

Thank you to all our sponsors, ticket buyers, donors and funding partners whom all supported the growth of our sport in many ways in 2015.

We have a great team in place, and importantly, have for the first time in Rugby Canada history, grown the revenues necessary to make meaningful investments in our programs. The more we invest in programs, the greater our success. This is a proven fact. We have never been better placed for success.

In 2016, we will increase investment in grass roots and Rookie Rugby programs, we will make meaningful progress in eliminating pay-to-play for our National Senior Women's Fifteens program, we will put in place a much improved talent identification system and we will implement a full time training environment in a centralized Men's Fifteens program. In August a centralized core of 20 players will be "carded" and come

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to Langford in a full time professional training environment. The selection of this squad will be from the recently completed Americas Rugby Championship and this summer's Canadian Rugby Championship. Twenty more non-centralized domestic players will be on the long-list, with training programs established and monitored. A competitions schedule has been developed to give this squad the high level of competition necessary to develop the ability to compete at the top level.

Did I mention the Olympic medal? I do not want to jinx either team by predicting a medal or medals, but we will be ready for the raised focus on rugby in Canada that comes with Olympic success.

We must now also complete the Centre of Excellence with a world class High Performance Centre. First-class programs must be supported by first-class facilities.

It is hard to not focus upon the immediate future without excitement.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of those that have moved on. Graham Brown was a warrior for Rugby Canada and we would not have this opportunity going forward if it had not been for Graham's years of hard work to get us to where we are today. Chris LeFevre also served for many years as our World Rugby Council member and built many international relationships that contributed hugely to Rugby Canada. Kieran Crowley is a good man and was a dedicated national team coach. He gave his guts for the years he was at the helm. Kieran raised the level of our game remarkably given the very limited resources made available to him. We thank these three men for their invaluable service and wish them the very best for their futures.

I must also thank the staff of Rugby Canada and Canada Sevens for their never ending work, the many volunteers that make rugby possible in this country, and the Provincial Unions for their support and hard work as well.

Rugby Canada has a plan. It is the best plan we have ever had. With the support of the Provincial Unions, CRC organizations, and the rugby community as a whole, we will give our elite athletes the best possible chance for success and we will share in their pride in their achievements. To those who criticize because that is what they do best, you are hurting the game. If you love this game, give positive support to National programs. We will only maximize the success when all key members of our community act "As One".

This is my farewell as Chairman. It has been hard work. I do believe, however, that my biggest reward will come from the future successes of our National Teams under our new leadership team.

Go Canada!

Thank You,

Pat Aldous, Chairman  
Rugby Canada

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