

# VANCOUVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



## President *Nick Santorelli*

As we close the 2023/24 season, we reflect on a year marked by significant changes and challenges, which we successfully navigated together. The restructuring of the initiation group from four classifications to the new U7 and U9 categories, along with changes in the U11 pathway for rep, went smoothly thanks to the dedication of everyone involved.

Despite being under-allocated for ice time, we managed to deliver quality skills and development programs for our younger players in U7 and U9. The lack of ice, exacerbated by the PNE's use of the Agrodome during Christmas, continued to limit the number of skills sessions available for the U11 and U13 groups, including our popular goalie clinics. However, our training center effectively filled many of these gaps, allowing us to continue providing skills development. Special thanks to John Lavery and Phil Lam for their efforts in ensuring the Training Center met these needs.

Our Christmas Charity Tournament returned to its former glory with many of our teams participating. A big thanks to Cora Burnette, our tournament director, and her wonderful team of volunteers for their hard work. Although our standard fundraising events faced challenges, our appointed fundraising director, Tsion Tekie, successfully identified alternative events and secured much-needed funds. Thank you to Tsion and all members who contributed to this success.

Congratulations to the teams who triumphed in tournaments and playoff series in both Rep and C divisions, especially the U15A1 team, which represented VMHA at the provincial championship tournament.

The strategic planning committee has been instrumental in developing both short-term and long-term strategic plans to guide the new board in adapting to the evolving landscape of minor hockey. The Hockey Ops Committee met almost monthly since last summer to review, assess, plan, and manage all facets of operating a minor hockey association, ensuring the delivery of a successful hockey program. I am honored to work with such visionary and dedicated individuals on these committees.

The growth of non-sanctioned leagues remains a challenge, yet Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey reports that the Lower Mainland's overall player registration is within 130 players of its all-time high pre-COVID numbers. This indicates that the sport remains popular and continues to grow, especially under the auspices of Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, and Pacific Coast, which safeguard our children in the sport they love.

Looking ahead, we have secured Phil Lam as our Director of Hockey Operations to guide us into the new season. Rupert Xu, our Referee-in-Chief, has also agreed to continue his role, ensuring our referees maintain a high standard of excellence. Our A1 coaches have committed to VMHA, and efforts are underway to finalize our A2 coaches.

I look forward to continuing my role as president and representing VMHA as we approach the new season in just under three months. Thank you all for your continued support and dedication.

## About VMHA

The Vancouver Minor Hockey Association (VMHA) began its roots in the East Vancouver community in 1939 and was one of the three founding member associations of the Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association. Based out of the PNE Forum arena in the early years, our association has been a part of promoting minor hockey in the community for over 80 years. The association grew since its inception, joining with other minor hockey associations in East Vancouver, and now includes diverse neighbourhoods from Downtown Vancouver to Commercial Drive and Boundary Rd, and Hastings to Killarney and South Vancouver.

## Mission and Vision

VMHA's mission is to support the development of hockey players to their highest potential in a safe, fun and fair environment for all. With a vision of being the "best little minor hockey association" in Canada, VMHA strives to promote healthy competition, the development of positive life skills, equal participation opportunities for players, and optimized skill development to support success for all.

## 2023 Board Members

- President - Nick Santorelli
- VP1 - Won Nam
- VP2 - John Lavery
- VP3 - Quyen Cheng
- Coaching Coordinator - Vacant
- Referee Allocator - Sharleen Steele
- Equipment - Ryan Berner
- Tournament - Cora Burnette
- Secretary - Sara Ward
- Treasurer - Phil Aguirre
- Fundraising - Tsion Tekie

## 2024 AGM Elections | 2 Year Term:

- VP1
- VP3
- Secretary (1 Year)
- Equipment (1Year)
- Coach Coordinator (1 year)
- Fundraiser
- Treasurer



## VMHA 2023 *Teams in Review*

From our oldest division U21 to our youngest players in U7, VMHA had a total of 563 registered players and 36 total teams (7 rep teams) representing the association. Big congratulations to all teams as well as our banner winners! And to our U15 A1 team that made it to the final four tournament for their tier. Banners!

