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## **PURDEY GROUP FUND – 2021 GRANTS REPORT**

It is my pleasure to report to you on the inaugural grants awarded by the Purdey Group Fund, announced on May 1, 2021 to the teams awarded a grant or who were unsuccessful in their submission – 19 teams in all.

### **Background**

The Purdey Group Fund was established in 2019 by Andrew Purdey and Mike Holmes both of British Columbia, to help established and emerging university men's rugby programs across the entire country kickstart and/or accelerate the growth and development of their teams. This is consistent with the objects of the Canadian Rugby Foundation, an important sponsor of the Canadian University Rugby Championship (CUMRC), to grow and develop the game of rugby across Canada, and in a sense, was designed to provide some much-needed funds that were already being made available to U SPORTS Women's Rugby programs. These grants also recognize the critical role that university rugby plays in the development path to Canada's senior team, as illustrated by the number of Canadian university alumni playing for the senior team in recent years (see Appendix 2)

Unfortunately, the 2020 grants were postponed as the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to our 2020 seasons, playoffs, and the CUMRC. The 2021 grant program was relaunched last summer, and a committee was struck to flesh out the evaluation criteria and the process for what was expected to be a handful of applications.

### **Grant Applications**

Beyond our expectations, a total of 19 applications were submitted by the April 15 deadline, representing clubs ranging from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and teams established over 60 years ago to new clubs barely a year old. Every one of the applications provided a description of the rugby program, its resources, the level of university athletics support, the overall environment including fields, facilities, strength & conditioning, equipment, and other supports, operating plans and budgets, aspirations for the program, and a road map on how to get there. Of particular interest were the details on how any grant funds would be used to improve the program.

As might be expected, many of the applications showed a lot of similarities in program but also significant differences. But where a school might score well on one criterion, they would do less well on another, so many of these factors offset each other when all the programs and the criteria were compared, resulting in an extremely close competition.

The following schools submitted applications, representing over half of the schools eligible for the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship this November in Kingston:

Brock University	Queen's University	University of Calgary
Concordia University	Trent University	University of Guelph
Dalhousie University	Trinity Western U	University of New Brunswick
École de technologie supérieure	UBC Okanagan	University of Ottawa
McMaster University	Université de Montréal	University of Saskatchewan
Memorial University	University of Alberta	University of Waterloo
Mount Royal University		

### **2021 Grant Awardees**

A total of \$60,000 was awarded.

The inaugural Purdey Group Fund grants of \$8,000 in the "Performance" category are:

- Concordia University
- Queen's University
- Trinity Western University
- University of Guelph
- University of New Brunswick
- Waterloo University

And the inaugural Purdey Group Fund grants of \$2,000 in the "Emerging" category are:

- Memorial University
- Trent University
- UBC Okanagan
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Ottawa

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

Each head coach was notified on May 1, (See Appendix 1 for comments from coaches and athletic directors) and a general announcement was made on May 3. We expect disbursements to be made on or about September 1, 2021, just ahead of the season openers, by which time we will have greater clarity on the Canadian University Men's Rugby Championship.

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the teams involved, thank you for your support of Canadian University Men's Rugby. We believe these grants will be of immense help in either kick-starting, accelerating, or sustaining the growth and develop of these university rugby programs, and improving the overall landscape of rugby in Canada.

### On behalf of the Purdey Group Fund Evaluation Committee:

Dan Valley, Leah Conforti, Francois Ratier, Jeff Chan



Jeff Chan  
Chairman, Canadian University Rugby Championship  
Executive Director, Canadian Rugby Foundation

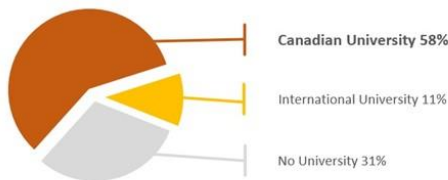
## APPENDIX 1: CANADIAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ON SENIOR TEAM

