

# ALUMNI UPDATE



**#50 JAMIE TARAS**



**#6 CORY PHILPOT**

# 2024

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



**CFLAA  
INDIGENOUS  
CHAMPION AWARD**

**#27  
J.R. LaROSE**

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# **CFLAA**

## **MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

### **CFLAA Mission:**

To create value and camaraderie for our members by celebrating and supporting Canadian football and demonstrating commitment and service to our community.

### **CFLAA Vision:**

To support former CFL players, Canadian football and other communities of interest while fostering collaborative relationships with CFL stakeholders and others that enhance the well-being of our members and friends.

### **CFLAA Values:**

We value fellowship, collaboration, support, service, tradition and wellness.

### **CFLAA Strategic Priorities:**

Strategic Priorities are based on impact of the activity, ability to carry it out and relevance of the situation to the CFLAA mission, vision and values.

1. Work with our partners, including all club alumni associations, the CFL and the CFLPA, to facilitate communication while adding benefits, services and programs that promote fellowship among alumni and advance each organization's goals.
2. Grow the CFL Alumni Support Fund and promote its guidelines and criteria among the CFL alumni community.
3. Participate in activities that provide insight into sport related brain injuries and other health related issues.
4. Provide good governance and management for the Association to ensure its long term effectiveness and financial viability.
5. Continue to offer marquee events that highlight the valuable contribution of alumni and provides them with opportunities to participate in the CFL tradition at Grey Cup while supporting the Alumni Support Fund and the effects of other key partners.



**For any questions regarding the CFLAA to include donations, partnership opportunities,  
and advertising information for Grey Cup 2025  
please contact Leo Ezerins, CFLAA Executive Director, [leo@cflaa.ca](mailto:leo@cflaa.ca)**

# A Message from our Commissioner



November 2024

Dear friends,

Congratulations to everyone associated with the Canadian Football League Alumni Association's Legends Luncheon.

Always a highlight of Grey Cup Week, this 2024 edition is extra special.

For starters, this is the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the luncheon and the association. We all owe a debt of gratitude to former Tiger-Cat and Blue Bomber Leo Ezerins, who founded the event and the group. Leo has announced he is stepping down as Executive Director. I know you join me in wishing him well. I also want to welcome his successor, Nova Scotia native Dwayne Provo, to his new role, and wish him and President Robert Bronk continued success.

Also, this year the luncheon honours a stellar trio of former CFL players:

The great Jamie Taras, a talented offensive lineman who continues to serve our league as the BC Lions' community relations director.

The amazing Cory Philpott, who is so devoted to the game of football. He and his family have made at least three great contributions to our league: Cory's own stellar career, and sons Jalen and Tyson.

Your indigenous champion of the year, JR LaRose, a true inspiration on the field and off it.

They make me proud to be an alumni member myself, as do the many former teammates I remember so fondly and hope to see at the luncheon.

There should be plenty of laughter; you can always count on players, young and old, to roast each other as quickly as they hug each other, when we get together.

As Commissioner, I want to thank all the fans who are attending the luncheon, and every one of our alumni for building the foundation on which the CFL stands today. I hope they all take some pride in the tremendous football we got to enjoy this season.

We can all expect more great football on game day when two excellent teams meet in the 111<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup. I hope you all enjoy the luncheon, the hospitality in beautiful British Columbia, and especially the big game.

Yours in football,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Ambrosie".

Randy Ambrosie, Commissioner  
Canadian Football League



# Message from the President



## A Season of Thrills and Gratitude

As we close the regular season and look forward to the playoffs, there is a sense of excitement for another incredible finish to this year's CFL final weeks of play. The league has delivered thrilling matchups, unforgettable moments, and a continued commitment to excellence. We've seen countless games this season decided by late-game heroics, proving that anything can happen in the CFL.

The Grey Cup festivities in Vancouver promise to be a spectacular celebration of our sport. From the street parties and festivals to the electrifying championship game, this national event will showcase the passion and dedication of our most talented players and coaches. And of course, we're thrilled to announce that the CFLAA will be hosting our 15th annual Legends Luncheon, a cherished tradition that brings together former players, coaches, and fans to celebrate the rich history of our league.

