



Report from the Board Chair

Dakota CC 2025 Annual General Meeting - Tuesday, November 24, 2025

I was honoured to accept the role of Board Chair this past year, and to step into the big shoes of our most recent past chair Christian Kennedy, and to also welcome Joseph Langan as the new Vice Chair for Dakota Community Centre Inc.

It has been a sincere pleasure working with the amazing team of staff and volunteers at DCC, under the leadership of our President & CEO Michele Augert. I've also had the pleasure of working with our very competent and professional volunteer Board of Directors, who all bring unique skills and perspectives to our table, but with a common sense of purpose and passion for the betterment of our Centre and our community. I am both awed and proud of the vast array of volunteerism that Dakota CC attracts and know that it remains the life-blood of our Centre and our continued success.

2024/25 has seen another strong year of performance and progress at Dakota Community Centre and, allow me to reflect of some of the notable highlights from the past year:

- This past spring, our Board and Senior Leadership updated our Centre's Strategic Framework and Plan as we look ahead to the next three years. While our Vision and Values remain essentially intact, we updated our Mission to be "A gathering place for all, fostering social connection and excellence in recreation and sport". We felt this change to better reflect who we serve and what we do each day for our community and beyond. Our new Strategic Plan focuses us on four pillars of priority - our Place, our People & Culture, our Purpose and our Partnerships. These foundational pillars underpin our important work to achieve our goals related to facilities expansion, engaging our community, focusing on our unique purpose and strengthening relations with our key stakeholders.
- With the completion of more than \$4 million in infrastructure investments and improvements to our Centre in 2003 & 2024, we have continued to enhance our

facilities for the benefit of our community. This year we secured nearly \$100K from the City of Winnipeg Infrastructure Grant Program to support our \$178K investment to make accessible building modifications and to construct and install accessible seating/viewing platforms in both the north and south rinks. With our emphasis on being a place for everyone, this important investment will continue to ensure that we are working to make Dakota's facilities fully accessible to all who come to our Centre.

- This past year we also made critical investments in our Hockey & Ice Programs, bringing Tyler Riel on board to lead this important area of growth. Under Tyler's professional direction, new youth programs have come to Dakota CC under the Lazars Hockey Club banner, including our very popular 'Learn to Play' program for U7's, our expanding 4 x 4 youth league and other skill development programs for women, men, boys and girls, as well as the first successful annual youth hockey winter classic tournament over the Christmas holidays.
- We also made important investments in our People & Culture with the addition of a dedicated Human Resources professional to assist in supporting and managing our ever growing and diverse workforce, critical for the functioning of our vibrant and busy Centre.
- Dakota CC was abuzz with excitement and media attention this summer when news of our Sportsplex namesake and champion supporter, Jonathan Toews, was returning to our City to play for our hometown Jets.
- Dozens of volunteers & staff jumped in to deliver nearly 9,000 copies of our Fall/Winter Community Newsmagazine to every home in our catchment, when the Canada Post strike hit this fall. Our community of volunteers remains one of our greatest strengths at Dakota CC.
- Our 35 year old Christmas market made a very successful move and expansion from the Sportsplex (where it had outgrown its space) to the much larger Fieldhouse, where now nearly 150 vendors and nearly 5000 attendees over two-days are able to shop local fare and wares during each first weekend of November.
- Exciting progress is also being made towards securing funds for the first phase of our plans for expansion, designed to address the demand for more ice and the need to continue to expand and modernize our aging facilities. The Arena & Recreation Centre Expansion project plans include a brand new additional 750 seat arena, which will be modern, accessible and built for the next generation; as well as new child care centre, new fitness/workout facilities, upgraded kitchen/food services, new and accessible main entry as well as expanded parking/improved traffic flow for the campus.

- In addition to a large LED lighting upgrade that saw the replacement of old and inefficient fixtures throughout the Sportsplex main floor and dressing rooms supported through a \$62K grant from Efficiency Manitoba, DCC secured nearly \$ 550,000 in operating and capital grants to support our important work and upgrades at our facility in 2023/24. This includes grants from the City of Winnipeg Community Centre Renovation Fund, Canada Summer Jobs, Manitoba Green Team, City of Winnipeg, WRHA Community Services and the Province of Manitoba (Nursery School). We extend our thanks to the various government officials and programs for this critical support as it remains essential to enhance and support our growth, improvements and general operations at the Centre.

On behalf of the Dakota Community Centre Board, management, staff and volunteers, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our community members, patrons, partners and stakeholders for their continued support and encouragement of our success this past year. There is much more to come!

Best wishes to all of you and your families for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Cory Shangreaux
Board Chair