



ERU Presidents Report

2025 AGM

Overview

As we move through 2025, the Edmonton Rugby Union is in a strong and coordinated position. Last year focused on stabilizing operations, improving communication, and restoring trust in our administrative systems. This year has been about implementing and aligning our activities with the new **2025–2027 Strategic Plan**, updating our bylaws, supporting member clubs with clearer pathways and better resources, and strengthening the rugby ecosystem across Northern Alberta.

The support from staff, board members, club presidents, coaches, referees, and volunteers continues to be the backbone of the ERU. Thank you to everyone who has helped shape our progress and kept our region competitive and connected.

Senior & Junior Rugby — 2025 Snapshot

Competition remained strong across all divisions. Our region again produced high-performing sides, strong representation at provincial events, and continued growth in player retention.

A few notable highlights include:

- Provincial Championships from Nor'Westers (Alberta Cup), Druids (U18 Girls, U18 Boys)
- City Champions from Lep/Tigers (2nd in Alberta Women's Premiership), Nor'Westers (Men's Div 2), Clan (Womens Div 2), Sharks (Mens Div 3), Druids (U16 Boys), St Albert (U16 Girls)

Representative Rugby

Representative rugby saw measured progress this year. We fielded senior Mens and Womens teams for the first time in years. The junior pathway benefitted from pre-season tours and cross-regional competition, helping establish a more consistent performance standard. The integration of additional junior rep sides, including U15s and the County Warriors improved depth and competition. While coordination is still maturing, the structure is now in place to strengthen talent identification, coaching consistency, and performance tracking. The U23 program continues to be an important bridge between university and senior club rugby.

ERU Trust Fund & 2025 Financial Summary

The ERU Trust Fund remains one of our region's most important assets. For 2024, a total of \$65,000 was granted to member clubs and development programs. Over \$80,000 in grants are planned for 2025.

Funding supported:

- Field and facility improvements
- Junior rugby expansion
- Equipment and kit
- Travel support for remote clubs
- Growth of club-managed endowment accounts
- Program subsidies for athletes and volunteers

In addition to Trust Fund allocations, ERU operational spending aligned with the Strategic Plan's priorities:

2025 Budget Focus Areas (High-Level Summary):

- **Growth of the Game:** Investments in Rookie Rugby, youth festivals, U21 development league pilot, and rural travel subsidy.
- **Administration Efficiency:** Technology workspace update
- **Referee Development:** Level 1 & 2 courses, mentorship initiatives, registration incentives, and youth referee pathways.
- **Coach Development:** Courses, resources, and a foundational coaching network.
- **Representative Pathways:** Support for junior and U23 competition, alignment with provincial/national standards.
- **Marketing & Sponsorship:** Regional campaigns, social-media upgrades, and the beginning of a unified sponsorship framework.
- **Field & Facility Management:** Field-use agreement review, and guidance on bulk purchasing for cost savings. Review of centralized training and offices

This year's financial approach centered on sustainability, transparency, and measurable return on investment—supporting clubs directly while building the systems that will fuel long-term growth.

Challenges

Despite progress, several challenges will continue into 2025:

- Referee recruitment remains a threat to league play and must continue to be supported.
- Rural club sustainability needs focused attention and practical travel-cost solutions.
- Alignment across rugby boards in Alberta remains complex but must be addressed.
- Senior representative rugby requires rebuilding with clear pathways communicated.
- Volunteer fatigue continues to impact both clubs and governance.

These issues are solvable but they require collective commitment.

Looking Ahead to 2026

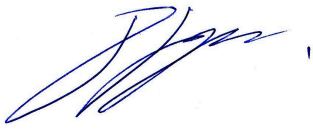
The ERU enters 2026 with clearer priorities, more stable administration, a long-term plan, and a financial strategy designed to support grassroots and competitive growth. Our clubs remain the heart of our union, and

every investment this year has been aimed at strengthening their capacity and ensuring that rugby thrives across urban and rural communities.

Closing

Thank you to the players, coaches, referees, volunteers, club executives, board members, and supporters who continue to build rugby in Northern Alberta. This game succeeds because of your work and your passion. As always, I look forward to contributing in every capacity I can, whether as a board member, volunteer, supporter, player (maybe), coach, referee, or fan.

Let's keep advancing rugby together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Logan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Logan
President
Edmonton Rugby Union