

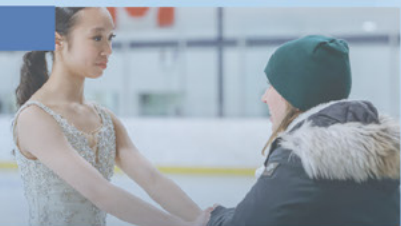
Honouring the

PAST



Treasuring the

PRESENT



Shaping the

FUTURE



ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS ON ICE



2019 MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SKATE CANADA: ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS ON ICE



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut proudly celebrated “50 Years on Ice” in May 2019. Section members and skating fans from across the country, joined us in Banff to commemorate our history. The party kicked off with an ice show on the Friday evening, “50 Years of Champions and Beyond”, produced by the legendary Jan Ullmark. The show featured skaters from the Section’s Junior Development and Select teams, along with guest skaters from the Banff and Canmore skating clubs.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, attendees could visit the Section Museum set up in the Banff Conference Center. The museum featured history in all areas which honored volunteers, coaches, officials, athletes, competitions and so much more!

Clubs and Skating Schools were encouraged to create a mini poster that reflected their history, and these were displayed throughout the museum. Memory cards were distributed throughout the season for anyone to write us their favorite skating moment. These cherished memories were on display for all to read. It was truly a walk-through time, and this could not have been possible without the dedication of Cathy Pettapiece and her family.

The Awards Banquet saw the inaugural Hall of Fame inductions of Kurt Browning - Athlete, Jan Ullmark - Coach, Dennis McFarlane - Official (posthumous), and Barbara Graham - Builder (posthumous). Also, in honor of Jamie Salé’s commitment to skating and her support of Special Olympics, the Special Olympics award was renamed the “Jamie Salé Special Olympics Skater Achievement Award”. The Section was extremely honored to have countless Alumni join us for this celebration, which added many more stories shared, memories recounted, and very special moments.

A salute to 50 Years comes only once. We ensured the entire season was filled with wonderful reflections, including our year-long series “Flashback Fridays” on social media. What a fabulous walk down memory lane. The special weekend in Banff was the culmination of our 50th anniversary celebration, and it was filled with memories of the past, but also excitement for the future. Thank you for celebrating 50 Years with us!



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut,

With the conclusion of our 2019-2020 season we can safely say it has been a year for the record books that none of us are likely to forget!

This year, we saw progress in the strategic objectives in all five areas of focus of our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Overall, our membership remained strong and our athletes, volunteers and coaches can all be proud of the success achieved this season. Whether it was at a local CanSkate Element event or on the National and International stage, our Section members made us proud. That pride was showcased when the Section hosted two National events this year with Challenge in Edmonton and Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Calgary, in addition to the North American Cup in Leduc.

The theme for this year's AGM is Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present and Shaping the Future. Wrapping up our 50th Anniversary year helped us honor the amazing memories, successes, and champions that we have seen as a Section for the past 50 years.

The current world pandemic has emphasized the importance of treasuring the present and appreciating our Section Family. This year I am even more grateful for the leadership of our Executive Director, Lisa Hardy, the hard work of all our staff and the guidance of our Board of Directors. We are also thankful for all of our dedicated committee members, officials, and volunteers, who this past year went above and beyond. We rose to the challenge as we hosted National and International events, Mountain Regional Synchronized Skating Championships, took part in the Alberta Winter Games, and were ready for the Arctic Winter Games in addition to our regular competition schedule. The end of our season did not go as we had planned, and we shared in the disappointment of such an abrupt ending. As a Section we will get through this by supporting each other.

This unprecedented time that requires us to be away from our normal routine, allows us the opportunity to develop the tools and resources we need for shaping the future success our Section is sure to achieve. Together we will learn and adapt as we find the way to our new normal, and we know we have the resilience, talent, and heart to shape a great future in our Section!

Sincerely,

Bobbi-Jo Martin
Chair, Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

2019 -2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MISSION

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut leads, enables and promotes excellence in the delivery of safe and inclusive skating programs for lifelong fun, fitness and achievement.

VISION

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut inspires every person to embrace the joy of skating and the pursuit of athletic achievement.

Chair

Bobbi-Jo Martin



Director Coaching

Alison Bonney-Gregson



Director

Shawn Dyrkach



Director

Tammy Finnerty



Director Regions

Gitti Heske



Director

Travis Hillier



Director

Fiona Lauzon



Director

Doug Pettapiece



Director

Carrie Wohlgemuth



2019 - 2020 STAFF & BOARD COMMITTEES

STAFF

Executive Director - Lisa Hardy
Technical Director - Holly Henderson
Member Services Manager - Kelly Havixbeck
Program Development Coordinator - Lisa Bonderove
Events Coordinator - Renee Gulayets
Coaching & Administrative Coordinator - Colleen Yavis
Administrative Assistant - Leona Boyle
Finance Coordinator - Marlyn Do

BOARD COMMITTEES

FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – Doug Pettapiece
Gitti Heske
Travis Hillier
Fiona Lauzon
Tammy Finnerty
Staff Resource - Lisa Hardy

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair – Travis Hillier
Gitti Heske
Alison Bonney-Gregson
Doug Pettapiece
Erin Matheson
Carrie Wohlgemuth
Staff Resources - Lisa Hardy and Kelly Havixbeck

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair - Bobbi Jo Martin
Alison Bonney-Gregson
Gitti Heske
Travis Hillier
Fiona Lauzon
Staff Resource - Lisa Hardy

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chair – Alison Bonney-Gregson
Fiona Lauzon
Tammy Finnerty
Shawn Dyrkach
Karen Fetterly
Staff Resources - Lisa Hardy and Kelly Havixbeck

NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair – Jennifer Boone
Donna Kormos
Jennifer Keliher
Staff Resource - Kelly Havixbeck

