



NEWS RELEASE

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Canadian Lacrosse Association Announces New International Initiative

TORONTO_ Dean French has been named National Team Chair in a revamped approach by the Canadian Lacrosse Association to better organize its international presence.

Stewart Begg, CLA Vice-President for International Competition, says the new initiative represents an exciting opportunity to enhance the development of national teams.

“We believe that a strong national team program is critical to the development and promotion of our sport nationally and abroad,” says Begg, a resident of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. “We want to ensure that we have a strong and experienced leadership team to carry our national team programs forward for the best success.”

French was executive director of Canada’s world men’s field team that won silver in Manchester, England, last summer and has the same role with the Canadian men’s team for the world indoor tournament in Prague, May 21-28. A native of Lakefield, Ont., French is a Toronto businessman who coaches high school lacrosse at St. Michael’s College School.

“We have been fortunate to benefit from Dean’s experience, passion, connections and leadership,” says Begg. “He will continue to bring these assets to the national team programs as national team chair.”

David Huntley will be Director of Men’s Field National Teams. The native of Toronto, who coached the men’s field team in Manchester, has lived and worked in the Baltimore region since his NCAA playing days.

Joanne Stanga, will continue as Director of Women’s Field National Teams. Stanga, from Orillia, is IT project manager at Magna International in Aurora, Ont.

Huntley and Stanga both played for Canada.

“Dave brings a wealth of experience and we are excited that he will fill the role of national team director for men’s field,” says Begg. “Joanne has led our teams on the women’s field side and we are delighted that she will be continuing in this capacity.”

Said Huntley: “I am thrilled to be working with Dean and Stew again and excited to work alongside Joanne for the first time. My first order of business is to get our staff in place for the 2012 Under-19 championship so they can put our best possible team on the field in Finland.”

All are volunteer positions. Previously, vying groups would participate in a bid process to manage national teams on a temporary basis.