Preface and Issue Overview

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The Manitoba Law Journal is pleased to present this special issue devoted to sports law. This special issue was edited by Dr. Martine Dennie[1] and Dr. Ryan Gauthier.[2] Dr. Dennie has been a leader in expanding the teaching program at our law school on sports law, and all issues of Dr. Dennie's other sports-focused publication, the *Robson Rundown* can be found on umanitoba.ca/law/research.

The Manitoba Law Journal's mission is to provide top-caliber commentary on issues that take place within our provincial communities, or are of special concern to them. The sporting scene, in all of its dimensions, is unusually vibrant here. On the professional side, the city is home to both the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League and the Winnipeg Jets of the National Hockey League. The latter makes Winnipeg among its smallest markets in North America to host a team in one of the "big four" sports leagues.

Manitoba has been a home for all aspects of amateur athletics. It has hosted two Pan-American Games. The University of Manitoba has a high-performance athletic center. There is a high level of participation in sports at the recreational and competitive levels throughout the province. Between

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Manitoba's professional sports teams and its vibrant amateur athletics scene, there is no doubt that many Manitobans find sports an important part of their community. We believe that this issue resonates with the mission of the MLJ program, which is to focus on topics of special interest to the communities in our province and to contribute to understanding and reform locally and beyond.

The three articles contained in this issue focus on law reform in Canadian sport. In the first article, "Finding A Way Forward: Addressing Organizational Factors Contributing to Systemic Maltreatment in Canadian Sport", the authors explore expanding the legal liability for maltreatment in sports beyond the individual perpetrator within a Canadian sports organization, to include the organization when its organizational factors significantly contributed to the maltreatment.

In the second article, "Championing Muay Thai in Canada: A Legal History from Criminalized to Recognized", the authors examine the Canadian law reform that decriminalized Muay Thai and recognized it as a government-sanctioned sport.

In the third article, "Prioritizing University Sport: How Canadian Sport Can Better Protect Student Athletes", the author analyzes how Canada's lack of effective governance for safe sport has left university student athletes in a precarious position, making them vulnerable to maltreatment. Then, drawing on legislation from other jurisdictions, the author recommends that Canada adopt specific governance measures to effectively protect student-athletes from maltreatment.