

## New Governance Structure Announced

OTTAWA, ON, March 25, 2014 - The Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) is pleased to announce that at the 2013 AGM in St. John's, NL, the members gave unanimous approval to bylaw revisions that prepare the CLA for full compliance with the new *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*.

A national committee of lacrosse leaders has been working on this transition strategy for two years. The bylaw amendments approved initiate two important changes in the governance structure of the CLA - firstly, a simplified membership model and secondly, a slimmed down, democratically elected and responsive Board of Directors (BOD).

The CLA is also very pleased to report that Industry Canada has recently approved the Bylaw amendments passed at the AGM in November 2013. The approval completes Step 1 of the CLA's transition to the new *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, positioning the CLA to complete the compliance comfortably in advance of the October 2014 deadline.

"The CLA is to be applauded for taking this enormous step to modernize their governance structure" says Rachel Corbett of the Sport Law & Strategy Group. "We [*Sport Law & Strategy Group*] are working with dozens of sports on their pathway to compliance with the new legislation, and the CLA stands out as one that may have had the most work to do. The CLA members have shown a strong commitment to improved governance practices." Though the CLA has made quite a bit of progress in the restructure, there is more work to be done. Joey Harris, re-elected as President for a one-year term to oversee the transition, adds "Our work is not done. In fact it is just beginning. I look forward to leading the CLA through this critical transition year".

As a result of the Industry Canada approval, a number of proposed governance changes are now in effect; the BOD was restructured and redefined, a new advisory committee was formed, and the terms of reference outlining the roles and responsibilities for the BOD, advisory and standing committees and each sector were written.

The CLA Board of Directors primary role is to govern by providing leadership direction for the CLA in pursuit of its vision and mission. The BOD is elected by the membership of the CLA and is ultimately accountable to the membership for competent stewardship that will ensure the long-term viability of the CLA. They will oversee the development of strategies, plans and policies that guide the CLA and provide direction for Sectors, Committees, management and staff.

### CLA Board of Directors

President - Joey Harris (Manitoba)

Director of Administration - Tom Engel (Alberta)

Director of Domestic Development - Steve O'Shaughnessy (New Brunswick)

Director of First Nations - Russ Doxtedor (Iroquois Territory)

Director of High Performance and International Relations - Stewart Begg (Alberta)

Director at Large - John Doherty (Ontario)

Director at Large - Dave Higdon (New Brunswick)

Director of Marketing and Communications - Terry Rowland (Ontario)

Director of National Championships - AJ Jomha (Alberta)

Athlete Director - To be Named

The newly formed Member Council is an advisory body that is responsible for maintaining effective communications between Members and the CLA and for advising the BOD, sectors and committees of the CLA on matters of importance to the development of the sport of lacrosse at the local and provincial level. They provide input into plans, policies and programs of the CLA and assist with the coordination and implementation of the CLA plans, programs and policies within Member Associations.



**Member Council Appointments:**

Dave Higdon (New Brunswick)  
Greg Lintz (Alberta)  
John Doherty (Ontario)  
Martin Routhier (Quebec)  
Mike Hayes (Nova Scotia)  
Paul Magnan (Manitoba)  
Rochelle Winterton (Executive Director, BCLA)  
Shawn Williams (Saskatchewan)  
Sohen Gill (British Columbia)  
Travis Cook (First Nations)

The CLA Board of Directors, Member Council, Sectors and Committees are composed of experts in various fields and members of the Canadian lacrosse community who are in the pursuit of honouring the sport of lacrosse and its unique nation-building heritage, by engaging our members and providing opportunities for all Canadians to participate.

The CLA is very excited about moving forward with an improved governance structure. There will be some challenges but we are convinced that we will be a stronger and more effective organization as a result. The new government approved edition of the CLA Bylaws and the updated CLA Operations Manual are both available to all members of the Canadian lacrosse community, players, coaches, and general public on [www.lacrosse.ca](http://www.lacrosse.ca).

**About the Canadian Lacrosse Association**

The Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) is the governing body responsible for all aspects of lacrosse in Canada. The CLA mission is to honour the sport of lacrosse and its unique nation-building heritage, by engaging our members and leading our partners and providing opportunities for all Canadians to participate. We value health, excellence, accountability, respect and teamwork. For more details on the Canadian Lacrosse Association and the sport of lacrosse, visit [www.lacrosse.ca](http://www.lacrosse.ca)

- 30 -

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