2019 - 2020 OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Lead – Kristen Belcourt
Deborah Lyon
Jennifer Betts
Samantha Miller
Andrea Phagoo
Robin Forsyth
Jessica Gosse
Staff Resources - Holly Henderson,
Kelly Havixbeck & Renee Gulayets

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Lead – Holly Henderson
Programs Lead – Lisa Bonderove
Krista Sellers
Brent Anderson
Pam Chislett
Scott Davis
Leslie Lawrence
Lynne Dey
Jessica Gosse
Katherine Co-Grant
Jonathan Okrainetz

COACHING COMMITTEE

Lead – Lynne Koper
Edmonton Region - Deborah Lyon
Calgary Region – Karen Allison
Northeast Region – Rebecca Zajic
Northwest Region – Pat Forseille
South Region – Olea Taboulchanas
Central Region – Jessica MacKay
Peace Region – David Howe
NWT Region – Jodi Brennan
Staff Resource – Colleen Yavis

REGIONS COMMITTEE

Lead – Kelly Havixbeck
Calgary Region – Diana Peters
Central Region – Joyce McCoy
Edmonton Region – Vanessa Laybourne/Monique Moore
Northeast Region – Bonnie Smyl
Northwest Region – Karli Wilson
NWT Region – Jaime Harris
Peace Region – Doug Vandemark
South Region – Pat Leishman

OFFICIALS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Lead – Jennifer Betts
Evaluator/Judges Representative – Laura Slipp
Data Specialists Representative – Krista Sellers
Technical Panel Representative – Devan Nychka
Synchronized Skating Officials Representative – Chelsey Schaffel
Member at Large – Lynne Dey
Member at Large – Caralee Anderson
Staff Resource - Lisa Bonderove

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEES

The Board Standing Committees are: Finance and Risk Management Committee, Membership Relations Committee, and the Governance Committee. The Nominating Sub-Committee and the Executive Director Review Sub-Committee operate under the Governance Committee.

The **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** provides governance leadership and the following responsibilities were completed this year: development and review of policies, recommendations for amendments to Section bylaws, orientation and regular education provided to the Board Directors, and appointment of the Nominating Sub-Committee Chair and Members. This Committee also advises the Executive Director in governance matters and provides support in human resource issues.

The **NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE** is responsible to the Governance Committee. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that each year the Section has access to a diverse and qualified slate of candidates from which to continuously provide a high performing, policy governance Board of Directors. In addition, the committee is responsible for overseeing the election processes for both Director elections while providing a supporting role to the eight Region Committees ensuring each Region has access to qualified volunteers in the capacity of Region Representatives and Region Coaching Representatives. During the 2019/2020 season the committee focused its efforts on the following:

- Adapting to social distancing measures and other restrictions imposed by the Government of Alberta in response to the Covid-19 pandemic by moving the Annual General Meeting and corresponding Director Elections to an online platform;
- Defining Election policies and procedures for both the Director Coaching position as well as the Director positions elected at the Annual General Meeting;
- Defining an intake process for discussion and recruitment of interested candidates to both Committees and the Board of Directors;
- Combining the results of a Board of Director needs analysis, skills matrix and gap analysis with an environmental analysis to ensure all Director skillset needs are met;
- Ensure each Candidate for all committees and Board receive thorough and timely communication ensuring a smooth and professional experience.

The **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE** is responsible to the Governance Committee. This Sub-Committee leads the process to determine annual objectives for the Executive Director and to conduct the mid-year annual performance reviews of the Executive Director.

The **FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** is responsible for guiding the Board as it delivers on its fiduciary responsibilities to its members. This season saw the committee continue to expand and monitor the Section's Risk Register, incorporating input from all Board and Operating Committees. The committee continued to monitor the Section's long term investments to ensure that the investments are managed in alignment with the Section's goals and objectives. Various finance related policies were reviewed and updated throughout the year. Work was also undertaken to improve the Section's budgeting process and to assist the Section Office with improved financial reporting to the Board, providing meaningful information on a timely basis.





OSC Fun Skate - February 2, 2020

MEMBERSHIP

The Section maintains a strong focus on educating our clubs and skating schools about the importance of all Skate Canada programs and to offer a wide variety of programs to encourage everyone to Skate for Life. The Section supports the development of our coaches, officials, clubs and skating schools to increase the delivery capacity to support our skaters' growth and development. The training of new coaches and officials maintains steady in all disciplines. Overall Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut's membership saw a decline of 4.9% in the 2019-2020 season from the prior year. The Section welcomed one new club this season: West Hillhurst Skating Club in the Calgary Region.

A key area of focus for the Membership Relations Committee is to conduct an Annual Membership Survey to gather feedback from all registrants and members of the Section. The most recent survey was distributed in March 2019, with 293 responses received, an increase of 19% over 2018. The committee reviewed the survey results and analyzed the feedback against the 2018 responses. Overall the feedback received indicated an increase in satisfaction in the communication received from the Section and an overall increase in awareness in the various services that the Section provides to its members. The committee provides this analysis to the Board and various committees to further enhance and improve upon the services we provide to our members.

Another key focus is the collection of data and statistics for the Section. Clubs and Skating Schools provided us with their registrant numbers which reflected the 2018-2019 season and a comparison of registrant data from Skate Canada for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 was completed. A comparison of age groups of registrants was also completed. The only category that saw growth was registrants under 5. The biggest decrease was in the 7 to 10 age category which saw a decrease of 408 or 7.3%. Overall registrants under 10 represented 73% of total registrants this year, essentially the same level as last year. Data was also reviewed to see if registrant retention could be determined. We will continue to work with Skate Canada on improving data capture and availability.

The committee continues to annually review the Section Awards Program to recognize our volunteers, officials, coaches and skaters for their outstanding contributions and achievements throughout the season. With no Annual Awards Banquet this year, the recipients will be recognized through the Section's various communication channels. The committee also recognized 2 new Hall of Fame members in Michael Jiranek, coach category, and Sheena Meurin, officials category.