The Luncheon provides an event that helps remember and celebrate the countless individuals who have contributed to the success of our league, both on and off the field. Their dedication and hard work have helped to make the CFL one of the most exciting and beloved sports leagues in North America while making a difference in the communities they live and serve in. This year we will be honouring Cory Philpot and Jamie Taras, co-winners of the CFLAA Alumnus of the Year Award and J.R. LaRose who has been selected to receive the CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award.

## A special thanks to Leo Ezerins

As we celebrate another successful season, I want to take a moment to honor the extraordinary legacy of Leo Ezerins, who is retiring as the Executive Director of the CFLAA after over 15 years of dedicated service. Leo's visionary leadership, unwavering passion, and unwavering commitment to CFL alumni in need has been instrumental in the growth and success of our association.

Leo's dedication to the CFL alumni was unparalleled. He spearheaded the creation of a national alumni association with the visionary goal of raising funds to support former players facing financial hardships due to medical issues. The annual Legends luncheon has proven to be a key component of the Grey Cup Festival week. This "must go to" event plays an important role in fundraising and provides awareness of the ongoing efforts to support alumni in need. Leo's tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to this cause have made a profound impact on the lives of many of our brothers and their families. His legacy will continue to inspire us all as we strive to support our former teammates and preserve the rich history of our great sport. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## Welcome to Dwayne Provo, new CFLAA Executive Director

On behalf of the CFLAA Board of Directors we welcome Dwayne Provo and feel confident that he will hit the ground running. Like many players in the CFL, Dwayne played for multiple teams from 1995 to 2002. He brings over 23 years of progressive senior management experience to the position. Dwayne intends to leverage his wide reaching network of government, academic and community organizations to continue serving alumni and the team alumni associations. Dwayne will be in Vancouver for the Grey Cup so we hope you will say hello and introduce yourself if you have the chance.

Finally I hope to see many of you in Vancouver during Grey Cup week. It promises to be a memorable celebration of our great league.

Bob Bronk

Dear Randy,

We extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations on your retirement on behalf of the entire CFL community and the CFL Alumni Association. Your tenure as Commissioner has been nothing short of transforming, and it is a privilege to acknowledge your contributions.

Since you took on this role, your unwavering dedication and visionary leadership have steered the league through significant growth and challenges. Your commitment to the league, players, alumni and fans you love has safeguarded the league's rich history and paved the way for a vibrant and prosperous future.

Your support of the CFL Alumni Association has been particularly appreciated. By fostering strong ties with past players and emphasizing their continued involvement, you have strengthened the very foundation of our league.

Under your stewardship, the CFL has weathered storms and emerged more robust, resilient, and unified. Your efforts to expand the league's reach, enhance fan engagement, and secure financial stability have left an indelible mark. The CFL: you leave behind is a testament to your leadership - healthier, more dynamic, and poised for success.

As you embark on this next chapter, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. While you will be missed, your legacy will undoubtedly endure, and your influence will continue to be felt throughout the league for years.

Thank you, Randy, for your extraordinary service and steadfast commitment. Congratulations on an exemplary career and a well-deserved retirement.

With deepest gratitude and respect,  
Leo Ezerins, Executive Director and Bob Bronk, President

# Message from the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members of the Canadian Football League Alumni Association (CFLAA) and Esteemed Fans in Attendance,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. With a mix of emotions, I write to inform you of my decision to retire from my role as the Executive Director of the CFLAA, effective December 31, 2024.

After considerable reflection and heartfelt deliberation, I have realized that it is time for me to embark on a new chapter in my life. This decision has not been made lightly, as my tenure with the CFLAA has been one of my most rewarding and fulfilling professional and personal experiences. Serving an organization that stands as a beacon of support and camaraderie for former CFL players has been an honor and privilege.