<i>Key Stats</i>	2023/24 563 Players 224 Coaches 36 Team Managers	2022/23 564 Players 227 Coaches 36 Team Managers
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Division	# Teams	#Players	Fees - 2023/2024	Rep Fees
U7	3	43	\$650.00/\$ 750.00	
U9	6	90	\$ 850.00	
U11 Rep	2	32	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 600.00
U11 House	5	89	\$ 1,045.00	
U13 Rep	2	34	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 660.00
U13 House	4	62	\$ 1,045.00	
U15 Rep	2	35	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 780.00
U15 House	4	58	\$ 1,100.00	
U18 Rep	1	19	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 800.00
U18 House	5	81	\$ 1,100.00	
U21 House	1	20	\$ 550.00	
	<b>36</b>	<b>563</b>		

## Development Skills/Clinics

Development Clinics have proven to be an area of strength. The clinics have allowed for increased ice time and specialized training for players throughout the season. The involvement of alumni and skilled instructors has been an important aspect of the program, providing valuable knowledge and experience to the players. Going forward, the association plans to continue networking and building upon the successful program to ensure ongoing development and growth for their players.

<i>Key Stats</i>	2023/24 64 Skills/Clinics 13 Goalie Skills/Clinics 795 Registrations	2022/23 63 Skills/Clinics 12 Goalie Skills/Clinics 804 Registrations
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## Hockey Operations Coordinator *Philippe Lam*

This year, VMHA achieved significant growth and success, fostering a positive environment for our athletes on and off the ice.

### Key Achievements

**Initiation Group Success:** Our initiation group has been a huge success, setting a solid foundation for our youngest athletes. The enthusiasm and commitment of both the players and their families have been awesome.

**Program Development:** Our major and minor programs have seen significant development this year. The efforts of coaches, players, and parents have culminated in impressive progress and achievements on and off the ice.

**Parental Involvement:** A special highlight this year has been the exceptional involvement of our VMHA parent coaches. Their dedication and hard work have not only improved the skills and performance of our teams but also fostered a strong community spirit. Thank you to all managers and team officials

**Rep and C Division Programs:** Our Rep programs and C division programs have performed admirably, showcasing the depth and talent within our organization. The commitment to excellence in training and competition has been evident throughout the season.

**Training Centre Utilization:** The effective use of our training centre has been a cornerstone of our development strategy. This year, we focused on maximizing the facility's potential, which has yielded positive results in player performance and skill enhancement.

### Future Plans

**Enhanced Program Structure:** We are working on implementing a more structured approach to our training programs, ensuring consistency and quality across all levels. On the ice and at the training centre.

**Specific Skills Development:** Our focus will also include adding specific skills development modules to our training regimen, aimed at enhancing the overall abilities of our athletes.

VMHA is proud of the achievements and progress made over the past year. With a strong foundation in place and a clear vision for the future, we are excited about the continued growth and success of our programs. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year a success, and we look forward to another successful season ahead.



# Training Centre & VP2 *John Lavery*

The 2023/2024 season marked a degree of change as we sought to really develop our Training Centre. The TC was originally conceived as a unique and critical piece of infrastructure to enable VMHA to provide additional training and skills opportunities to all levels of players and coaches. Throughout the season, we had 4 teams take up weekly training opportunities at the TC. Collectively, these teams won 3 banners, 5 tournaments, and one team went to the Provincial Championship after finishing second in the final four regionally. This includes both “A” teams and “C” teams who opted in. While the sample size is still small, I hope that the TC’s user rate will continue to climb to provide our players with the time to hone their skills and develop their bodies physically to compete hard throughout the season.

