

This is my first CGSA Report as the Alberta Director, and heading into the start of the golf season, there's a familiar buzz around golf courses across the province. After a strange winter, the grass is starting to wake up, teams have been assembled, and a lot of time and energy is going into employee onboarding and training. This time of year, always gets me reflecting.

I find myself thinking about first impressions. What the start of the season feels like for people coming into this industry, and how those early days can shape their view of the job and the work we do. For some, this is their first job ever. I still think back to my own early experiences and how much they stuck with me, and it makes me wonder how we continue to show people that there can be more here. That this can turn into a career, not just a seasonal role.

I also catch myself thinking about how easy it is for training to become something front-loaded. A lot happens in those first few days or weeks, but once the course is open and we're into the rhythm of the season, it can slip down the priority list as daily tasks take over. It's a good reminder, at least for me, that development doesn't really stop once the season gets rolling, it just changes shape.

From a turf perspective, spring arrived later than many of us would have liked across Alberta. Most courses seem to have come through the winter in decent shape overall, but there have still been challenges. Typical winter stress, combined with an April that brought more moisture than ideal, has made for a slower start in some areas. Like most years, it's been a mix of patience, adjustment, and doing the best with what the season gives us as we move toward opening and into the summer ahead.

I'm also genuinely excited to be joining the CGSA Board alongside such a dedicated, like-minded group of people. Being part of a group that continues to evolve, collaborate, and push the CGSA forward is something I'm really looking forward to, and I appreciate the opportunity to be involved.

All the best,

Chris Prodahl
Alberta Director