

## **2007 RMLL Referee in Chief's Report**

Let me start out by saying that I have again found this to be a relatively easy job because I have again received the utmost cooperation from everyone with whom I have been involved with in major lacrosse this past season. Accordingly, my report is unabashedly positive in regards to refereeing in the RMLL.

The process of direct payment of officials, implemented in the RMLL this season, worked very well from our point of view and we would advocate its continuance again for 2008.

While we do struggle with consistency of calls within the province, I think this continues to improve and the improvement would be accelerated by the ALA directing some resources to the retention and the upgrading of major officials in this province.

The one area that was a concern this season was the amount of fighting by a few teams in Tier 3. The games in this division are often relatively unskilled and physical and with the lack of commitment of some players to the game, the inexperience of some of the coaches and the newness of some of our officials to major lacrosse, there is the heightened possibility of an untoward incident occurring in one of these games. The RMLL needs to be aware of this.

As an association, the ALRA has been the beneficiary of the tremendous growth in major lacrosse in Alberta over the past decade. Occasionally, we struggle in being able to put onto the floor fully experienced officials for every assigned RMLL game. As it often takes just as long to develop a qualified referee as it does to develop a top end player, I unfortunately see little chance that we will soon see an immediate change in this situation in Alberta.

Warren Renden