



#### **RICHARD DELUCA – HEAD COACH U18 STRATHCONA BEARS**

Born in Campbell River and raised in the Comox Valley, Richard was a Rep player with CVMHA from Peewee (U13) to Midget (U18). During this time, he and his teammates were provincial finalist three times in three divisions. In his final year of U18, the BCHL was calling via the Nanaimo Clippers but the desire to stay home and finish his minor hockey career with his lifelong teammates was too much to pass up. The plan worked and the goal of winning a provincial championship was achieved. Richard also played for the CVMHA U18 team that won Gold at the BC Winter Games the year before. Richard finished his competitive hockey career playing in the BCHL for the Chilliwack Eagles. He had become nearly a point a game player in Chilliwack when a career ending shoulder injury shut down the conversation with various NCAA teams. While a huge set back to his hockey goals, Richard has played with many men's teams since and still plays the game today. As a local entrepreneur, he is excited to be giving back to the North Island kids as so many coaches and sponsors have done for him. Coaching hockey has been a passion for the last 10 years and he looks forward to shaping the on and off ice futures of the 2022 U18 Strathcona Bears.

#### **BRIAN RIDEOUT – ASSISTANT COACH U18 STRATHCONA BEARS**

Born and raised in the Comox Valley, Brian played minor hockey for the CVMHA every year until Midget Rep (U18). Brian took the giant step to move to Kelowna to play for POE (Pursuit of Excellence) as a 15 year old in order to play tier 1 Midget (U18). He returned home the following year to play for the Jr B. Glacier Kings at 16, taking home rookie of the year! At 17 he played for both the Powell River Kings and the Glacier Kings, winning MVP and 'Defenceman of the Year' for the Glacier Kings. Brian spent the next 2 seasons in Powell River with the Kings, and was runner up for 'Defenceman of the Year' for the BCHL as a 19 year old. Brian committed to University of Nebraska Omaha on a full ride scholarship and decided to head south as a 20-year-old instead of aging out of the BCHL. He enjoyed team successes going to the frozen four in Boston, losing to eventual champions Providence in the semi final. Upon retirement from competitive hockey he was welcomed to the Happy's Pirates in the Comox Valley Commercial Hockey League, where Brian still enjoys playing the game today. Brian has coached at various competitive levels since leaving his own hockey career and he looks forward to sharing his talents and his experience with this year's group of U18 Strathcona Bears.

#### **BRAD SMITH - ASSISTANT COACH U18 STRATHCONA BEARS**

Brad has been a long time Glacier Kings coach in the VIJHL working specifically with goaltenders and defensemen. He has worked with several players who have gone on to play Junior A and college hockey. He also works as a scout evaluating players throughout B.C. Brad enjoys helping hockey players achieve their personal goals whether it be to play higher level hockey or simply work hard and enjoy playing hockey at the U18 level. Brad has also taught high school for the last 33 years and continues to teach today. Brad's specialty knowledge of goaltending assures the U18 Bears goaltending tandem will get the attention and opportunity for technical development they deserve throughout the season.