



Phoenix FC President's Report

Hi Phoenix FC Family,

It's been an eventful few months since my last quarterly report and I am happy to bring you some exciting and important news and events at the club.

I want to first share my appreciation for all the membership and staff here at Phoenix FC. The opportunity I've been given to watch our players develop from children into adults, become leaders, have great moments and experience failure, and develop a passion for the game has been an incredible reward. It's not the wins and losses that measure success, it's about the people we are providing opportunities to, for them to become better people, teammates and players. I am proud to be a part of that every time Phoenix FC steps on the pitch.

Provincial Hosting & League 1 Women's Interprovincial Championships

We are extremely excited to be hosting a major soccer event coming in August this year. In conjunction with Alberta Soccer, we will be hosting the 2025 League 1 Women's Interprovincial Championships in conjunction with the Alberta Provincial Championships for Tier 2 and Tier 3 teams. This event will be held August 8 to 10 with League 1 games scheduled for Friday and Sunday at Emerald Hills Regional Park. Provincial games will be played at the Millennium Place and Strathcona Athletic Park fields, with the likely possibility for some other fields to see use. Alberta Soccer is planning for quite a celebration with events and festivities at all three venues. Will be reaching out for volunteer support to make this event a success. Thank you in advance to those that come out to help. This event will boost the local economy through filling the hotels and restaurants and bringing national attention to our fantastic facilities here in Strathcona County. We hope to see all of you come out to enjoy the event and celebrate our community.

National Youth Soccer License

On Friday, June 13 we received a response to our NYSL application submitted April 15 from Canada Soccer, and we are pleased to share that we are moving on to the next steps in the certification process. The application process was intense, and an immense amount of work went into providing the documents, policies and processes to satisfy the 180+ action items required in the Canada Soccer portal.

The next steps involve completing the remaining action items in progress, Alberta Player Development League readiness discussions with Alberta Soccer for a league entry in the fall of 2026 and updating staffing structure and finances.

We remain committed to the evaluation of participation in the NYSL and APDL in the best interests of the players of Phoenix FC and the health of the club and association.

It is our understanding that currently there are no other clubs progressing to the next steps of the application process for the 2026 intake window.

Phoenix FC Technical Director

It is with a sad heart that we are saying farewell to our Technical Director Bart Choufour. Bart has been instrumental in the implementation of the philosophies and values of our club and has helped build a truly player development focussed program. In the rapid changing tides of youth sports and the intense pressure to create pathways to support professional and national programs, there are very few candidates who have the knowledge, courage and passion to take exception to the status quo. With Bart's help we have created something special here at Phoenix FC and it is being noticed across our sport and soccer community.

We knew that Bart was coming to us on an interim basis. Living in Vancouver with his family Bart was traveling to connect in person as much as possible, with much of his contributions coming through technology and online meetings while building the foundation of our program. We have come to the mutual agreement that to take the next steps forward with our programming and delivery, we need more presence on the field with our players, coaches and technical staff. I would personally like to thank Bart for all his hard work, contributions and dedication to Phoenix FC. I look forward to sharing the success of our next steps with him in the future. Bart will be helping us in the transition of his role and continuing in his current role until the end of July.

With this brings exiting opportunity for the club. Bernie Soto has been extremely successful in his role as Executive Director and the board has immense confidence in Bernie's leadership of this club as we move forward. We are using the opportunity to support Bernie in evaluating the current staffing structure and ensure we have dedicated support for the success of each player and program here at Phoenix FC.

We have begun the process of discovering a new Technical Director and look forward to finding the right person for the role. We look forward to providing more updates in the coming weeks.

Finances

The recent news showing the financial strains on some of the clubs in our community have reiterated the importance of strict fiscal responsibility required to successfully

manage our association and club. I am happy to report we continue to see improvement in the financial reporting and the trend remains positive toward achieving our budget and financial goals for 2024-2025.

Facility Updates

We have been in communication with Strathcona County regarding the Indoor Field House project and we are happy to report the plan for 2025 is on schedule, with the final phases of planning and development and contractor selection, with the construction remaining on schedule to start in the spring of 2026. This premier indoor facility will be an amazing facility to support our indoor soccer programming and will likely draw in the opportunity to see major events such as League1 and national team training and events. This facility has been the vision of this club and its membership for a long time, and we are thrilled at the prospect of seeing shovels go into the ground next spring.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a strong partnership with Strathcona County, who shares our ideals that proper facility and maintenance support are vital to support the youth athletes in our community. When we travel to other municipalities we are often reminded of how fortunate we are to have the facilities and spaces we do.

She Can Rise

The She Can Rise initiative under the leadership of Colleen Skitsko has been an amazing success. Colleen and her team are doing amazing work bring focus and attention to women's athletes and providing opportunities for our women at Phoenix FC to be the best selves they can be.

The She Can Rise 3v3 tournament and skills competition was an incredible event and really spotlighted our women players, coaches, referees and staff. I was proud to see Alberta Soccer feature it in their social media, recognizing the significant contributions this group is making to the soccer community. Thank you to all of the volunteers and participants that made the event such a success and I look forward it again next year.

Outdoor Season

As we are well into our 2025 Outdoor season, I want to wish all our teams and players the best in their games, tournaments and training for the remainder of their schedules. It has been great to get around and see the games being played all over our community each evening and on the weekends and it has been great watching games and listening to the crowds support the players and cheer the kids on. Thank you for being good supporters and showing our values at Phoenix FC when you are representing us on the sidelines.

Our tournaments have been a success this season and a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers that orchestrated the events. I am so happy to see our tournaments continue

as we are known around the province as a great tournament destination. These tournaments support our local economies, bring attention to our amazing community, and most importantly provide for a fantastic player experience.

Good luck to those teams attending tournaments and ASA provincials this season, and I look forward to seeing you all out on the pitch.

Nils Pregitzer

President

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