Additionally to these teams, we were able to provide regular goalie training throughout the season, as well as shooting clinics for individual players who were interested in further skill development. I’d like to thank our dedicated group of TC trainers, who provided an energized and fun environment in which to learn and grow. Together these trainers were responsible for over 2,000 player hours of training, which is roughly the equivalent of 120 ice times. With a ratio of 8:1 for players on the ice, and between 2:1 and 4:1 for goalies, these sessions offer more puck touches and more direct instruction than a standard practice. It is no wonder our players experience benefit from these sessions. We had both internal and external coaching opportunities, and we’ve even rented the facility out to private contractors, who have booked return dates and see value in the facility. Notably, groups like BWC have begun planning for their own training centres, also seeing value in these facilities, and both T-Birds and Angels teams have rented the facility for training opportunities. We look forward to growing our offerings throughout the season in 2024–2025.

One area for improvement with the TC is our spring and summer programming. While these were thrown into jeopardy due to the unforeseen closure of Britannia, they were also undersubscribed at the time. This will be corrected next year by not tying the TC opportunities to the Rink opportunities, and also getting the opportunities out to parents in early January to allow for effective family timetable planning. This year has not been without its challenges, however it appears that VMHA is heading towards a future based on a vision of community hockey that is competitive and fun, without losing its sense of sportsmanship and good citizenship – traits that become more important every day in our polarized world.

<i>Key Stats</i>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	25 C Sessions 70 Rep Sessions 5 External	59 C Sessions 60 Rep Sessions

## VP1 *Won Nam*

As chairman of the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee shall: (a) Review disciplinary decisions of the President. (b) Review all misconduct penalties assessed against players, Regular Member, Parent Members, and team officials to suspend or take such other disciplinary action that may be deemed necessary.

Throughout the year VMHA received numerous concerns that could have turned into official complaints but we tried to support Coaches, Team Managers, Div Managers and those who were involved. Positives were the relationships and trust built with our volunteer team and communicating with those who had concerns. Area of focus is to meet with the Div managers and communicate the process and to differentiate team and association complaints. Would like to thank the conflict resolution committee as they have been a tremendous help and guidance throughout the season.

## Equipment Manager *Ryan Berner*

The new partnership with Scoffs for the sale of VMHA branded apparel and merchandise has been a great partnership allowing VMHA to offer a large selection of quality items and we look forward to continuing with them for next season. "East Van Minor Hockey" items have been added to the selection of apparel. As per last year they will have a merchandise booth at VMHA picture day.

Over the past two years we have been slowly replenishing the goalie gear for the initiation group that had not seen a refresh since 2015. This includes new goalie pads, blockers and catchers. We continue to see strong usage with this group as well as the U11's. With the increase in spring/summer clinics the equipment remains in high demand and we hope to continue to have strong goalie interest. This year we will be focusing on refreshing some of the chest protectors and goalie sticks.

The VMHA Jersey Policy was updated in 2022. Please check in with the VMHA Policies and Procedures webpage if you have any questions.

Coach and safety kits are distributed each year to new coaches and safeties as well as an annual refresh for those that had high use. Returning coaches and safeties are encouraged to keep their kits for following years.

New this year will be the preordering of VMHA socks. In addition, the equipment and apparel committee has been formed and the first priority will be a merchandise review. This committee will also be working on trying to improve the jersey collection and distribution process. We are looking for an initiation representative for this committee, if you are interested please email [equipment@vmha.com](mailto:equipment@vmha.com). The time commitment is 4 meetings per year and some emails.



# Risk Management – VP3 *Quyen Cheng*

Accidents can and do happen anywhere, anytime to anyone. This is especially true in sports that involve physical contact, like hockey. Risk management is the process by which an organization or team identifies, assesses, controls and minimizes the risk of bodily injury or financial loss arising from its activities. Risk management consists of four (4) basic steps:

- 1. Identify the risks connected with an activity whether it is on the ice or off the ice.
- 2. Assess the relative significance of the identified risks.
- 3. Eliminate or minimize the on-ice and off-ice risks.
- 4. Provide protection in the form of insurance against unavoidable risks.

Remember that risk management is our first line of defense. When it comes to identifying and minimizing risks within the game, we all play a role.

