

## **AMHA 2025-26 Community Liaison Report**

What an opportunity I got this year to serve as Community Liaison for AMHA. The goal was to invite, involve, and collaborate with our very own home community to help make the kids' hockey experience greater and richer. Sometimes it isn't just about playing the game, but what we see, do, learn, and feel during the process.

This year, we kick started our season by collaborating with the Abbotsford Canucks. They jumped right into making our picture day exciting by bringing the Calder Cup and Finn for some great photos and memories! We shared great team bonding experiences at Abby Canucks games, and did many great team fundraisers throughout the season.

I would like to thank Cambree Lovesy, Abbotsford Canucks Community Engagement Manager, for building such a fantastic relationship with our association. We were able to set up more than a handful of dates to have Abby Canucks players come out and join team practices! Our AMHA players and coaches were thrilled with the experience. Cambree topped off the season with awesome water bottles for every single player in our association (approx. 750). Wow!

Before the Christmas rush came, we also joined forces with our very own Abbotsford Pilots. Every opportunity we could get that worked out with the Pilot's schedule, they came out to make practices extra special. I would like to thank Jack Goeson, who is the heart and soul of hockey. Jack went above and beyond to provide opportunities for many of our AMHA players to experience skating as the 7th man on the ice with the big shots. Not one single player said they didn't love being out there for a whopping 30 seconds- what a highlight!

In the month of November, we brought awareness through the Buddy Check Program. Kristen Kimber led the program throughout the association to make sure all teams had the tools to make players aware of this important topic. To top off the awareness month, we were able to invite our very own AMHA parent, TEDx speaker, Abbotsford family physician- Dr. Shahana Alibhai, to come and provide us with her wisdom around the challenges we face as young members of society and as parents. Thank you to all those who took the time and bravery to come and listen to a different perspective.

Lastly, and most endearing of all, we connected with the core of our community. We are not here without the elders of our community. They are the ones who created history to make the present possible. AMHA had the privilege and honor to connect with Trillium Bevan Village on many occasions this season. Many teams reached out with excitement, wanting to gain a rewarding experience to visit the elderly, and soak up some history while engaging in conversation and play. This was absolutely my favorite part of the season! Thank you to all the wonderful young players and parents who took this opportunity to learn a different part of the game.

Our community engagement this season made our hockey journey more fulfilled.

- Janice