

# THE **POWER** OF...



## **2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**SKATE CANADA**  
ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

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

Wow! What a year we have all had! The 2020-2021 Season has definitely been one we will never forget!

This year was different from any other we have experienced as a Section. As with the rest of the world, our Section faced many challenges but we were also able to lay claim to so many successes throughout this unprecedented time.


We all know the COVID Pandemic brought the world to a standstill. Our arenas were closed, stopping our regular programming, the majority of our in-person events were cancelled and we lost the much cherished in-person camaraderie and sense of community we get from seeing each other at ice rinks around the Section.

Luckily, these challenges only managed to intensify our Membership's drive and passion for our sport. Not only were we able to continue the progress of our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, we also had all but 9 clubs in our Section try to run some sort of programming this year. Under the leadership of our Executive Director, staff, Board of Directors and incredible volunteers we were able to lead the way to safely get our skaters back in arenas across our Section with our comprehensive Return to Skating Protocols. We were able to not only adapt as needed but lead the way in safe return to sport during the ever-changing Government rules and regulations.

The constant restrictions and changes birthed creativity and brought about a return to the basics. Our Membership could be found rediscovering their love of the sport on outdoor arenas across our Section. We were still able to hold in-person Regional Performance Simulations, a modified Sectional Event as well as two Centralized Assessment Days with the utmost of safety protocols for all athletes and volunteers. We were able to modify our delivery to successfully hold 8 NCCP Coach Courses and we now have 31 coaches eligible to assess Star 6-Gold Skills and 13 mentors to assist others. We adapted to keep our Membership engaged with our virtual AGM and Awards Presentation, two Town Halls and multiple online training and information sessions as well as continued engagement on our Social Media Platforms. On top of all of this we managed to have multiple athletes successfully compete at the Virtual Challenge Event as well as our own Keegan Messing represent Canada at both Skate America and Worlds.

Managing to achieve so much during these times reinforces the pride in our Section. All of our athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff have gone above and beyond to ensure our Section triumphed throughout this world altering event. With what we have learned we can look forward to future development of more creative ways to continue to bring our Section into the future as a leader in our Sport.

Sincerely,



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

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair**  
Bobbi-Jo Martin



**Director Coaching**  
Alison Bonney-Gregson



**Director**  
Shawn Dyrkach



**Director**  
Tammy Finnerty



**Director**  
Rod Garossino



**Director Regions**  
Gitti Heske



**Director**  
Travis Hillier



**Director**  
Doug Pettapiece



**Director**  
Carrie Wohlgemuth



# STAFF & BOARD COMMITTEES

## STAFF

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

## BOARD COMMITTEES

### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**Chair** – Alison Bonney-Gregson  
Fiona Lauzon  
Tammy Finnerty  
Shawn Dyrkach  
Karen Fetterly  
Rod Garossino  
Staff – Lisa Hardy  
Staff Resource – Kelly Havixbeck

### NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE

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

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

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

### FINANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Chair** – Doug Pettapiece  
Gitti Heske  
Travis Hillier  
Laurie Goldback  
Tammy Finnerty  
Renee McIntosh  
Staff Resource – Lisa Hardy

### MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chair** – Travis Hillier  
Gitti Heske  
Alison Bonney-Gregson  
Carrie Wohlgemuth  
Erin Matheson  
Rhea Sherman  
Staff – Lisa Hardy  
Staff Resource – Kelly Havixbeck

# OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

## COACHING COMMITTEE

**Lead** – Lynne Koper

Edmonton Region – Deborah Lyon

Calgary Region – Cayley Plaustainer

Northeast Region – Rebecca Zajic

Northwest Region – Pat Forseille

South Region – Olea Taboulchanas

Central Region – Charlsey Whittemore

Peace Region – Cheryl Jobson

NWT Region – Jodi Brennan

Staff Resource – Colleen Yavis

## REGIONS COMMITTEE

**Lead** – Kelly Havixbeck

Calgary Region – Diana Peters

Central Region – Joyce McCoy

Edmonton Region – Jasmin Gering

Northeast Region – Bonnie Smyl

Northwest Region – Karli Wilson

NWT Region – Jaime Harris

Peace Region – Doug Vandemark

South Region – VACANT

Director Regions - Gitti Heske

## EVENT TECH & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

**Lead** – Renee Gulayets

Shawn Dyrkach

Jeanne Welch

Cathy Sahaluk

Linda Zhang

Staff Resource - Kelly Havixbeck

## OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

**Co-Lead** - Leslie Lawrence

**Co-Lead** - Brenda Hart

Krista Sellers

Devan Nychka

Robin Forsyth

Chelsey Shaffel

Amanda Jassman

Lynne Dey

Staff Resource – Lisa Bonderove

## COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

**Lead** – Breanne Ferris

Carrie Kmiecik

Deborah Lyon

Doug Schmierer

Natasha Taylor

Brenda Hart

Leslie Lawrence

Jessica Gosse

Robin Forsyth

Mary Ann McDonald

Staff Resource – Kelly Havixbeck

Staff Resource – Holly Henderson

Staff Resource – Colleen Yavis

## ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Lead** – Holly Henderson

**Programs Lead** – Lisa Bonderove

Brent Anderson

Krista Sellers

Scott Davis

Leslie Lawrence

Lynne Dey

Jessica Gosse

Katherine Co-Grant

Jonathan Okrainetz



# STRATEGIC PLAN

## VISION

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

*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*

This season was like none other for clubs, skating schools, coaches, officials, volunteers, and the Section to operate and deliver programming and events. The COVID-19 pandemic started to impact operations, events, and club activity in March of 2020 and more than a year later we are still experiencing the challenges, disruptions, frustration, and disappointment as we continue to navigate and respond to the evolving public health measures and restrictions as they are announced.

Many of the strategies and actions we had planned this last season became unfeasible because of the pandemic. Although a different path was taken, it is important to celebrate the unintended outcomes as well, and as we reflect there are many examples of an alignment with our Vision, Mission and Values.

When facilities closed, our athletes shifted their training to outdoors and for many it was the first-time training on outdoor ice. This different skating environment provided a new way to embrace the joy of skating and have fun, and that joy was shared with many people and families that stopped to watch, take pictures or to take an interest in our sport in a way that they may not have had in the past.

The Section continued to maintain a strong focus on educating and providing support to our clubs and skating schools this season. The priority shifted to ensuring compliance with Provincial or Territorial health orders and restrictions, the development of protocols for our sport, and numerous templates and COVID-19 resources to support the safe delivery of programming in a COVID environment. Clubs & skating schools found new ways to stay connected with their skaters and find new ways to train using technology, and coach and officials training was also adapted and delivered throughout the season.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting and Awards shifted to an online and virtual format when in person events were not permitted, and the decision was made to continue with the same format for 2021 in response to the uncertainty that still surrounds the pandemic. Communication to our members increased significantly over the past year and included continual timely updates on current health orders and restrictions, two return to skating townhalls and subsequent FAQ resources, the creation of a [returntoskating@skateabnwnun.ca](mailto:returntoskating@skateabnwnun.ca) email address to address any questions or concerns related to COVID-19, virtual learning opportunities and speaker seminars, and finally ending the season with the launch of our refreshed website. The shift in virtual delivery saw high levels of engagement from our membership and reduced barriers for members that in the past were unable to attend in-person training and events.

As we shift our focus on the future, we know through The Power of.... collaboration, perseverance, adaptability, and our members, that we are well on the way to our road to recovery.

# BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEES

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** provides governance leadership and advises the Executive Director in governance matters. The following responsibilities were completed this year: development and review of policies, recommendations for amendments to Section bylaws, a newly revised Board Orientation Manual, regular education opportunities provided to the Board Directors, and appointment of the Nominating Sub-Committee Chair and Members.

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 group of individuals for the Board and Committees to ensure the continued success and stability of the Section. This committee is responsible for overseeing the election processes for Board Director elections while providing a supporting role to the eight Region Committees in their elections ensuring each Region has access to qualified volunteers. During the 2020-2021 season the committee focused its efforts on the following: updating election policies and procedures, continued volunteer recruitment, and cataloguing communications, templates and tools.

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 and annual performance reviews of the Executive Director. Going forward, this committee will provide oversight for the Section's Human Resources policies and processes and support to the Executive Director in human resources issues.

## FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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. The committee supported the Section Office in providing meaningful, timely financial reporting to the Board as well as with grant and regulatory filings as required.

# BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEES

## MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As with other areas of the Section, COVID-19 presented unique challenges for the Membership Relations Committee this past season. The pandemic not only impacted the way that clubs and skating schools delivered their programs but also the way that the committee delivered on items such as the Section Awards Program and Hall of Fame.



A key area of focus for the Membership Relations Committee each year 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 2020, with 247 responses received, a decrease of 19% from 2019. The committee reviewed the survey results and analyzed the feedback against the 2019 responses. Overall the feedback received indicated a similar level of 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.