Keeping all VMHA members safe is our priority, from dealing with physical injuries to ensuring our dressing rooms, stands and events are safe havens for everyone. The Hockey Canada Safety Program utilizes a proactive, preventative, common-sense approach to keeping our children safe. The goal of the program is for the safety person to implement effective risk management programs with their own teams where player safety is the first priority at all times, both on and off the ice. The HCSP must assume a leadership role in promoting the values of safety, fair play and integrity. The safety person is a volunteer who has received HCSP accreditation. The HCSP program must be successfully completed every three (3) years in order to be a team’s safety person, even if the individual is a medical professional. It is mandatory to have at least one (1) certified official on each team.

**THANK YOU** to all HCSPs who make the minor hockey experience safer and more enjoyable for everyone involved. We appreciate your dedication to high safety standards and for all you do to keep our teams safe.

<i>Key Stats</i>	2024 81 HCSP	2023 67 HCSP
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# Fundraising *Tsion Tekie*

The inaugural year of the Shoot-A-Thon was an amazing success. 34% of teams throughout the association were able to fundraise by showcasing their skills hosted at the VMHA training center. This event replaced the Hockey Pool. With the early success of the event we anticipate growth in the future. Looking ahead we are considering incorporating the Shoot-A-Thon with Photo Day & moving the event away from the Training Center. The Holiday Skate was a great way to build community among VMHA members. The event allowed all age groups to participate with fun for the entire family.

<i>Key Stats</i>	Shoot-A-Thon \$25,655	Holiday Skate \$1,237
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## Social Media *Maya Toews*

Maya Toews has been handling VMHA's social media accounts since July 2022. Engagement has been up and we have more followers! It's been great to post about our successes, from a player moving onto an AAA team or donations from VMHA or individual teams. I've tried to build community, be inclusive and show appreciation for our volunteers (they keep us going!!) by making it fun and with engaging posts.

Going into the next season — I will encourage players to fill out their social media waiver forms. As well as, inviting players and families to send in photos (and blurbs) of any tournaments/team highlights to [socialmedia@vmha.com](mailto:socialmedia@vmha.com). FOLLOWERS:

Key Stats		Posts	Instagram	Facebook	Twitter
	2024	131	1190	430	340
	2023	66	1026	356	300

## Christmas Tournament *Cora Burnette*

The 16th Annual Vancouver Minor Charity Hockey Tournament was an absolute success. We had 67 teams sign up and 1,072 players attended. We raised just over \$22,00 for our Association through fees and sponsorships, which goes toward general operating expenses for the association.

Our Raffle and 50/50 raised \$12,000 for Canucks Place Children's Hospital. We could not have done it without the overwhelming response from our membership in donating raffle baskets and prizes. This is a critical component to our tournament to support both the Association and our chosen charities, and the members really came through!

The feedback from the tournament was also incredibly positive. Besides the smoothness of the scheduling, amazing snacks and a great t-shirt, the highlight for our division winners was the new VMHA Championship rings!

We had close to a full roster from our own VMHA teams, which was wonderful to see. We even took home some hardware! While we do not intend to make it mandatory to participate in the tournament as other Associations might, we do have an expectation that our own teams participate as we are the host. Looking forward to full participation next year!

We also did well with sponsorships and are looking forward to even more for 2024 with a push through our social media and website.

A big thank you to our Tournament Committee, which helped facilitate the monstrous job of running this show. We are looking forward to a strong team this year! Please reach out if you are interested in joining the committee as many hands make light work!

Overall, the 2023 Charity Tournament was a fantastic success, and we look forward to 2024!

Key Stats	2024	67 Teams 1,072 Players	Raised \$12,000 Canucks Place	Revenue \$22,198 VMHA
	2023	42 Teams 630 Players	Raised \$9000 Canucks Place	Revenue \$9000 VMHA

### Referee-In-Chief *Rupert Xu*

In 2023-24 ,56 supervisions were done which is a really good number. Most of our officials were supervised at least once, with many being supervised multiple times throughout the season. This allows us to see their progress through each supervision. Further, all supervisors this year were high performance officials and utilized Hockey Canada’s officiating form. This allows the supervision to be accessed online through the official Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) profile. This will stick with the official through their officiating careers and it’s a unique system which allows officials to quickly review their past supervisions indefinitely.