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut is the third largest Section of Skate Canada with 24,025 registrants in 161 clubs and skating schools, as of March 31, 2020. This includes 123 officials, 727 coaches and 30 synchronized skating teams.

	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
Number of Clubs and Skating Schools	161	159	160	160	162	165
Number of Coaches	727	735	701	630	615	568
Number of Officials	123	136	125	132	130	125
Number of Synchronized Skating Teams	30	33	30	31	34	28
Number of total Registrants	24,025	25,278	24,409	23,996	23,838	23,718

CANSKATE@SCHOOL



In partnership with the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation Group, the City of Edmonton and Ever Active Schools, the Section completed its third season providing CanSkate lessons to inner-city and under-served schools at the Downtown Community Arena. The project was initially delivered to Grade 1-4 students however we now see full classes of Grades 1-9 students and often include students with behavioral challenges, new Canadians, as well as sledge students. It is the first time on ice for the majority of skaters that participate in this program. The response from students and teachers alike has been overwhelmingly positive. Unfortunately, the season was cut short this year due to COVID-19 like so many other programs. Even with the season ending early the total number of students participating in the 2019-2020 CanSkate@School program was 1076 from 19 different schools! Ten enthusiastic Skate Canada coaches taught the students with Leona Boyle coordinating the program.

AWARDS



44 CLUBS & SKATING SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THE 2020 AWARDS
PROGRAM THROUGH THE SUBMISSION OF 109 NOMINATIONS

2020 SECTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Section Coach Achievement Award: Cindy Wong-Larson
AdultSkate Spirit and Passion of Skating Award: Rita Lam
AdultSkate Creating the Edge for Life Award: Derick Echevarna
Jamie Salé Special Olympics Skater Achievement Award: Meg Ohsada
Gateway Skating Club Post-Secondary Bursary: Ariana Alford
Pre-Juvenile Award U11: Tessa MacKinnon
Barbara Graham Award: Emma Yu & Daniel Yu
Winnie Silverthorne Award: Kaiya Ruiter
Pat Fischer Award: Anson Chung
Kurt Browning Award: Kaiya Ruiter
Brian Pockar Award: Kento Nakashima
Jesse Smith Memorial Award: Travis Trang

SECTION HALL OF FAME

Professional, Coach Inductee: Michael Jiranek
Official Inductee: Sheena Meurin

2020 SKATE CANADA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Section CanSkate Athlete Award: River Lee
Section STARSkate Athlete Award: Amy Schendel
Section CompetitiveSkate Athlete Award: Mia Saunders & William Oddson
Section Program Assistant Award: Chloe Gauvreau
Section Official Award: Tara Alldred-Gundesen
Section Volunteer Award: Diana Peters
Section Volunteer Coach Award: Christy Rivett
Event Volunteer Award of Excellence: Donna Kormos
Volunteer Award of Excellence: Donna Moses

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Jan Ullmark, Inducted as a Builder into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame
Eunice David, Inducted as a Builder into the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame
Doug Vandemark, Recipient of the Unsung Hero Award for the NW Alberta Sports Excellence Awards
Toller Cranston Memorial Fund Athlete Award - Hye Jin Cho, Tim Pomares & Kaiya Ruiter



- Coach Apprenticeship Program - Held at Skate Canada Challenge in Edmonton with 17 coaches attending. Facilitated by Greg Folk with numerous special guest coaches and officials.
- Synchro Coach Apprenticeship Program – Held in conjunction with Skate Canada at Synchro Nationals in Calgary. 20 coaches attended facilitated by Cathy Dalton and included special guest coaches and officials.
- Coach/Club Mentoring Program –The Section continues to offer the mentoring program to clubs and coaches who are looking for help in multiple different areas.
- STAR 6-Gold Program Support – Skate Canada representatives spent 2 days in Calgary and Edmonton with coaches and officials providing support on the STAR 6-Gold Program. Over 150 coaches and officials participated in this learning opportunity.
- CanSkate Coach/Program Assistant Workshops – Facilitated by Leona Boyle
Taber – 12 Participants Yellowknife – 37 Participants

OFFICIALS

The Officials Coordinating Committee (OCC) continues to support officials' development. The OCC's focus this season was mainly technical officials training programs and updating evaluators through the new STAR 6-Gold program. The OCC also supported Tech Reps in completing pre-event work, acquiring officials, and ensuring that assessment days were staffed.

PROMOTIONS

28 officials achieved 33 promotions this season between April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020!

- Challenge Level Technical Specialist Pairs: Robin Forsyth
- Section Level Technical Specialist Singles: Rebecca Marsh-Naturkach
- Section Level Technical Specialist Dance: Christopher Mostert
- Section Level Technical Controller Synchro: Nicole Patrie
- Junior Synchro Judge: Amanda Jassman, Kristen Belcourt
- Canadian Synchro Judge: Chelsey Schaffel
- Juvenile Pair Judge: Kristen Belcourt, Laura Slipp, Cathy Thoms
- Section Level Referee Singles: Kristen Belcourt
- Data Specialist Intro: Donna Kormos
- Data Specialist Level 1: Cathy Pettapiece, Doug Pettapiece
- Diamond Dance Evaluator: Bev Salomons
- Base Level Technical Officials Singles: Antoinette Hempel-Bakker, Christopher Mostert, Jayde Stewart

With the introduction of the new STAR 6-Gold assessment system the following individuals received Evaluator promotions:

- STAR 6-Gold Free Skate, Skills, Dance, Artistic: Linda Mulrain, Roxanne Harde, Joanne Giesinger, Joanne Thompson, Marg Andriuk, Renee Tatro, Karen Penrice, Kristen Belcourt, David Chief, Tara Alldred-Gundesen, Christine Low, Brenda Hart, Bev Salomons, Michelle Stockal
- STAR 6-Gold Free Skate, Skills, Dance: Jennifer Holland

TRAINING

The following learning opportunities were held:

- ISU Frankfurt Debrief
- Ice Dance Technical Training Seminar
- STAR 6-Gold Seminar for Evaluators and Coaches
- BLTO Seminar
- Synchro Technical Update Webinar
- Data Specialist Introductory Clinic
- Synchro Officials Mentorship Program

OVER \$25,000 INVESTED IN UPGRADING
COMPETITION EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTERS

ASSESSMENT DAYS

17 Section evaluators volunteered at assessment days this season.

	Total # Assessment Days	Peace	North West	North East	Edmonton	Central	Calgary	South	NWT
Spring 2019	22	2	0	3	8	2	4	2	1
Summer 2019	17	1	0	0	6	1	8	1	0
Winter 19-20	43	3	4	5	13	7	9	1	1

OFFICIALS

COMPETITIONS

The OCC provided support to the 2020 Sectionals and Mountain Regionals planning teams, as well as other STAR-based events and competitive invitationals.

