

CGSA Regional Report (Alberta)

With the calendar now flipped to 2026 I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with cheer. As most of the country is well into their off-season, aside from our west coast friends, I also hope that you have been able to start recharging your batteries.

Alberta experienced a fairly mild start to the winter with very little snow fall prior to mid December. Fortunately, a blanket of snow covered most of the province prior to the temperature plummeting. As the days start to get longer and everyone returns from holidays, it is crazy to think that we are less than three months away from some courses in the southern part of the province from opening. We call it the slow season, simply because we aren't performing daily preparations to the property, but some days in the winter months are equally as busy as the golf season. Planning, organizing, hiring, and equipment preparations dominate our time as we all try to ensure we are as prepared for the gauntlet of starting a golf season. We all scrutinize ourselves and our operation during this time do the year as we look at ways to improve. It is important to remember that this doesn't necessarily always mean finding ways to get more done. Sometimes it means looking at ways to be more efficient with your time so that performance of your team remains high. Ideas like this are sometimes great conference sessions to attend.

With that in mind, this time of year, also brings about conference season. The AGSA Property Manager's Conference took place in late November (Nov. 17-19). Attendance was the highest in history with over 400 delegates, sponsors, and speakers attending. Let's hope that momentum continues into the Canadian Golf Course Management Conference that will also be hosted in Alberta at the Telus Convention Centre in Calgary on February 24-26. This year's theme of *"Deep Roots. Bright Future"* will give a fantastic opportunity for those in attendance to listen to industry leaders on trends and ways to help improve yourself and your operation. Presenters from across North America will be there, keynoted by motivational and mental wellness speaker Bob Wilkie. It is the first time Alberta has hosted the national conference since 2019, and it is going to be a magnificent event as we celebrate 60 years of the CGSA. I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes!

Cameron Kusiek