The committee continues each year to review the Section Awards Program to recognize our volunteers, officials, coaches and skaters for their outstanding contributions and achievements throughout the season. As a result of the cancellation of many events across Canada and to recognize and celebrate the perseverance through a challenging season, a COVID Hero Award was included as part of this year's awards program. All award recipients will be recognized through the Section's various communication channels again this year. Due to the pandemic, Hall of Fame inductees were not selected, choosing to recognize our great alumni in the future when we can all get together in person to celebrate their great accomplishments.





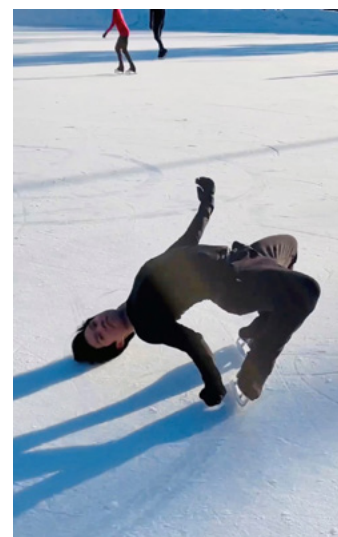
# BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEES

## MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut is the third-largest Section of Skate Canada. The pandemic had a significant impact on membership for the 2020-2021 year, resulting in a decrease in the total number of registrants from the prior year. We ended the season with an overall decline of 52% in registrants in the Section from the prior year which is consistent with the overall decline seen Nationally. All but 9 skating clubs / schools in the Section continued with programming of some sort throughout the year, however the closure of facilities through-out the season, in addition to restrictions on group training sizes, created significant barriers for our members to deliver consistent or regular programming in their communities. Multiple Synchronized Skating teams started or were active in some capacity through-out the season, however due to provincial health restrictions that significantly impacted team sports, only 25% of the prior year's synchronized skating teams were registered with Skate Canada.

	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
Number of Registered Clubs and Skating Schools	152	161	159	160	160	162
Number of Coaches	673	727	735	701	630	615
Number of Officials	112	123	136	125	132	130
Number of Synchronized Skating Teams	8	30	33	30	31	34
Number of Total Registrants	12,501	24,025	25,278	24,409	23,996	23,838

A CanSkate Digital Marketing campaign was launched in September in partnership with Skate Canada to promote the CanSkate program in our Section. A second campaign was postponed when new restrictions were put in place, however we are currently working with Skate Canada on an expanded digital marketing and advertising campaign in our Section which will include a focus on AdultSkate, SynchroSkate and CanSkate programming.



# AWARDS

## 2021 SECTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Section Coach  
Achievement Award**  
Nicole Sabasch



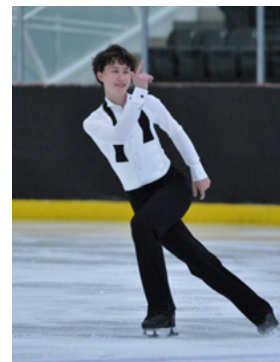
**AdultSkate Spirit &  
Passion of Skating Award**  
Andrew Bugiera



**Jamie Salé Special Olympics  
Skater Achievement Award**  
Kristina Hansen



**Gateway Skating Club  
Post-Secondary Bursary**  
William Oddson



## 2021 SKATE CANADA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Section CanSkate  
Athlete Award**  
Claire Lucas



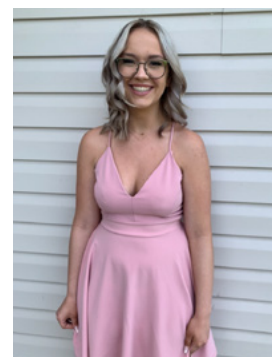
**Section STARSkate  
Athlete Award**  
Kaley Boucher



**Section CompetitiveSkate  
Athlete Award**  
Michelle Deng



**Section Program Assistant  
Award**  
Amanda Wilson



**Section Official  
Award**  
Devan Nychka



**Section Volunteer  
Award**  
Monique Moore



**Section Volunteer Coach  
Award**  
Jessica Gosse



# AWARDS

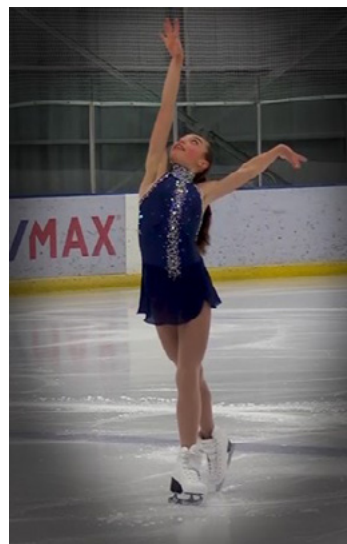
## 2021 TOLLER CRANSTON MEMORIAL FUND ATHLETE AWARD



Figure skating is driven by determination, dedication and a desire to express yourself with artistic passion on the ice. The Toller Cranston Memorial Fund Athlete Award recognizes these attributes in 14 of the top Next Gen skaters who exemplify this in their sport.