The OCC is proud to recognize the following individuals who were invited to officiate at premier events this season:

- Junior World Figure Skating Championships, Tallinn EST: Jeff Lukasik (Invited)
- ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships, Lake Placid USA (Cancelled): Jennifer Betts and Mindy Gerlat

Internationally, our officials were invited to:

- ISU Challenger Series California Cup Synchro, Irvine USA: Jennifer Betts and Mindy Gerlat
- Steel City Synchro Trophy, Sheffield GBR: Jennifer Betts
- ISU Junior Grand Prix Russia, Chelyabinsk RUS: Pam Chislett
- Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf GER: Jodi Abbott
- ISU Grand Prix France, Grenoble FRA: Jodi Abbott
- Vetrarmot Competition (Iceland): Leslie Lawrence
- Autumn Classic International, Oakville CAN: Krista Sellers
- ISU Skate Canada International, Kelowna CAN: Lynne Dey, Pam Chislett
- Youth Olympic Winter Games, Lausanne SUI: Pam Chislett
- ISU Four Continents, Seoul KOR: Lynne Dey
- Arctic Winter Games, Whitehorse CAN (Cancelled): Pam Chislett, Brenda Hart, Adele Bonetti, David Chief
- Mexico International, Mexico City MEX (Cancelled): Pam Chislett

Across Canada, we had officials invited to:

* Please accept our apologies if we missed any events!

- Special Olympics Canada Winter Games: Leslie Lawrence
- BC/YK Synchro Invitational: Jennifer Betts
- Winterfest & ISU Junior World Synchro Qualifier: Jennifer Betts, Mindy Gerlat, Chelsey Schaffel
- Manitoba Synchro Championships: Amanda Jassman, Kristen Belcourt
- Prairie Regional Synchro Championships: Chelsey Schaffel
- SaskSkate: Robin Forsyth, Jonathan Okrainetz, Leslie Lawrence
- Saskatchewan Sectionals: Robin Forsyth, Chris Mostert, Jonathan Okrainetz, Marg Andriuk, Nicole Rapati
- North American Cup: Leslie Lawrence, Deb Alsen
- GTSA Summer Skate: Leslie Lawrence
- BC SummerSkate: Pam Chislett, Lynne Dey
- Minto SummerSkate: Pam Chislett
- Skate Canada Challenge: Brenda Hart, Krista Sellers, Elaine Dyck, Leslie Lawrence, Deirdre Coburn, Krystyna Banas, Deb Alsen, Marg Andriuk, Pam Chislett, Lynne Dey, Robin Forsyth, Devan Nychka, Kara Fernandes, Nicole Rapati, Dallas Daniel, Kristen Belcourt, Breanne Ferris, Kelly Havixbeck



OFFICIALS

POSITIONS ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES:

- Brenda Hart: Nominating Sub-Committee (Chair), Governance Committee, Officials Development Committee
- Leslie Lawrence: Programs Committee
- Jennifer Betts: Officials Assignment and Promotion Committee
- Jodi Abbott: Officials Assignment and Promotion Committee, Nominating Committee
- Ravi Walia: High Performance Committee
- Jeff Lukasik: High Performance Committee

OFFICIALS RETIREMENTS

Thank you to the following officials for their years of dedication and service to the Section. These individuals were strong contributors to the sport and will be missed at events.

Judges: Janice Gerdtz, Pam Mitchell, Nona Hait, Dianne Smith, Michelle Creguer, and Deb Alsen

Data Specialists: Lee Johnson, Linda Mittelstadt, Wendy Kelly

Technical Officials: Brent Anderson, David Shoults

IN MEMORIAM

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Linda Mittelstadt. Linda was a dedicated Data Specialist in our Section for about 28 years and she passed away on April 24, 2020.

SKATING PROGRAMS

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Development Camps

Calgary - September 15, 2019, presented by Kim Slopak-Weeks, Tyler Myles, and Andrea St. Cyr with over 90 participants.

Edmonton - September 22, 2019, presented by Lynne Koper, Shirley Solkowski, and Michele Rowein with over 100 participants.

Technical Update

Synchro Technical Update Webinar held on October 2, 2019. Moderated by Jennifer Betts and Chelsey Schaffel, and open to all coaches and officials. 25 participants attended from BC, AB, SK, MB, and ON.

Video Monitoring Program

October-December 2019, with over 30 teams participating and receiving feedback from a panel of 4-6 officials.



SKATING PROGRAMS



Coach/Team Mentorship Weekend

New initiative held October 5-6 in Red Deer with Marilyn Langlois (Les Supremes) as the mentor coach. 5 Section qualifying teams each had 3 hours one-on-one time on ice with the mentor. 15 Section coaches participated – coaches of the 5 qualifying teams, plus other coaches who came to observe.

2020 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships

5 Section teams qualified for and attended the championships in Calgary. Teams were gifted custom cross-body bags from the Committee.

