

## 2017 Season End Report – Senior C

The division remained steady with 8 teams and 199 registered players. Down 9 players from 2016.

The Senior C regular season was April 22 to July 15 with play offs and provincial's on July 22/23 and July 29/30. The playing season consisted of two divisions, north and south; with 12 games being played between them - two home and two away games for against each team. The highlight of the season was a north and south crossover weekend mid-way through the season. During this weekend three games were played increasing the number of games played from 12 to 15. This weekend was well received by all teams and they are looking ahead for future seasons. It would be great to have a different team host each season but distance and time makes this impossible. Two arena's in central Alberta is the best location for all.

This division was somewhat divided when we ended the planning meeting in November 2016, specifically the north. During a special meeting in December it was decided that they would remain united at 8 teams. The message echoed during the meeting was that the regulations were to be followed and they would be the same for all teams. By season's end I felt the animosity was gone and some open communication was happening between the teams. The south teams, although more removed from the situation, felt that this was good for the division as a whole. Although not game related I am considering this an accomplishment for the division. I am anticipating a more positive and focused planning meeting this year.

Each team had highs and lows throughout the year. For the first time in their history the Erratic were faced with healthy scratches. The Warriors were successful in washing away the history of the Tomahawks and with that made the team their own. The Rage, after a two year absence, brought home the north division trophy.

Congratulations to the Airdrie Mohawks for their south division and provincial championships. The weekend following provincial's they headed to Prince George for the Treasure Cove Casino Canadian Senior C Invitational Lacrosse Championships (formerly the ALCAN) where they brought home a bronze.

The senior C division continues to experience game defaults. Two occurred in June when the Chiefs were not able to field a team to travel to Vermillion. It is not common knowledge amongst the division, but it was brought to light, that their previous president had been less than honest with their finances and other administrative duties. New leadership at the helm has gotten the team back on track. The team is struggling with a smaller core group and requires more guidance than other teams. At the time of this report we are working on a date for a town hall meeting between the players and myself. I feel a greater understanding of how the season is planned and timelines would be beneficial. This will also be an opportunity for players to ask questions that their new leadership may not be able to answer. The team knows they can call upon me for assistance/guidance when needed. Several discussion have occurred between

the Chiefs and myself regarding player commitment to the team and how that affects the team's commitment to the division.

Barring interference from mother nature I would like for this to be the last season of defaults or forfeits. The competition amongst the division is equal to other divisions but time and travel have many of them choosing to play Senior C.

At the time of this report there is interest from Westlock to submit a senior C team for next season. Geographically this would be a good fit for the North division. It is far enough away from the other teams that they would not overlap in players. Growth needs to be slow as many teams derive from rural pockets of the province. This creates teams with a unique set of needs. New teams do need to fit into the regulations and existing teams need to be considered at the time of acceptance into the league and remember them throughout the seasons.

In closing I have to say that this is a division full of greatness – players, coaches and teams.

Tracey Haining  
Senior C Commissioner