To the fans in attendance at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon, your unwavering support and passionate involvement have been the bedrock of our success. Your trust and belief in the values and mission of the CFLAA have empowered us to achieve remarkable milestones and enhance the lives of our alumni. Your enthusiasm and dedication have been a constant source of inspiration, and I am profoundly grateful for the memories we have created together.

Our journey began with a small group of former players and friends who came together to form the association. Over the years, we have received invaluable support from the CFL (philosophically and financially) and the CFLPA. The support and encouragement from the various club alumni associations have been instrumental in our success, and I am deeply grateful for their continued involvement.

As Executive Director, I have had the privilege to witness the unwavering dedication and commitment of our members, the Board, and partners. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and, most importantly, worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of our CFL alumni. The collective achievements we have realized during this period are a testament to the strength and spirit of the CFLAA community, and I am proud of the support and camaraderie we have shared.

As I step down, I am filled with hope for the future of the CFLAA. The initiatives we've launched and the milestones we've reached are a solid foundation for the association's continued growth and success. Our efforts to improve healthcare, provide educational opportunities, and offer financial assistance have made a tangible difference in the lives of many of our members. Our outreach and engagement programs have fostered a deeper sense of connection and solidarity among alumni, which I am confident will continue to grow and flourish in the years to come.

As I prepare to step down, I want to express my confidence in the future of the CFLAA. The organization is in a strong position, with a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers committed to advancing our mission. I am eager to see the CFLAA continue to thrive under the leadership of the incoming Executive Director, CFL Alumnus, Dwayne Provo.

To the fans, thank you for your unwavering support, collaboration, and friendship. Your passion for the CFLAA and its goals has been a constant source of inspiration for me. I am grateful for the memories we have created together and the lasting impact we have had on the lives of our fellow alumni.

Although I will no longer serve as Executive Director, I will remain a proud and active member of the CFLAA. My commitment to our mission and values remains steadfast, and I look forward to supporting the organization in new and meaningful ways. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time; my door will always be open.

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your Executive Director. I wish the CFLAA continued success and prosperity in all its endeavors.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Leo Ezerins

# A Message from the President of BC Lions Alumni



Dear CFL Alumni,

Welcome to the 2024 Grey Cup in beautiful Vancouver! As we gather to celebrate the pinnacle of Canadian football, it's also an exciting time to reconnect, reminisce, and honour our rich history as members of the CFL Alumni.

We are thrilled to invite you to several special events throughout Grey Cup week, starting with the **CFLAA Legends Luncheon** on Friday November 15th @ 11am, where we will proudly honour two outstanding members of our alumni family, Jamie Taras and Cory Philpot, as our CFLAA Alumni of the Year. In addition, we will recognize JR LaRose as the recipient of the prestigious CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award. This luncheon will be a heartfelt occasion to celebrate their contributions, both on and off the field.

The festivities continue with the **Grey Cup Bash** on Friday November 15th @ 6pm, hosted by the BC Lions Alumni Association at the Shark Club. This event promises to be a great time, with a dedicated VIP area for alumni, where you can enjoy food and drinks in the company of old teammates and rivals. It's the perfect setting to unwind and celebrate together as we build up to the big game.

Throughout the week starting on Thursday November 14th @ 2pm, the **BC Lions Alumni Lounge**, located at the Vancouver Convention Centre, will be open for alumni and friends. This is a fantastic space to relax, catch up, and share stories of the old days. The lounge will be stocked with light snacks and drinks, and we'll have some friendly competition with games of ping pong and cornhole. It's a great place to gather, swap memories, and relive the camaraderie that makes our time in the CFL so special.

We can't wait to see you here in Vancouver as we celebrate not only the Grey Cup, but the enduring spirit of our CFL family.

Warm regards,  
Sean Graham  
**President-BC Lions Alumni Association**



# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

6205 B AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE 208, MISSISSAUGA, ON L4V 1E3  
T: 1.800.616.6865 | [www.CFLPA.com](http://www.CFLPA.com)

**Dear Fellow Alumni,**

On behalf of the Canadian Football League Players' Association and our community of over 650 active players, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support. Your legacy and contributions have had a profound impact on shaping our journey in the CFL and leave a strong foundation for those who come after us.