Black Gold Novice 12th

Solstice Intermediate 7th

Edmonton Edge Intermediate 12th

Black Gold Intermediate 15th

Black Gold Open 6th

ADULT SKATING

AdultSkate Workshop

AdultSkate Workshop held in Calgary on September 14, 2019 with lead presenters Ben & Jadene Ferreira. 19 participants attended.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Coach Training

In partnership with Special Olympics, coach training for Skate Canada coaches, Calgary, October 19, 2019. Presented by Barb Prystai and Jodi Flanagan with 27 participants.

National Canada Winter Games

7 athletes and 2 coaches attended the Games, February 25-29 in Thunder Bay ON. All 7 athletes won medals in their respective events.

INCLUSIVE SKATING

38 grants totalling approximately \$8600 were awarded to 8 different clubs throughout the season to help support their inclusive skating athletes and programming. Funding was also provided for Special Olympics athletes (\$1400) and Special Olympics Coach Training (\$1300).



COMPETITIONS

The Competition Committee continued to focus on best serving athletes within the Section. Events continue to see an increase in participation, sometimes to the point of having to limit the number of entries that can be accommodated.

Some of this season's initiatives included:

- Training of new Technical Representatives for STARSkate Invitational competitions. This was done in conjunction with the Evaluator/Judges working group. New officials were identified and trained at STARSkate Invitational competitions. Through this initiative, three new tech reps were successfully trained.
- The rollout of the STAR 1-3 Club Competition. The first STAR 1-3 Club Competition was hosted by the Okotoks SC. This event structure aims to offer more competition opportunities for STAR 1-3 skaters in a fun club environment. It also aims to reduce demand on STARSkate Invitationals, therefore making those events more manageable.
- Three STARSkate Invitational competitions offered Assess-to-Standard Synchronized Skating Events (Beginner I, Beginner II and Elementary) for the first time. The Central STARSkate Invitational in Sylvan Lake had 10 synchronized skating teams enter and it was a great success.
- The STARSkate/Competitive Crossover Chart was reviewed and updated to better define what categories competitive athletes could participate in. The goal is to give both competitive and STARSkate athletes the best competition opportunities and experiences.

LEADING EDGE SERIES

The Leading Edge Series is an important aspect of the competitive season. Small adjustments were made to the Series which helped to define category crossovers when skaters compete in multiple levels or different streams. The STARSkate Leading Edge Series ended earlier than planned with the cancellation of the STARSkate & Adult Championships. The top 3 skaters in each category were subsequently awarded based on the current results as it was important to award athletes for their work leading up to what would have been the final competition of the Series. Congratulations to all 545 participants in both the Competitive and STARSkate Leading Edge Series for the 2019-2020 Season!

COMPETITIONS

The Section was proud to host the 2019 North American Cup, held in conjunction with the Wild Rose Invitational in Leduc. We were also host to the 2020 Skate Canada Challenge in Edmonton and the 2020 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Calgary. Airdrie was the host of the 2020 Alberta Winter Games, which included 5 figure skating events – STAR 6, STAR 8, Juvenile, Pre-Novice and Novice Women. It was the first time live computer scoring and video replay were used at an Alberta Winter Games, which enhanced the caliber of this event. The Section planned three Championship events with the help of amazing Local Organizing Committees: the 2020 Sectional Championships hosted by the Calalta FSC, the 2020 Mountain Regional Synchronized Skating Championships hosted by the Carstairs SC, and the 2020 STARSkate & Adult Championships that was to be hosted by the Derrick SC. Sectionals and the STARSkate & Adult Championships were sponsored by the Alberta Figure Skating Foundation. The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the unfortunate cancellation of the STARSkate & Adult Championships, the IceFest Synchronized Skating Invitational and the Sunsational Invitational.

16 COMPETITIONS WERE HOSTED BY 15 DIFFERENT CLUBS, 2157 COMPETITORS AND 114 CLUBS/SKATING SCHOOLS ATTENDED VARIOUS COMPETITIONS WITH OUR SECTION

EVENT TECHNICIANS

The Event Technicians continue to be a monumental benefit in the production of many of our major events throughout the season. These experts assist in the growth and development in areas such as Live Streaming, Music, and Announcing. During the 2019 Wild Rose competition, several new volunteers were trained on the Live Streaming equipment and system. These individuals had the opportunity to work with some of Skate Canada's pioneers in the field of Live Streaming throughout the weekend and took home a fantastic new set of skills. This training session was supported by the Alberta Figure Skating Foundation.

The Live Streaming team was present at five major competitions throughout the 2019-2020 season. Many of these events included the sales of the Live Streaming videos – a keepsake for athletes to cherish for years to come. These videos have also been archived and posted to the Section's Daily Motion page, allowing skaters, coaches, and many others to watch back their programs whenever they wish as part of their skater development. Our Live Streaming team leaves every event learning more and more about their role, our equipment, and the programs we use. Their resiliency and dedication to this field has helped them overcome a number of different technical difficulties. We look forward to what the 2020-2021 season will bring for this technology.

Our Announcers within the Section continue to do a fantastic job at not only our Provincial events, but at a number of National events as well. Our announcer training program continued this year with the recruitment and training of a new announcer at the 2020 Sectionals weekend. This individual took to the role extremely quickly and we look forward to having his voice become recognizable in the seasons coming. Our entire Announcing team remains as a terrific group of individuals who foster an atmosphere of refinement at our events year after year.

VOLUNTEERS DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME: THEY HAVE THE HEART!

ELIZABETH ANDREW





REGIONS

Clubs and Skating Schools continue to host assessment days, carnivals, seminars, training courses and CanSkate Element Events. Each region in the Section has a committee consisting of a Region Representative, Assistant Region Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, High Assessment Coordinator and a Region Coaching Representative. These individuals are there to help when necessary and provide support and guidance to the clubs, skating schools and members in their region. The Section has many dedicated volunteers supporting the development of skaters at all levels. Clubs/skating schools were busy this season reviewing their bylaws, policies and procedures to identify any potential gaps and to make recommendations for positive changes.