There were 3 on-ice sessions conducted this year, 2 of which were in September. It's important to have ice sessions early on in the season for the officials to “shake off the rust” from being away from the rink during the summer months. Although it would’ve been ideal to have a couple more ice sessions, the one we held later on in the season was also a success with over 20+ officials coming out.

New officials clinic had 25 new officials sign up, which is amazing! We were also to utilize a lot of our senior officials to shadow the new officials. 23 shadows were conducted and over half of them were conducted by our very own senior officials

Key Stats	Supervisions 56 On Ice Sessions 3 Shadows 23
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# Referee Allocator *Sharlene Steele*

Thank you VMHA referees for yet another successful season! As the referee assignor for VMHA, I am responsible for assigning officials for U9 to U13 games, both rep and house. Under the leadership of our Referee-in-Chief, Rupert Xu, our officials started the season with an on-ice clinic to refresh rules and procedures. During the year, Rupert, along with some high-level officials, did 56 supervisions – which helped our officials grow and develop. He also oversaw the certification of our new officials which entailed classroom and on-ice clinics and the shadowing of these officials using our own VMHA senior officials. Throughout the season, we have seen steady improvements. A few of our 4th year officials are being noticed and were sent to work U15AAA games. This is a great opportunity and accomplishment for VMHA officials. I assigned 297 of the 525 home games played by our VMHA teams.

Within VMHA, there are 86 active officials (who are still players themselves) with 25 of whom are new first year officials, plus 14 adult officials. We have retained several of our second- and third-year officials this year which has always been a challenge, not just for VMHA but for all associations. Our hope is to continue to provide training and more opportunities for classroom and on-ice sessions to give our officials the experience and confidence to continue their officiating career.

Our VMHA Annual Charity Tournament was a huge success. We used 101 officials from 11 different associations with 53 of the officials being from VMHA. The final bronze and gold medal games also gave some of our officials the opportunity to experience a four-person officiating system.

As an association, we will continue to work with our VMHA community (e.g., parents, players, and coaches) to foster a supportive and respectful environment for our officials. Their contributions to our hockey community are vital, and we are committed to prioritizing their well-being. Retention of officials is an ongoing concern within all minor hockey associations. We are grateful to those VMHA teams who participated in our Official Recognition week!

For those who turn 12 this year by Dec 31, 2024 (birth year 2012 and older) and wish to start their officiating journey, please contact Ref Assignor at [refassignor@vmha.com](mailto:refassignor@vmha.com) and visit our VMHA website for more information.

Key Stats	2023/24	86 Referees	25 New Referees	297 Games
	2022/23	80 New	30 New	499 Games

## VMHA Community Day

We were fortunate that this event along with our photo day were able to continue on the first Saturday of November. The event brings our membership through the Agrodome doors for photos, & our 3 on 3 mini tournament. This year, 34 mini teams entered the fun tournament from U7 to U11. The event also included a fun photo booth & arcade area. With an event committee now in place, we are hoping to bring back other ice events like shooting accuracy & fastest skater among other opportunities. Thank you to all the organizers & volunteers who made this day memorable, including a visit from the Canucks very own Finn.

<i>Key Stats</i>	<b>2023/24</b> 36 Teams	<b>2022/23</b> 34 Teams
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## First Shift

One of the primary challenges faced was the availability of ice time, leading to the decision not to run the program for the upcoming season. The ice time previously allocated to the First Shift Program can be reallocated to skills development sessions, benefiting a larger number of players across various age groups and skill levels.

Finding volunteers has been another significant challenge. Despite efforts to engage the membership, volunteer turnout has been insufficient to support the program effectively. The First Shift Program has successfully introduced hockey to many new players within the VMHA community. **However, due to current challenges related to ice time and volunteer availability, the program will not run in the upcoming season.**

<i>Key Stats</i>	<b>Registration</b> 45	<b>New Members</b> 11
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## Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Night

VMHA's programs, events, and management are only made possible because of the dedicated and hard work of our volunteers. Without the coaches, managers, health and safety personnel, board members and committee members, which numbered a total of 242 this year, the hockey season wouldn't be possible. To recognize their efforts, VMHA held its annual appreciation dinner on April 11th at the Italian Cultural Centre. There was a great turnout for the event with over 90 people in attendance.