The bond between the CFLPA and the CFL Alumni Association is a natural one – all alumni were once active members of the CFLPA. Our active players turn to you for mentorship, friendship, and the sense of unity that the Alumni Association fosters, both on and off the field. Your efforts to strengthen the ties between former and current players are deeply valued and remind us that we are part of something larger—a brotherhood that extends beyond any single season.

Given that we are all members of the same football family, the CFLPA is very glad to announce that we are officially opening the doors of the CFLPA Career Academy to all CFLAA members! Going forward, in addition to the programs and services already offered by the CFLAA itself, CFL Alumni will be able to access the post career training, transition, and employment programs the CFLPA makes available to active players.

You will be able to find more information on how CFL Alumni can access the CFLPA Academy via our website, [www.cflpa.com/academy](http://www.cflpa.com/academy)

Thank you once again for standing with us and for the passion and dedication that define our alumni network. Together we look forward to carrying this legacy forward, celebrating our shared past, and contributing to building a bright future for all CFLPA and CFLAA members.

Yours in Solidarity,

Peter Dyakowski  
Interim Executive Director  
CFL Players' Association



# CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Alumnus of the Year

### Background:

The inaugural CFL Alumni Association Man of the Year award was presented in 2008 at an exclusive Alumni event during Canadian Football Hall of Fame Weekend (first time in Winnipeg) at the Manitoba Club.

A nominee from each Alumni Association was submitted to the CFLAA Board of Directors. The Board unanimously selected Sam Etcheverry.

Unfortunately, Sam passed two weeks before the event. The award was presented to his brother, Steve Etcheverry, by Paul Robson. The event's emcee was Wade Miller.

In 2010 the Board decided to have the local Alumni Association of the host Grey Cup city make the selection for the award to be presented at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon.

The CFLAA Board renamed the CFLAA Man of the Year to CFLAA Alumnus of the Year.

The recipients are honored each year at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon during Grey Cup week.

### Award Criteria:

- Former Players, Management, Coaches
- Successful post career transition
- Past and/or currently involved in local Alumni Association and/or CFL Alumni Association
- Actively involved in the community and charitable causes
- Supports the local football club and the Canadian Football League

### Past Award Winners:

- 2009 – Sam “The Rifle” Etcheverry (Montreal)\*  
Posthumously
- 2010 – Bayne Norrie (Edmonton)
- 2011 – Norm Fieldgate (BC)
- 2012 – Don Durno (Toronto)
- 2013 – George Reed and Carm Carteri  
(Saskatchewan)
- 2014 – Lui Passaglia (BC)
- 2015 – Wade Miller and Paul Robson (Winnipeg)
- 2016 – Michael “Pinball” Clemons and Peter Martin  
(Toronto)
- 2017 – Russ Jackson and Jeff Avery (Ottawa)
- 2018- Hector Pothier and Brian Fryer (Edmonton)
- 2019 – Tony Spoletini (Calgary)
- 2020 – Not Awarded due to COVID
- 2021 – Bob Krouse and Jason Riley (Hamilton)
- 2022 - Rob Bresciani and Rob Pyne (Saskatchewan)
- 2023 - Rocky DiPietro and Leo Ezerins (Hamilton)
- 2024 - Jamie Taras and Cory Philpot (BC)



## 2024 CFLAA Alumnus of the Year

### CORY PHILPOT

A star running back at Mississippi, Cory Philpot signed with the BC Lions in 1993 and starred with the Leos till 1997. Three times, he rushed for over a thousand yards in a season. Philpot also found the end zone 55 times while with the Lions, earning the nickname 'Quick Six' and in the 1995 season, set a CFL Record (Later Broken by Milt Stegall) with 22 touchdowns, earning a spot on the CFL Northern All-Star Team. Philpot would wind up his CFL career with the Blue Bombers.



