



**VOLLEYBALL BC - RAY LEPP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIO – Walker Sodaro**

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Harry Jerome Sports Centre  
7564 Barnet Highway  
Burnaby, BC  
Canada, V5A 1E7



Telephone: 604.291.2007  
Fax: 604.291.2602  
[www.volleyballbc.org](http://www.volleyballbc.org)

## RAY LEPP VOLLEYBALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Walker's volleyball accomplishments are outstanding, demonstrating his talent and leadership. In 2021 and 2022, he led the Kelowna Secondary Owls to back-to-back Provincial titles, earning MVP honors both years. At 17, Walker was the starting setter for the Jr Heat Volleyball Club's 18U team, leading them to a national silver medal and earning a spot on the all-star team.

He continued his success with Volleyball BC's Provincial Team, captaining Team BC to a bronze medal at the Canada Cup, where he was again recognized as an all-star. Walker also excelled in beach volleyball, winning the 2023 18U Beach Provincial Championships and finishing as a finalist in the University Beach Championships.

After high school, Walker was named an alternate for Canada's 21U team and now plays as the setter for the Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack. Beyond his playing career, he helps coach young players at the Barn Owls Volleyball Club, passing on his knowledge to inspire future athletes.

Some of Walker's personal achievements are:

- Gold medal at 2021 AAA high school championships
- Gold medal at 2022 AAA high school championships
- MVP at 2021 championships
- MVP at 2022 championships
- Kelowna Male Athlete of the Year
- Silver medal at 2022 National Championship
- All Star at 2022 Nationals
- Gold medal at 2023 Beach Championships
- Team BC - bronze medal



## ABOUT RAY LEPP

Ray Lepp was a founding member of Volleyball BC, formerly the BC Volleyball Association (BCVA), in 1965, and continued as a Board Member until 1978. He held the positions of President or Vice President for 10 of his 22 years on the board.

In his early years, Ray played volleyball in Estonia in a very strong school and club system. Having recognized that the profile of volleyball in Canada was low, he worked tirelessly to increase interest in the sport. Some of the major programs for the BCVA included recruiting international coaches to BC, the Winfield Volleyball Camp, and the Pacific Rim Championships.

Ray was certified as a National Official before the Pacific Rim Championships and travelled to the tournament as the head of the delegation for the Pacific Rim program. During the 1960's and 1970s, Ray coached the UBC Men's Volleyball Team for a total of 10 years. At one time, six players on the Canadian National Team had been coached by Ray at UBC.

In 1989, Ray helped fundraise money for the Estonia National Team, who was touring BC, and whose flight was suddenly stopped in Toronto. With the funds raised and Ray's personal contribution, the team made it to BC.

With Ray's passing, he donated funds through his will to provide a permanent endowment that would support this scholarship in perpetuity.