<i>Key Stats</i>	<b>2023/24</b> 282 Volunteers 96 Attendees	<b>2022/23</b> 242 Volunteers 90 Attendee
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## Award recipients *Congratulations!*

As part of the annual volunteer appreciation dinner, VMHA was very pleased to recognize standout members, teams, and volunteers through special awards for a variety of categories

House Team of the Year *U13 C4*

Rep Team of the Year *U15 A2*

Johnny Mahovlich Award – Hardest Working Athlete *Matthew Fong*

Referee of the Year *Nicholas Ng*

U7/U9 Volunteer Coach of the Year *Nathan Allinson*

U11/U13 Volunteer Coach of the Year *Alan Tan*

U15/U18 Volunteer Coach of the Year *Marie Vondracek*

Team Manager of the Year *Quyen Cheng*

Volunteer of the Year *Tsion Tekie*

## Team Accomplishments

VMHA's mission is to support the development of hockey players to their highest potential in a safe, fun and fair environment for all. With a vision of being the “best little minor hockey association” in Canada, VMHA strives to promote healthy competition, the development of positive life skills, equal participation opportunities for players, and optimized skill development to support success for all.

U11C6	Presidents League Green Group Banner Winner
U11C1	Presidents League Orange Group Banner Winner
U11A1	Superflight Participation
U13C1	Presidents League Orange Group Banner Winner
U13C4	Playoff Series Winner
U15A1	Provincial Championship Participation
U15A2	Presidents Series Playoff Winner
U18A1	Flight 2 League & Presidents Series Playoff Winners



## Committees *Volunteer Opportunities*

The VMHA board of directors have finalized six new committees. These committees will be the start of a new strategic plan that will guide the association for the next couple of years.

1. Strategic Planning
  - The Strategic Planning Committee (the Committee) is responsible for developing, monitoring, and amending the Association's strategic planning documents and providing input and feedback on the overall operations of the VMHA. The Committee members are expected to develop insight into the business operations and recommend strategic directions for policy & implementation for VMHA.
2. Finance
  - The Finance Committee will be responsible for overseeing the financial dealings of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA"). They will apply the principles of good governance and ensure strong financial wellbeing.
3. Special Events
  - The Events Planning Committee (the "Committee") is responsible for the functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA") related to events including but not limited to the Annual Hockey Day in conjunction with Photo Day, Puck n Party & Volunteer Dinner & Awards..
4. Equipment & Apparel
  - The Equipment & Apparel Committee (the "Committee") is responsible for the functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA") related to jerseys, goalie and coach equipment, and supplier relationships.
5. Nominations
  - The Nomination and Elections Committee will be responsible for overseeing the nominations and elections functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA"). They will apply the principles of good governance and ensure the Board of Directors (the "Board") and ALL Committees are strong, and succession is assured by:
    - i. Notifying members of any current or upcoming vacancies in committees or the Board, and enabling qualified persons to be identified and nominated for these positions, and
    - ii. Ensuring the conduct of the selection of committee members, and the Board election meets standards of good governance and the expectations of the members.
6. Tournament
  - The Tournament Committee (the "Committee") will be responsible for tournament functions of the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association ("VMHA"). They will apply the principles of good governance.
  - The work of the committee revolves around the following areas: Fundraising, Sponsorships, 50/50, raffle basket ticket coordinator, Tournament Program coordination, Donations for food, raffle baskets, & Swag coordination.

Potential new  
for 2025

Coaching  
Committee

Training Center  
Committee

Fundraising  
Committee

## Looking Ahead 2025

### Strategic Plan

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to further define VMHA's values, goals, and key focus areas, as well as supporting the standardization of action planning and the tracking of progress on an annual basis. The document is intended to be a living document, be forward looking, and be used as a reference guide in support of the development of effective annual action plans by board members in the Association's key areas of focus. **Implementation to start in the summer of 2024!**