Following his playing career, Philpot remained active in football as a coach, beginning with the White Rock Titans and then North Delta of the VMFL. He won a midget championship with the Longhorns in 2004. He then moved up to the Junior ranks, beginning with South Fraser, and was head coach of the Vancouver Trojans from 2006 to 2009.

The following year, Philpot moved from the field to the boardroom, serving as Game Commissioner for the British Columbia Football Conference and later as Operations Manager of the British Columbia Provincial Football Association.

At the same time, Philpot continued coaching with his All-Star Youth Sports Camps, which helped kids learn to play football while developing their skills at an affordable cost.

He returned to coaching with the Langley Rams in 2018 as an assistant before becoming head coach. In Philpot's first year as head coach, the Rams captured the Canadian Bowl as Canadian Junior Football Champions in 2021.

Philpot's twin sons Jalen and Tyson are playing in the CFL. Tyson is with the Grey Cup Champion Montreal Alouettes, and Jalen plays for the Calgary Stampeders

# 2024 CFLAA Alumnus of the Year

## JAMIE TARAS

A member of the BC Lions All-Time Dream Team, Jamie Taras played for the Leos for 16 seasons from 1987 to 2002. Taras, who was an offensive lineman with the University of Western Ontario Mustangs, was drafted in the third round by the Lions to play fullback. In his fifth season, then-head coach Bob O'Billovich switched Taras to the offensive line, first at guard and then later at center. In all, Taras played 265 regular season games over the course of his Lions career.

A two-time Grey Cup Champion, Taras and fellow honouree Cory Philpot were teammates on the 1994 BC Lions team that defeated the Baltimore Stallions in the Grey Cup game 26-23 at BC Place. He also played on the Lions 2000 Grey Cup team.

Jamie Taras was A two-time CFL All-Star and two-time finalist as the Outstanding Offensive Lineman (1995, 1999) and a runner-up as Outstanding Canadian in that '99 season. A 3-time West All-Star (1999, 2001, 2002), Taras was chosen as the Tom Pate Memorial Award winner for his outstanding sportsmanship and service to the community.

His service to the game of football continued following his retirement. He was the Vice President of the Canadian Football League Players' Association, and in 2007, he returned to the BC Lions as their new Director of Community Relations, a position he still holds to this day.



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# CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award

## J.R. LaROSE

HAMILTON – Today, the Canadian Football League Alumni Association (CFLAA) proudly announces that, 2011 Grey Cup Champion with the BC Lions, J.R. LaRose has been selected to receive the CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award.

LaRose will be honoured during Grey Cup week in Vancouver at the CFLAA Legends Luncheon on Friday, November 15th.

“The CFLAA is proud to present this honour to J.R. LaRose,” said Leo Ezerins, Executive Director of the CFLAA, “and highlight his impact on the local community. A member of the One Arrow First Nation LaRose is dedicated to improving the quality of life of Indigenous people.”

LaRose grew up in Edmonton without a father and a mother that struggled with drug addiction. His father, of Nigerian heritage, was deported before he was born and his mother Barbara, was a Residential School survivor. The abuse she endured led her to drugs and alcohol and took its toll on her life as well as her two children.



At age 15 J.R. was taken in by a family at a local church and they introduced him to the game of football. He honed his skills with the junior Edmonton Huskies and developed his game that the Edmonton Eskimos (now Elks) made him a territorial selection pick in 2005.

In his 4th season in Edmonton he broke his leg and missed the entire 2009 season. The next year LaRose joined the BC Lions and would break the

same leg. There would be another injury setback in 2011 but he would recover from a broken forearm in time for the playoffs and the Lions march to the Grey Cup Championship.

LaRose’s 9 year CFL career ended following the 2014 season and he has remained active in the community as an ambassador for Aboriginal peoples as an accomplished speaker talking to children about his life experiences and his journey to professional football. LaRose says that it is important to provide hope. “I have learned from my mistakes. I just had to learn to surround myself with positive people.”