The award honours the late Toller Cranston, a man known for his creativity, freedom of expression and dramatic showmanship. Although he never received an Olympic or World title, his unique artistic vision forever changed the sport of figure skating. For Toller, skating was more than a sport, it was a way to express himself.

## 2021 RECIPIENT - KAIYA RUITER



## MERIT AWARD

The Alberta Figure Skating Foundation Merit Awards recognize a skater or team that exemplifies an outstanding and memorable performance as selected by the Officials at the 2021 Sectional Championships.



Mikala Cutler / Mackenzie Mah

## MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD

Annika Behnke was one of the recipients of Rupertsland Institute's Métis Education Foundation Métis Scholar Awards. This award provides financial assistance and encourages achievement of Métis applicants in academic, artistic and athletic excellence.





# COACHING

The Coaching Committee would like to recognize the many coaches that supported their athletes in attending national and international events. The committee would like to extend congratulations to the coaches of the skaters who were medalists at the Challenge level and of our International competitors during the 2020-2021 season: Ralph Burghart & Team, and Ravi Walia & Team. We would also like to congratulate Barb Prystai who was named to the Special Olympics Team Canada Training Squad as a Figure Skating Assistant Coach.

## Coaching Initiatives:

- STAR 6-Gold Coach Assessor in Skills – 31 Coaches in our Section can now assess STAR 6-Gold Skills. 13 of those coaches have become Mentors to help other coaches who wish to receive the STAR 6-Gold Coach Assessor in Skills designation.
- Coaching CanSkate during COVID – 86 Coaches joined Skate Canada CanSkate Coach Developers and CanSkate Resource Team Members Leona Boyle and Mary-Liz Wiley for a special presentation on how to safely coach CanSkate during COVID. The feedback on this virtual presentation was exceptional.
- Choreography Seminar with Lance Vipond – Lance Vipond led a presentation for 41 Coaches, providing them with tools to help draw out their skaters 'inner artist' and find their 'authentic selves' leaving coaches eager to start creating.
- Mental Wellness in Coaches with Dr. Matt Brown - Sport Psychologist Dr. Matt Brown spoke with 23 Coaches on ways to take care of their mental health and that of their skaters while trying to navigate the constant changes that COVID-19 brings.
- CanSkate Coach/Program Assistant Workshops – Facilitated by Leona Boyle - Cold Lake – 14 Participants



# COACHING

The Coaching Committee continues to work in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada. The National Coaching Certification Program courses are aligned with Long Term Athlete Development.



## COACHING 2020-2021



### Courses

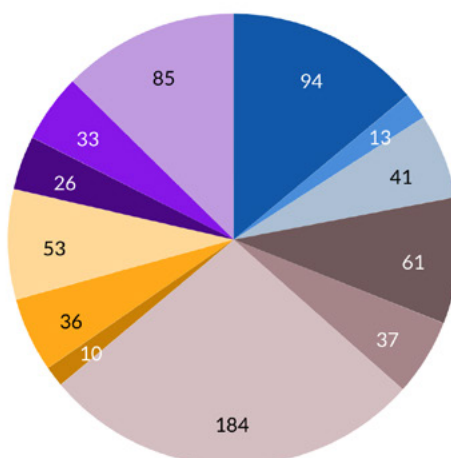
	CANSKATE	CANPOWER	REGIONAL	PROVINCIAL	ATTP
	4	1	2	0	1
<b>NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS</b>	72	18	22	0	12

### Certified Coaching Status

	CANSKATE	CANPOWER	REGIONAL	PROVINCIAL	NATIONAL
	20	3	7	2	0

### COACH CERTIFICATION

- In Training Club Coaches (13.97%)
- Trained Club Coaches (1.93%)
- Certified Club Coaches (6.09%)
- In Training Regional Coaches (9.06%)
- Trained Regional Coaches (5.5%)
- Certified Regional Coaches (27.34%)
- In Training Provincial Coaches (1.49%)
- Trained Provincial Coaches (5.35%)
- Certified Provincial Coaches (7.88%)
- In Training National Coaches (3.86%)
- Trained National Coaches (4.9%)
- Certified National Coaches (12.63%)



# 673

REGISTERED COACHES



# OFFICIALS

The **OFFICIALS COMMITTEE** (OC) started the summer season with a refresh of committee structure with attention paid to establishing an operational framework that fostered a teamwork approach as training, support and recruitment activities were addressed. Emphasis was placed on updating and aligning all committee operational and procedural documents along with housing these documents in a SharePoint platform for transparency and full access by committee members and staff. Officials contact lists were reframed to show the distribution of officials across regions and this visualization aided in communications with regions on their role in identifying potential candidates for official's training.

