The Pickler

Summer 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of *The Pickler*. In this issue we focus on bringing you the latest updates from our number one priority: developing a purpose-built indoor pickleball facility for our region. We also take a look at the ongoing fundraising efforts and all of our successes to date.

We complete this issue with a list of some upcoming events—
including our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Oct 14th, 2026 at 6pm (see below for details).

A quick note to say that, at time of writing, our membership has reached more than 190. We are well on our way to reaching 200 members by the end of this year. See our website for more information about the benefits of being a qPA member – besides the fun of it!

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Our community needs a pickleball facility—one where we can come together for fun and enjoyment, as well as hold events (including sanctioned tournaments) that will have a positive economic impact throughout our region. It just makes sense. For this reason, qPA has been advocating for a long-term lease on City-owned land on which we can build an indoor facility. Here's a quick look at why we feel this is the best option for our community:

WHERE WE STAND

Our vision is moving forward—but securing land remains the critical next step.

Over the past year, qPA has continued to make the development of a purpose-built indoor pickleball facility our highest strategic priority.

We see this project as more than a building. It is an investment in the health, vitality, recreation and economic future of our community—a facility that can serve players throughout the qathet region for decades to come.

We have made significant progress in planning, fundraising and raising community awareness and support. Just one critical piece of the puzzle remains unresolved: securing a parcel of land.

OUR PREFERRED LOCATION

Powell River Recreation Complex—it is central to all, accessible and feasible.

Our Board of Directors has appeared before Powell River City Council on several occasions to present our proposal for a long-term lease on City-owned land at the Recreation Complex.

We believe this is the most practical and accessible location for a regional pickleball facility because it:

- **is centrally located**
- **connects with existing recreational infrastructure**
- **provides opportunities for partnerships with other community recreation services**
- **serves players throughout the qathet region and enables us to hold events**

WHY THE TIMELINE MATTERS

In February 2026, City of Powell River Council directed staff to postpone consideration of granting a parcel of Recreation Complex land until after the City completes a Recreation and Culture Services Master Plan. qPA has two issues with this decision: first, that the estimated (taxpayer) cost of the Plan is (at time of writing) $250,000; second, that the Plan is not scheduled to begin until the 2027 budget process.

qPA continues to advocate for a different approach: that the City's risk assessment of qPA and discussions regarding a potential land agreement proceed *while* the Master Plan is being developed. We have yet to receive a specific response to our query as to why this can't happen.

We believe a coordinated approach, one in which we work *with* the City, is needed to bring this vision to fruition for the good of our entire community.

THE MISSING PIECE

Land is more than a location—it is the key that unlocks funding.

qPA has developed a strong business case and continues to add to our Building Development Fund through "one-off" fundraising initiatives. While these are important, we are losing out on many major government and foundation capital grants that require applicants to demonstrate secure site control, typically through ownership or a long-term lease. Without a confirmed location, many of the funding opportunities remain out of reach.

We're Building More Than a Facility; We're Building a Community!

We have come a long way—and there is still work to do.

With a strong membership, dedicated volunteers, generous supporters and a clear vision for the future, qPA is continuing to move forward.

Together, we can build something that will benefit the qathet community for generations to come.

WHERE TO PLAY

Making the most of the courts we have

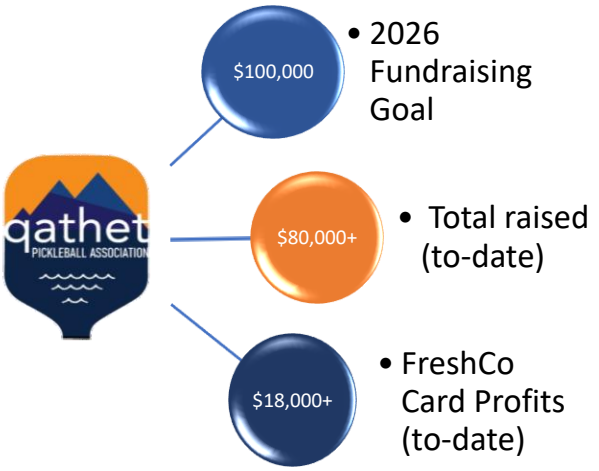
Who	qPA	VIU	PR Parks and Rec
What	Designated sessions secured by qPA for active members	Drop-in (16+) Open to the public	Drop-in (16+) Open to the public (purchase tickets at the Complex)
Where	VIU gym; pre-booked sessions	tiwšɛmawtxʷ campus	Oceanview Education Centre Gym
When	Various times Learn more	Book through VIU (all fees go directly to VIU) (Learn more)	After school hours only; play resumes in October 2026 (Learn more)

Outdoor courts available at Craig Park, Palm Beach and Townsite

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to our members, volunteers, local businesses and community supporters, qPA has raised more than $80,000 this year toward our Building Development Fund.

Our on-going fundraising initiatives allow us to provide programming and equipment, while saving toward our ultimate goal—creating a purpose-built indoor pickleball facility for our region.



Every purchase, every event, and every donation bring us closer to our goal, and helps us keep the programs running. Here are some of our fundraising highlights to-date.

FreshCo Grocery Cards	**~ $18,000**	Our biggest fundraiser continues to be the FreshCo Grocery Card Program. It has generated almost **$18,000 in profits** (at the time of writing), while giving members an easy way to support qPA through their regular grocery purchases. Thank you to all who help keep this very important initiative going!	• Buy groceries • Support qPA • Build our future
Modern Windows BBQ modern	**$2,211**	A huge thank-you to everyone who supported our Modern Windows BBQ fundraiser. Together, you helped raise over $2,000 for the Building Development Fund.	• Support Local • Support qPA
Bay Leaf Sales	**$2,000**	Special thanks to qPA member Deb Maitland, who spearheaded a bay leaf fundraiser for qPA. Deb grew the leaves, packaged them, and was point person for the sales.	• Our members rock!
Private Donations	**~ $1,000**	We are grateful for all the generous donations made during various gatherings**.** Every contribution makes a difference.	• The qPA community is strong!
Beer & Burger	**~$4,000**	Food and beverage were secondary to the social engagement. A silent auction was held, as well as games throughout the evening.	• Fun times. Sticky pickleball wall game for the win!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Poker Tournament

October 3, 2026 | 1:00–5:30 pm
Powell River Seniors Centre
Doors open at 12:30 pm
Featuring Poker Pro Mike Maddocks!
$100 buy-in • Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place
Register on the qPA website.

qPA Annual General Meeting

October 14, 2026 | 6:00 pm
Carlson Loft
Come out, get informed and have your voice heard about the future of your organization!
Please enter from Joyce Street

PAST EVENTS

What fun we had!

Members Appreciation BBQ

Our annual members appreciation bbq was held August 8th at Willingdon Beach, where we enjoyed hot dogs, bevvies and music by DJ Steve Waghorn. A few games of beach pickleball were held. No winners, no losers, no rules, really.

Popcorn and Pickleball

A huge thank you to Mitch and Brian for hosting our first annual (we hope 😊) movie night, featuring that Hollywood blockbuster, The Dink. We even received got a shout out from the movie's director, Josh Greenbaum, who really wanted to be there! Check out his message: https://youtu.be/FBmsanryGRY

MEMBER UPDATE

Open Letter to 2026 Election Candidates

The qPA Board of Directors has issued an open letter to declared candidates in the 2026 Powell River General Election regarding qPA's request for City-owned land for a purpose-built pickleball facility.

The letter includes background information and a summary of qPA's advocacy to date. Candidates are being asked to state their position in writing.

All responses will be reviewed and shared with qPA members and the public prior to the election.