The Skate Canada Safe Sport program continues to develop and provide support to all members to participate in Skate Canada programming in a safe and respectful environment. The Respect in Sport Activity Leader Training continues to be made available by Skate Canada at no cost to Skate Canada coaches, officials, team leaders, club board members and club/skating school administrators. Skate Canada also released their concussion app this year. The app is very user friendly and provides valuable tools such as the concussion recognition checklist and materials on prevention, recognition, and management of a concussion. Coaches, parents and skaters are encouraged to take a look at it.

This season saw the full implementation of the Section's Club/Skating School in Good Standing Policy. This policy outlines how clubs/skating schools are expected to participate in a variety of activities, with one of the mandatory activities being the completion of the Respect in Sport Activity Leader training for all individuals on a Club Board of Directors and for all Skating School Owners/Directors.

The Regions Committee continues to create templates and resources to support clubs/skating schools. These include agendas, minutes and role descriptions for board members and other best practices which all clubs/skating schools are able to adapt for their own use. Securing dance partners for gold and diamond tests has always proven to be a challenge. The committee updated the 'Dance Partner Directory' and has made it available on the Section website – this will assist clubs and skating schools in finding the right dance partner for their assessment day.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on our sport. When the recreational facilities were closed mid March across the Section, 87 carnivals and ice shows had happened and the remaining 39 were cancelled. Of the 21 CanSkate Element Events planned, only 2 were cancelled. This was disappointing as these events are important to celebrate skater and club achievements.

In order to stay more in touch with their membership, the committee is encouraging clubs and skating schools to have more of a presence on social media – specifically Instagram and Facebook. We encourage everyone to share their motivating skating stories and club/skating school achievements as a celebration of your club/skating school.

Each Local Region Committee was proud to recognize the accomplishments of skaters, volunteers, coaches, officials and program assistants through the Achievement Awards program. The committees strive to encourage participation in the Section Awards program and this year there were 109 nominations received from 44 clubs/skating schools.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Athlete Development was active throughout the 2019/2020 season. Preparations for Summer Series, fall events, Sectionals, Challenge, National Championships, Invitationals, Synchronized Skating, Special Olympics events, Alberta and Arctic Multi Sport Winter Games occupied most of our external activity. Athletes were monitored, competitions and seminars attended. Athlete Development continues to develop support programming for our Section athletes.

MONITORING

Section athletes were monitored throughout the season either by Officials and/or the Technical Director in their home clubs and at Section events. In June and July pre-season monitoring began with Judges and Technical Officials who were invited to review Select Team members programs and offer feedback. NextGen Team members were monitored by Skate Canada NextGen Director André Bourgeois and team. National Team members were monitored by Skate Canada High Performance Director Mike Slipchuk and the Canadian Sport Institute team. Monitoring occurred at the Fall Invitational with one-on-one feedback to team members. Ice dancers and pair teams received additional support at the Fall Invitational on a group basis. Junior Development Team members were monitored by the Technical Director.

2020 ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

2020 Alberta Winter Games figure skating team athletes qualified by points through the 2020 Sectional Championship and two run-off events were held in conjunction with the Edmonton and Calgary Region STARSkate Invitationals. There were 74 athletes in attendance at the Alberta Winter Games with a potential of 80 athletes attending however we did not have a full contingent of Novice Women that could attend. There were 17 Officials and 1 Support Staff attending the event.

2020 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES – Cancelled due to Coronavirus

The 2020 NWT Arctic Winter Games selections were completed in a Run-Off format in conjunction with the Calgary Region Invitational. 22 skaters flew from NWT to Calgary to compete in this event. 8 skaters plus two alternates were selected. Team Alberta North selections were completed in a Run-Off format in conjunction with the Peace Region Invitational. 35 skaters competed in this event. 8 skaters plus two alternates were selected.

SPRING DEVELOPMENT CAMP - Calgary Winsport

100 skaters participated in the Spring Development Camp in Calgary at the Winsport facility. Skaters were treated to the expertise of Olympian Scott Moir who lead them through unbelievable edge work. International coach Darlene Joseph facilitated the on-ice technical singles sessions giving two days of awesome exercises and technical advice. Performance artist Elina Viola provided off-ice musical enjoyment and stretch classes. Ice dancers were taught Ballroom by Martin Lefebvre, International Ballroom Dance Judge. Parent Information sessions and a talk by the two lead facilitators finished the weekend. Sessions were delivered by Skate Canada's NextGen Director André Bourgeois and High Performance Consultant Manon Perron and attended by Coaches and Parents.



ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT



SKATE CANADA 2019 NEXTGEN

Senior Man Eric Liu, Junior Man Matthew Newnham, Junior Woman Kaiya Ruiter and Junior Ice Dance team Isabel McQuilkin/Jacob Portz were selected as a 2019-2020 NextGen athletes. All NextGen members attended a NextGen Camp at Nottawasaga Ontario in May. Kaiya Ruiter, Eric Liu and Isabel McQuilkin/Jacob Portz competed at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Riga Cup in September 2019. Kaiya Ruiter was next assigned to compete at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Egna - Neumarkt in October. In April 2019 Skate Canada NextGen Director came to Alberta to audition selected Novice Singles skaters and Ice Dancers as potential for competing at a North American Cup. Michelle Deng, Hye Jin Cho, Ethan Scott, Mia Saunders & William Oddson, Grace Pele & Joel Portz and Savanna Martel & Kobi Chant were all selected to attend the North American Cup competitions.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM

59 athletes became members of the 2020 Junior Development Team compared to 47 in 2019. Of the 59 three were double discipline skaters and on the team in two categories. The skaters were invited to attend the annual Spring Development Camp with members of the Select Team. The Junior Development team is comprised of:

Pre-Juvenile: 6 U11 Women, 3 U11 Men, 4 Dance teams

Juvenile: 6 U12 Women, 4 U12 Men, 6 U14 Women, 2 U14 Men, 3 Dance teams, 4 Pair teams

Pre-Novice: 4 Men, 10 Women

2020 BRIAN POCKAR MALE SEMINAR

The 2020 Brian Pockar Male Seminar was hosted at the Glencoe Club in Calgary February 16/17. Olympian Keegan Messing and coach Ralph Burghart facilitated the seminar. 33 skaters participated in the seminar: 12 STAR 1-3 Level, 11 STAR 4-6, 10 Juvenile-Novice participated.

