



# **BINGHAM CUP**

## **OTTAWA 2022**

### **Press Release**

## **Bingham Cup 2022 Congratulates Rugby Canada for Historic Selection of Sally Dennis as First Female Chair of the Board**

May 26, 2021 - OTTAWA, CANADA - The organizers of the Bingham Cup Ottawa 2022 congratulate Rugby Canada for making history in selecting Sally Dennis as the new Chair of the Board at their recent Annual General Meeting held on May 16, 2021.

Our Vice-President of Community Liaison for Bingham Cup Ottawa 2022, and President of the Ottawa Wolves, Nadine Elle knows the feeling. “As the first female president of Ottawa Wolves RFC and of an International Gay Rugby (IGR) club, I am thrilled to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Sally Dennis on this important milestone in Canadian Sport. Rugby is growing in popularity year over year, with women’s rugby in the lead. I very much look forward to working with Sally Dennis as the new Rugby Canada Chair. We want to help you achieve Rugby Canada’s vision, ‘that all Canadians can choose rugby to try, play and win.’”

A 2019 Neilson study commissioned by World Rugby following the 2019 Rugby World Cup, hosted by Japan, recorded 877-million rugby followers and 405-million fans of rugby union worldwide in 2019, up 11% and 18% over the previous year. The study revealed unprecedented growth is driven by an uplift in women’s interest and participation in the sport, along with surging interest in rugby’s emerging nations.

“I’d first like to thank the Bingham Cup organizers, and Nadine in particular, for their warm wishes. Rugby Canada is proud to work in partnership with the organizing committee, and we are excited to play a role in helping and supporting you deliver the 2022 Bingham Cup in Ottawa,” stated Rugby Canada Board Chair Sally Dennis. “Although there is still lots of work to do, your tournament is a great example of the progress that has been made in the past years to make rugby a sport for all to enjoy. In similar vein, the changes at the governance level of Rugby Canada are, in my view, reflective of a positive trend across the game toward equity, diversity and inclusion.”

The Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Tournament, or Bingham Cup as it is more widely known, is the biennial world championships of gay and inclusive rugby. The tournament was first held in 2002 in memory of 9/11 gay rugby hero Mark Bingham, one of the passengers who fought back against hijackers on board United Airlines flight 93. From its modest debut in 2002, the 2018 edition of the Bingham Cup in Amsterdam gathered 74 teams from 20 countries. The Bingham Cup has become the largest amateur rugby union tournament in the world. The 2022 tournament – postponed from 2020 because of the pandemic – will be held in Ottawa.

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