### Canadian Universities as a Key National Team Pathway

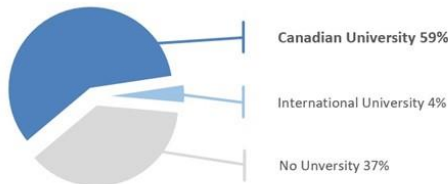


#### 2014 – 2019 National Senior Men's Team Players University statistics

##### 101 National Seniors Men's Players 2014-2019



##### 50 Seniors Men's Players at Rugby World Cup 2015 or 2019



##### National Team & Rugby World Cup Attendees Canadian University Alumni

Aaron Carpenter, McMaster University  
Adam Kleeberger, University of Victoria  
Allistair Clark, Queen's University  
Andrew Coe, University of British Columbia  
Andrew Ferguson, McMaster University  
Andrew Quattrin, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Andrew Tiedemann, University of Victoria  
Ben LeSage, University of British Columbia  
Brett Beukeboom, University of Victoria  
Brock Staller, University of British Columbia  
Cam Pierce, University of Victoria  
Cam Polson, University of Victoria  
Clay Panga, Mount Royal University  
Conor Keys, University of Victoria  
Conor Trainor, Western University  
Dan Moor, Queen's University,  
Doug Fraser, University of Victoria  
Doug Wooldridge, University of Ottawa  
Duncan Maguire, University of Alberta  
Dustin Dobravsky, University of Victoria  
Eric Howard, University of Guelph  
Gradyn Bowd, University of Victoria  
Giuseppe du Toit, University of Victoria  
Harry Jones, University of British Columbia  
Hubert Buydens, University of Saskatchewan  
Jake Ilnicki, University of Victoria  
Jamie Mackenzie, University of Victoria  
Jason Marshall, Simon Fraser University  
Jeff Hassler, University of Saskatchewan  
John Moonlight, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Jon Phelan, McGill University  
Jordan Wilson-Ross, University of Ottawa  
Jordan Sandover-Best, University of British Columbia  
Kainoa Lloyd, Queen's University  
Kyle Gilmour, University of Alberta  
Liam Chisholm, University of Victoria  
Liam Underwood, Queen's University  
Lucas Rumball, Queen's University  
Luke Campbell, University of Victoria  
Matt Beukeboom, Queen's University  
Mike Sheppard, McMaster University  
Nathan Hirayama, University of Victoria  
Oliver Nott, University of Victoria  
Patrick Paffrey, Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Paul Ciulini, University of Toronto  
Phil Mack, University of Victoria  
Phil MacKenzie, University of Victoria  
Ray Barkwill, Brock University  
Reegan O'Gorman, University of British Columbia  
Rob Brouwer, McMaster University  
Rory McDonell, Brock University  
Ryan Ackerman, University of Regina (Football)  
Ryan Kotlewski, University of Calgary  
Sean Duke, University of British Columbia  
Theo Sauder, University of British Columbia  
Tom Dolezel, Western University  
Tyler Ardron, McMaster University  
Tyler Hotson, University of British Columbia  
Will Kelly, McMaster University

## APPENDIX 2: FEEDBACK FROM COACHES AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

### University of Waterloo

*Good morning. Many thanks for considering and awarding this grant to our rugby team. We are excited about the direction our program is going under Graham's leadership, and this will definitely enhance that trajectory and the impact on the student-athlete experience. With gratitude -- Roly Webster, AD*

*Dear Jeff and Dan: Thank you so much for the email and the award of the **2021 Purdey Group Fund Performance Grant**. We are very grateful for your support and know that our Warriors Men's Rugby program, and importantly the players, will benefit enormously from this. Hopefully, we'll have some confirmation of a 2021 season before too long and then look forward to working with you to receive the award and push our program forward. Many thanks again for your support. Cheers -- Graham Stickler, Head Coach*

### Queen's University

*Hi Jeff, thank you for selecting Queen's Men's Rugby for the 2021 Purdey Group Fund Performance Grant. This grant will be an important part of continuing to move the program forward. Thank you for your continued support and **please pass my thanks onto Andrew Purdy and the Canadian Rugby Foundation** for their continued support to University Rugby. Thanks – Dave Butcher, Head Coach*