ATHLETE FUNDING

The Athlete funding program continues to support Section athletes who have competed in all disciplines at the Challenge and National Level. Athlete Funding was distributed in all categories as presented in the 2019-2020 Athlete Funding Program. The total number of awards distributed according to each level of the Athlete Funding Program was 91. 7 Evolution, 15 Discretionary, 6 Excel, 9 Next Gen, 35 Gold Silver Bronze, 19 Jump Scholarship

ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRAM

Recipients of the 2020 Endowment Awards are:

Barbara Graham International Award – Keegan Messing

Sectional Legacy Scholarship – Eric Liu

John Vipond Official's Scholarship – Monica Desmarais

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

2020 JUMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 2020 Jump Scholarship Program entered its second season. Successful difficult jumps each season are tracked at Section hosted competitions. The program begins with the annual Sunsational competition and concluding in March of each year. The focus is encouragement for the athlete to consistently attempt and successfully execute difficult jumps with a financial scholarship attached to the jump. Final calculations for the Scholarships concluded at the end of March. The total amount awarded in the 2019-2020 season was \$7825, which was a 67% increase over 2018-2019. 20 skaters benefited in the 2019-2020 season from this scholarship program. 30 jumping passes were awarded in the following age categories: U11-3, U12 -5, U14 – 14, U16 – 6, U19-2.

The following athletes proudly represented the Section at the 2020 SKATE CANADA CHALLENGE:

Pre-Novice

Anson Chung – 10th
Jayden Johnson – 19th
Angelina Grant – 8th
Caitlin Charles – 13th
Karen Slade – 26th
Sarah Coles – 31st
Emma Yu & Daniel Yu – 1st
Charlotte Arbib & Luke Arbib – 9th
Kaitlin Ho & Andrew Song – 10th
Sadie Nicholson & William Forrester – 13th

Novice

Tim Pomares – 6th
William Oddson – 17th
Chris Hammer – 20th
Ethan Scott – 24th
Hye Jin Cho – 9th
Paulina Grant – 19th
Grace Johnson – 22nd
Maja Husain – 33rd
Mia Saunders & William Oddson – 3rd
Savanna Martel & Kobi Chant – 6th
Grace Pele & Zaheen McKnight – 8th
Chloe Nguyen & Brian Popa – 12th
Milara Okabe & Josh Brauner – 5th
Paige Nguyen & Chris Hammer – 7th
Lauren Proskurniak & Andrew Sernecky – 8th
Kennedy Ariel & Sergey Shokot – 9th

Junior

Matthew Newnham – 3rd
Brian Chiem – 6th
Kaiya Ruiter - 1st
Haley Gillet - 13th
Carys Prodaniuk - 19th
Sophia O'Brien-Doerksen - 31st
Jessica Lee Behiel & Jackson Behiel - 10th
Isabel McQuilkin & Jacob Portz - 11th
Amelia Boone & Malcolm Kowan - 13th
Torri Hollstein & Josh Burger - 24th

Senior

Eric Liu – 2nd
Dawson Nodwell - 12th
Isabelle Law - 18th
Sandra Ramond – 19th
Madison Moore – 25th



ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

CANADIAN TIRE NATIONAL SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

The following Section Select Team members advanced from Challenge to represent the Section at the 2020 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships:

Novice

Tim Pomares – 7th
William Oddson – 17th
Hye Jin Cho – 7th
Mia Saunders & William Oddson – 3rd
Grace Pele & Zaheen McKnight – 7th
Savanna Martel & Kobi Chant – 8th
Chloe Nguyen & Brian Popa – 13th
Milara Okabe & Josh Brauner – 6th
Paige Nguyen & Chris Hammer – 7th
Kennedy Ariel & Sergey Shokot – 8th
Lauren Proskurniak & Andrew Sernecky – 9th

Junior

Matthew Newnham – 5th
Brian Chiem – 9th
Kaiya Ruiter - 1st
Haley Gillet - 14th
Carys Prodaniuk - 18th
Jessica Lee Behiel & Jackson Behiel - 4th
Amelia Boone & Malcolm Kowan - 7th
Isabel McQuilkin & Jacob Portz - 11th

Senior

Keegan Messing – 3rd
Eric Liu – 7th
Dawson Nodwell - 11th

2020 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2020 Junior Canadian Champion Kaiya Ruiter was selected to compete at her first Junior World Championship. In preparation for the Junior World Championship Kaiya was assigned to the Bavarian Open and won a Gold medal.

2020 SENIOR GRAND PRIX AND FOUR CONTINENTS CHAMPIONSHIP

2019 National team member Keegan Messing began his competition season with an assignment to the Challenger Series Autumn Classic International. He received assignments to the ISU Grand Prix Skate America International and ISU Grand Prix Cup of China. Keegan earned a Bronze medal at the 2020 Canadian Tire National Championship which earned him a return to the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championship.