This CFLAA Indigenous Champion Award was created to recognize former Indigenous CFL players and current advocates of Indigenous participants as players or coaches in the game of football.

J.R. LaRose will receive his award at The CFLAA Legends Luncheon Friday November 15, at the Vancouver Convention Centre West, Exhibition Hall C (Lions Den)



# CANADIAN CONCUSSION CENTRE

Research | Diagnosis | Solutions

The Canadian Concussion Centre is the world's first program dedicated to a four-pronged approach to concussions: research, education, diagnosis and treatment. The project is based at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre at the University Health Network's Toronto Western Hospital, and is led by internationally acclaimed concussion expert, Dr. Charles Tator. The team includes world leaders in brain injury, cognition, imaging, mental health and clinical care working together to determine how concussions can affect us all.

The **CFL Alumni Association** has taken a leadership role in promoting research and awareness of brain injury and concussion. The CFL alumni involvement includes former players, **Leo Ezerins**, Executive Director, CFL Alumni Association and on the Advisory Group **Matt Dunigan**.

**The research is designed to better understand the full spectrum of concussions, in particular, persistent symptoms of concussion and the delayed effects of multiple concussions.**

Our **MISSION** is to identify who has and who is at risk of developing the delayed neurodegeneration associated with multiple concussions. We are developing better **diagnostic tools** to detect the effects of multiple concussions, and we are trying to figure out the **underlying causes** of their long term effects. All of the above information is used to **develop mechanism-based treatments** to prevent or minimize the enduring effects of multiple concussions.

Note: The study will cover the travel expenses (hotel, flight, and per diem) incurred to participate in the research program in Toronto. Plan on two days of testing.

**If you are interested in being a participant in the research study or to donate your brain please contact:**

**Clinical Research Manager:**

Mozhgan Khodadadi, 416-603-5800 ext. 4025

Email: [Mozhgan.Khodadadi@uhn.ca](mailto:Mozhgan.Khodadadi@uhn.ca)



## Canadian Concussion Centre (CCC)

Krembil Brain Institute- Toronto Western Hospital-UHN

**Message from Dr. Charles Tator, the CCC director and Dr. Carmela Tartaglia, the Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research:** We are furthering our understanding of the relationship between concussions and delayed brain diseases. Thank you to all the participants who have donated their time to our program. We have so much more to discover to hopefully one day detect and treat these diseases, so please consider participating in our research program.

**CCC Purpose**  
Since 2011, we are examining the possible correlation between repeated concussions and late deterioration of brain function.

**Study Update**  
To date, 140 athletes including 76 former CFL players have participated in our study, and 43 athletes have completed at least one follow up assessment.

**Donate Your Brain**  
We have received more than 50 brain donations for research purposes from elite athletes. If you are considering donating your brain to the study, please visit our website for more information at <https://www.uhn.ca/Krembil/Canadian-Concussion-Centre/Brain-Donation>

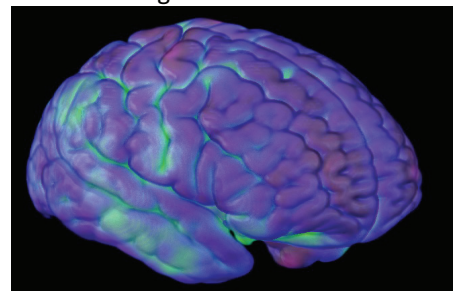
**Join Our Study**  
We are recruiting new athletes. The study involves MRI, PET Scan, Neuropsychological and Neurological assessments, and a blood test during two-day testing in Toronto. We pay for your flight and hotel room. If interested, please call Mozhgan Khodadadi at 416-603-5800 ext. 4025 or 647-535-2021

**Published**  
The CCC has published 78 studies in scientific journals:

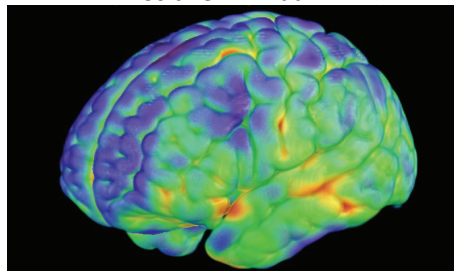
**Education**  
Watch our Patient Education Webinar Series here: <https://www.uhn.ca/Krembil/Canadian-Concussion-Centre/Education#webinarseries>

