



Pickleball Association December 31, 2021

PBC Youth Initiatives Report 2021, Heather Ratcliffe Hood

Interest in engaging youth in the sport of pickleball in B.C. continues to grow in more pockets of the province. This past year PBC expanded its foray into the challenge of building and developing youth programs with three focused efforts: PBC Town Hall on Youth Pickleball, PBC Youth Network Publication, and PBC Youth & Community Grant Opportunity.

The September *2021 Youth Pickleball Town Hall* gathered members of Pickleball Clubs who were interested in discussing the topic of Youth Pickleball. Pickleball Clubs shared ideas, school partnerships, and success working with school-aged youth. Participants also identified some road blocks and areas of challenges which continues to include the need for more dedicated pickleball courts. A 2021 Town Hall Youth Summary provides further details.

PBC launched its *Youth Pickleball Network Fall 2021* publication to share what BC and other Clubs are doing in their local areas and across the nation to increase youth participation. The intention of the publication is to develop a communication tool for sharing best practices and link those interested in Youth development in a Network.

Finally, to support local youth program development at the local level, PBC initiated a *Youth Grant* opportunity in November 2021. PBC received 11 Applications - 9 Youth and 2 Community. The adjudication team is currently in the process of review and communication with Applicants. Results will be finalized in the New Year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving my time as a Director PBC over the past two years. I hope that with the help of so many members, a bit of a foundation has been built to move Youth Initiatives forward in the coming years. For the many hours of volunteer time dedicated to Youth Initiatives, a sincere thank you to members, Evelyn Le Rose, Vernon Club and Matthew Landells, Head Sponsored Junior Player, Pitt Meadows, as well as PBC Board Directors - Sharon Macdonald, Barry Montgomery, Ray Dear, Walter Knecht, and Brian Shum. All the best to the new incoming team.