MEDALISTS



2020 SKATE CANADA: ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Senior Men	Eric Liu	Dawson Nodwell	Sandra Ramond
Senior Women	Isabelle Law	Madison Moore	
Junior Men	Brian Chiem	Matthew Newnham	
Junior Women	Kaiya Ruiter	Haley Gillet	Sophia O'Brien-Doerksen
Junior Dance	Jessica-Lee Behiel/Jackson Behiel	Amelia Boone/Malcolm Kowan	Torri Hollstein/Joshua Burger
Novice Men	Tim Pomares	William Oddson	Ethan Scott
Novice Women	Hye Jin Cho	Maja Husain	Grace Johnson
Novice Dance	Mia Saunders/William Oddson	Savanna Martel/Kobi Chant	Grace Pele/Zaheen McKnight
Novice Pair	Milara Okabe/Josh Brauner	Paige Nguyen/Christopher Hammer	Kennedy Arial/Sergei Shokot
Pre-Novice Men	Anson Chung	Jayden Johnson	Oleg Penner
Pre-Novice Women	Angelina Grant	Caitlin Charles	Karen Slade
Pre-Novice Dance	Emma Yu/Daniel Yu	Charlotte Arbib/Luke Arbib	Kaitlyn Ho/Andrew Song
Juvenile Men U12	Kento Nakashima	Kole Sauve	Ethan Cheung
Juvenile Men U14	Sean Lough	Andrew Song	Parker Heiderich
Juvenile Women U12	Emerson Hill	Hailey Diep	Addison Wolsey
Juvenile Women U14	Indiya McNutt-Holland	Sadie Henderson	Mica Kostenuk
Juvenile Dance	Peyton Murphy/Kurtis Che	Anni Heinikainen/Ryan Heske	Emily Frost/Nick Rasskazov
Juvenile Pair	Kaylee Hammer/Parker Vaudrin	Annika Behnke/Kole Sauve	Cassidy Tutt/Caleb Hoveland
Pre-Juvenile Men U11	Travis Trang	Justin Cheung	Simon Knott
Pre-Juvenile Women U11	Tessa MacKinnon	Tiffany Diep	Kaydee Kallay
Pre-Juvenile Dance	Heather Nunn/Benjamin Vatcher	Shanaya Kailey/Alexander Ereemeev-Raykhert	Anna Van Teelng/Cameron Muir

2020 SKATE CANADA CHALLENGE

EVENT	ATHLETE(S)	RANK
Senior Men	Eric Liu	Silver
Junior Men	Matthew Newnham	Bronze
Junior Women	Kaiya Ruiter	Gold
Novice Dance	Mia Saunders/William Oddson	Bronze
Pre-Novice Dance	Emma Yu/Daniel Yu	Gold

2020 CANADIAN TIRE NATIONAL SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	ATHLETE(S)	RANK
Senior Men	Keegan Messing	Bronze
Junior Women	Kaiya Ruiter	Gold
Novice Dance	Mia Saunders/William Oddson	Bronze

MEDALISTS

2020 MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	TEAMS	RANK
Juvenile	Solstice Juvenile	Silver
Juvenile	Edmonton Icicles	Bronze
Intermediate	Solstice Intermediate	Gold
Intermediate	Edmonton Edge	Silver
Intermediate	Black Gold	Bronze
Open	Black Gold	Gold
Elementary	Black Gold	Silver
Elementary	Solstice Elementary	Bronze
Adult SYS I	Black Gold	Gold
Adult SYS I	Edmonton Ice Edition	Bronze
Adult SYS II	Black Gold	Silver
Adult SYS III	Solstice Adult III	Bronze



2020 ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Novice Women	Michelle Deng	Milara Okabe	Kieryn Mchale
Pre-Novice Women	Juliette Thievin	Anjou Karino	Addison Pehl
Juvenile Women	Emerson Hill	Hailey Diep	Mica Kostenuk
STAR 8 Women	Rochelle Beekman	Karlee MacMillan	Stephanie Bascos
STAR 6 Women	Paige Kibbler	Abigail Benjamin	Nadine Ruta

2020 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA WINTER GAMES

EVENT	ATHLETE(S)	RANK
Level 1 Free Skate	McKenna Husband	Bronze
Level 2 Free Skate	Emma Bittorf	Gold
Level 3 Free Skate	Meg Ohsada	Gold
Level 4 Free Skate A	Eleanor Saubak	Bronze
Level 4 Free Skate B	Amber Harriman	Gold
Level 5 Free Skate	JorDen Tyson	Silver
Level 6 Free Skate	Kennedy Zaytsoff	Gold
Level 1 Ice Dance	JorDen Tyson	Gold
Level 2 Ice Dance	Amber Harriman	Gold
Level 2 Ice Dance	Eleanor Saubak	Silver
Level 4 Ice Dance	Kennedy Zaytsoff	Gold



2020 LEADING EDGE SERIES

EVENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Senior Women	Madison Moore	Isabelle Law	Katie Burgess
Senior Men	Dawson Nodwell		
Junior Women	Haley Gillett	Carys Prodaniuk	Kaiya Ruiter
Junior Men	Matthew Newnham	Brian Chiem	
Novice Women	Hye Jin Cho	Paulina Grant	Maja Husain
Novice Men	Tim Pomares	Christopher Hammer	Ethan Scott
Pre-Novice Women	Angelina Grant	Karen Slade	Sarah Coles
Pre-Novice Men	Anson Chung	Jayden Johnson	Cooper Feser
Juvenile Women U12	Kassidy Sinclair	Emerson Hill	Hailey Diep
Juvenile Women U14	Indiya McNutt-Holland	Sofya Fursova	Jane Meyer
Juvenile Men	Kento Nakashima	Sean Lough	Ethan Cheung
Pre-Juvenile Women U11	Tessa MacKinnon	Kaydee Kallay	Tiffany Diep
Pre-Juvenile Men	Travis Trang	Kole Sauve	Justin Cheung
Gold Women	Kyla Murray	Shay Jackson	Kyla Sterna
STAR 10 Women	Sadie Nicholson	Alyrra Lindsay	Torri Hollstein
STAR 8 Women	Haru Pearse	Karlee MacMillan	Kaylee Marianicz
STAR 6 Women	Chiara Long	Kyla Rupp	Nadine Ruta
STAR 6 Men	Caleb Hoveland		
Pre-Juvenile Women U13	Michelle Xiao	Anna-Klara Bourassa	Sienna Scarcelli



Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut recognizes its partners, supporters and sponsors for their commitment to figure skating in our Section.