To learn more about our research program or to donate your brain, please contact Mozhgan Khodadadi, Clinical Research Manager at 416-603-5800, ext. 4025; 647-535-2021, [Mozhgan.khodadadi@uhn.ca](mailto:Mozhgan.khodadadi@uhn.ca) OR Dr. Carmela Tartaglia at 416-603-5483; [Carmela.Tartaglia@uhn.ca](mailto:Carmela.Tartaglia@uhn.ca)

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# 2024 CFLAA LEGENDS LUNCHEON SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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## KEY SUPPORTERS

CHAIR – SEAN GRAHAM

EMCEE – ANGUS REID

TSN – PAUL GRAHAM, MILT STEGALL, DAVIS  
SANCHEZ, AND JIM BARKER

ALUMNI ORGANIZING COMMITTEE – JOHN ULMER,  
JASON CRUMB, KENSLEY PALMER, JAMIE TARAS,  
HOWARD BLANK, SUSAN SHARMA, ROBERT BRONK,  
ED VALTENBERGS, FRANCE BOURGEOIS, JOE  
GUNNIS, RAE LINNAE (ADMIN)

FIRST RESPONDERS – ALL CFL ALUMNI

FIRE - SCOTT HENDRIKSON, BRETT ANDERSON,  
ADAM BERGER, CONNOR GRIFFITHS,

GRANT MACDONALD, JOE MALABUYOC

POLICE – JAS DHILLON, ROLLY LUMBALA, MATT  
CLARKE

BC LIONS/GREY CUP FESTIVAL

VIDEOS PRODUCTION (ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR,  
INDIGENOUS CHAMPION, AND IN MEMORIAM

– JOE PASCUCCI

PHOTOGRAPHERS – MASON BENNETT

VIDEOGRAPHERS – BOB NATH

CFL OFFICIALS - DAVE HUTTON

## KEY PEOPLE

FRANCE BOURGEOIS – EVENT MANAGER

JOE GUNNIS – COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRAM

ED VALTENBERGS, HTCAA, TICKET AND SEATING

## CFLAA PARTNERS



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Proudly supporting good governance in the CFL Alumni Association since day 1.



Linda Wood Edwards, CAE, B.Admin, FCG  
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# **IN MEMORY OF**

FORMER PLAYERS, COACHES & EXECUTIVES THAT HAVE  
PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST YEAR

**Berinie Glieberman - Ottawa**  
**Ken Miller - Saskatchewan**  
**Ronald Williams - Hamilton, Edmonton**  
**Earl Edwards - Edmonton**  
**Lyle Bauer - Winnipeg**  
**Jim Hopson - Saskatchewan**  
**Dave Ritchie - Winnipeg, BC, Montreal**  
**Gerry James - Winnipeg**  
**Ken Ploen - Winnipeg**  
**Carl Weathers - BC**  
**Kelly Malveaux - Montreal, Calgary**  
**Thomas Nettles - Edmonton**  
**Bruce Covernton - Calgary**  
**Richard Kaser - BC, Ottawa**  
**Willie Bethea - Hamilton**  
**Burke Dales - Calgary**  
**Harry Holt - Calgary, BC**  
**Doug Mitchell - Hamilton, Montreal**  
**Harald Hasselbach - Calgary**  
**Charlie Turner - Hamilton, Edmonton, Winnipeg**  
**Whit Tucker - Ottawa**  
**Jim Tonn - Winnipeg, BC**  
**David Shaw - Hamilton, Winnipeg**  
**Gerry McDougall - Hamilton, Toronto, Edmonton**  
**Dan Dorazio - BC**  
**James Waddell Smith - Edmonton**  
**Peter Martin - Toronto**  
**Ron Clinkscale - Calgary, BC**  
**John Harvey - Montreal, Hamilton**  
**Curtis "Chip" Kell - Edmonton**  
**Ben Fairbrother - BC and Saskatchewan**