### Trinity Western University

*This is so fantastic, and you can rest assured it will be put to great use by Andy and the athletes! Thank you so much for your generosity and support. – Jeff Gamache, AD*

*Good morning Jeff and Committee members, we are honoured to be successful in this Purdey Group Fund Performance Grant and will ensure great return on this investment into our student athletes and Canadian rugby players. Thank you for your efforts and energy that you put into University Men's Rugby and taking the time to consider our application. With anticipation that there is a National Championship in November and to provide advanced notice, we have a fundraiser in November where the \$8,000 could be matched and I can provide more details in the fall. Sincerely – Andy Evans, Head Coach*

### University of Guelph

*Jeff: I hope you are doing well and thank you very much for this great news I hope all of you are keeping well. Best. -- Scott McRoberts, AD*

*Great news! Thanks very much for the selection -- Cory Hector*

**University of Calgary**

*Thank you, Jeff! We are honoured and grateful for the emerging program grant, and truly appreciate this initiative and support for Men's University Rugby. Thank you from all of us at the Dinos --Rayner Hart, Head Coach*

*Hi Jeff, this is outstanding news, sincere thanks on behalf of UCalgary and our men's rugby program. All the best -- Ben Matchett, Interim AD*

**Trent University**

*Hi Dan and Jeff, I trust that this note finds you and your families doing well during this time. Thank you for your email and Trent Athletics and our Excalibur Men's Rugby program are very pleased that we are a recipient of the 2021-22 Purdey Group Fund Emerging Program Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to enhance our program's continued growth. Please let us know if anything else is required at this time. Have a good day and thank you again for your support of our Excalibur Men's Rugby program. Regards -- Deborah Bright-Brundle, AD*

*On behalf of our program- we can't thank you enough for the support! #1EX #1EXCALIBUR – Trent post on CUMRC Facebook page*

**University of Ottawa**

*Fantastic! Those funds will go towards compensating our assistant coaches who put so many volunteer hours into our program. We greatly appreciate the support, THANK YOU! Thank you for everything you're doing for rugby in Canada -- Steph Crawley, Head Coach*

*Congrats Coach Steph! Well deserved. On behalf of uOttawa, thank you Jeff, Dan, The Purdy Group and everyone else responsible for this support of our Men's Rugby team at uOttawa! It is greatly appreciated. Hope to see everyone on the field this fall! We are lucky at uOttawa to have Coach Crawley leading our troops! Enjoy the day everyone. -- Sue Hylland, AD*

**Brock University**

*OK. Thanks Jeff. Unfortunate for us, but we will make the best of it. We believe we have a strong program and that's what matters most. We trust the judgement of the committee and can't wait until we can finally get back at it and show the country what we're all about. We appreciate the work you've put in to grow the game in Canada and look forward to competing again! Cheers! -- Shawn Windsor, Head Coach*

**Mount Royal University**

*Thank you Jeff and Dan for considering our application. Although we are disappointed, we are grateful such an opportunity exists for men's rugby programs across Canada. We would appreciate any feedback you have to increase our chances of being successful in future years. Thank you -- Maria Samson, Head Coach*

**Concordia University**

*Jeff, this is really exciting news for the continued growth of our program! - D'Arcy Ryan, AD*

**UBC Okanagan**

*Good morning, Congratulation Chris - this is great news!!! -- Lucia M. Boersma on behalf of AD*

**McMaster University**

*Hi Jeff, Thanks for the update, and thanks again for organizing! Hopefully this Covid mess settles down and we get back on the pitch this fall! Thanks again for all your hard work on this, Jeff. Best -- Dan Pletch, Head Coach*

**University of New Brunswick**

*Jeff, this is great news! Very much appreciated -- Andy Duplessis, former Head Coach*

*Hey team, we got the \$8,000 grant from the CUMRC. Nice! -- Blake Edwards, Head Coach*