THE CFL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APOLOGIZES IN ADVANCE IF WE HAVE MISSED SOMEONE.  
PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY UPDATES: [INFO@CFLAA.CA](mailto:INFO@CFLAA.CA)

# CFLAA Support Fund

**CFLAA Support Fund is making a difference and so can you!**

The CFL Alumni Association (CFLAA) takes pride in our accomplishments both on and off the field. Was there ever a better feeling than sharing the thrill of victory with your teammates after a hard-fought win?

Now some of our former teammates and fellow alumni are feeling the effects of playing the game we all love. We have the opportunity to once again be there for our teammates and show our appreciation for the special life-long memories we created together.

**The CFL Alumni Association provides support for former players**

The CFL Alumni Association (CFLAA) raises money for a CFLA Support Fund (CFLASF) that offers financial support to CFL alumni who are experiencing financial hardship due to a medical condition or the sudden loss of income.

Our fund was created, and criteria developed, by members of the CFLAA. The Support Fund has two specific plans that provide various amounts of aid depending on each specific situation.

**Our Alumni need your support**

We need to continue to build the fund so we are better prepared to meet future requests for financial support from your teammates and Alumni. The ever-growing reality of the effects on both the body and mind from playing football will increase the need for the Support Fund. As you know, current medical coverage aids with a very limited time post career, and this has only been available to alumni for the last few years. There are also recent challenges that COVID has had on everyone's financial and life situations.

**Support Fund has helped many former CFL players**

- Recently, a former Hall of Fame player and CFL coach needed lower back surgery which left him unable to walk unassisted. We are helping by subsidizing the intensive physical therapy required so that he will be able to walk unassisted, and most importantly, be independent.
- The CFLAA, and 3 teams for which the individual played, contributed funds to an Alumnus who has had a lifelong

challenge with mental illness to assist in his medical expenses and costs to set himself up for his transition from hospital care back to independent living.

- The CFLASF aided an Alumnus and his family while his wife recovered from major surgeries for treatment of her cancer.
- We supported a member after years of struggle, including loss of family, who had admitted himself into a drug and alcohol treatment facility.

**Your generosity will continue to make a difference**

To continue to help our fellow alumni through life altering issues, we need your help.

Presently, the CFLASF relies on funds raised at the CFLAA Grey Cup Legends Luncheon and other fundraisers, as well as donors such as the Never Alone Foundation (founded by former Winnipeg Blue Bomber, Lyle Bauer) Bench Brewing Company (Matt Giffen), the CFL, local Alumni Associations, and individuals.

While we appreciate all the donations we have received, and those who continue to support our fundraising events, we need to increase the amounts available for support. We can only do that by finding additional resources for the Alumni Support Fund.

**Please consider making a personal or corporate donation.**

Your generosity will be used to assist your former teammates and all CFL alumni who are in need.

If you are a former CFL player, fan, or friend and you know of an alumni member in need, please visit CFLAA.ca and click on the Support Fund application button.

For more information on the Alumni Support Fund please visit CFLAA.ca or contact me personally at leo@cflaa.ca or 905-464-0007. All inquiries are confidential. Any support given is confidential unless approved by the recipient.

Sincerely,

Leo Ezerins  
Executive Director, CFL Alumni Association  
leo@cflaa.ca



**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A PERSONAL OR CORPORATE DONATION.**





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The background of the lower advertisement is a photograph of a starry night sky. The stars are visible as small white dots against a dark blue and purple sky. The silhouettes of tree branches and leaves are visible in the foreground, framing the top and right sides of the image. A large, semi-transparent white box with a yellow border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

## Congratulations to the CFLAA Alumnus of the Year award winners

We're proud to honour the achievements of community and Indigenous leaders from across Turtle Island who are shaping a brighter future.

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