A social media-based recruitment initiative was undertaken to showcase officials and share personal stories to attract new candidates. The OC embraced the opportunity to delve further into virtual learning with the goal of staying connected with and supporting individual officials' development across all disciplines. The OC learning opportunities focused on reaching and training new evaluator and synchro candidates as well as designing innovative mentored learning sessions and support opportunities for technical officials and judges to bolster skills or reach promotion goals across all disciplines and levels. Virtual opportunities proved to be an effective tool to support and retain officials in a year with only one live competition event and sporadic assessment days available due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

## Recruitment

The OC initiated a recruitment drive by profiling a Featured Official of the Month (FOOTM) on all social media platforms. The official shared personal thoughts and glimpses into their life and answered questions from viewers. This brought more than just a face, a name, or a title to what an official is, but rather allowed the skating public and alumni to learn more about various aspects of officiating and what it is truly like to be an official. The committee applauds the creative energy and talents of Chris Mostert and Kara Fernandes along with the officials who have been featured this season. We have amazing officials in our Section!

## Assessments

The new assessment procedure reduced barriers and allowed Region and Club Assessment Coordinators to develop their own approaches and networks to set up and accommodate region needs and to be able to contact evaluators and coach assessors directly to staff assessment days.

All regions have conducted assessments either at the club level or through centralized dates either at in person events or through the Skate Canada virtual assessment pilot. Two Section-managed centralized assessment days were organized by the Section Office to ensure that skaters needing access to assessment opportunities at the end of the winter had that opportunity.



# OFFICIALS

## Promotions

30 officials achieved 68 promotions this season between April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 who dedicated time and effort into staying engaged with learning and promotion goals.

- Base Level Technical Officials Singles: Tina-Marie Yenna
- Section Level Technical Specialist Singles: Kara Fernandes
- Section Level Technical Specialist Pairs: Rebecca Marsh-Naturkach, Devan Nychka
- Section Level Technical Controller Pairs: Robin Forsyth
- Section Level Technical Controller Dance: Jonathan Okrainetz
- Senior Singles Judge: Joanne Giesinger, Cathy Thoms, Tara Alldred-Gundesen, Renee Tatro, Samantha Miller, Kara Fernandes, Jennifer Keliher
- In-Training STAR 6-Gold Evaluator: Jinelle St Cyr, Tracy Doctor, Erin Ladouceur, Nicole Hunt, Cathy Thoms, Diane Slauenwhite, Ann Dow-Clarke, Jenna Kormos, Jennifer Keliher, Shaelyn Kormos, Jillian Wilson, Mackenzie Meyer
- Trained STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Freeskate: Tracy Doctor, Erin Ladouceur, Jinelle St Cyr
- Trained STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Dance: Tracy Doctor, Erin Ladouceur, Jinelle St Cyr
- Trained STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Artistic: Tracy Doctor, Erin Ladouceur, Jinelle St Cyr
- Trained STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Skills: Tracy Doctor, Erin Ladouceur, Jinelle St Cyr
- Qualified STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Freeskate: Nicole Rapati, Deirdre Coburn, Leslie Lawrence, Lauren Coombs, Jinelle St Cyr
- Qualified STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Dance: Nicole Rapati, Deirdre Coburn, Leslie Lawrence, Lauren Coombs, Jinelle St Cyr
- Qualified STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Artistic: Nicole Rapati, Deirdre Coburn, Leslie Lawrence, Jennifer Holland, Lauren Coombs, Jinelle St Cyr
- Qualified STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Skills: Nicole Rapati, Deirdre Coburn, Leslie Lawrence, Lauren Coombs, Jinelle St Cyr
- Diamond Dance Evaluator: Jennifer Holland
- Remote Official: Leslie Lawrence, Brenda Hart, Lynne Dey, Devan Nychka, Robin Forsyth, Dallas Daniel, Deirdre Coburn, Jonathan Okrainetz, Krista Sellers
- Senior Singles Judge Clinic Leader: Brenda Hart

## Officials Training and Support

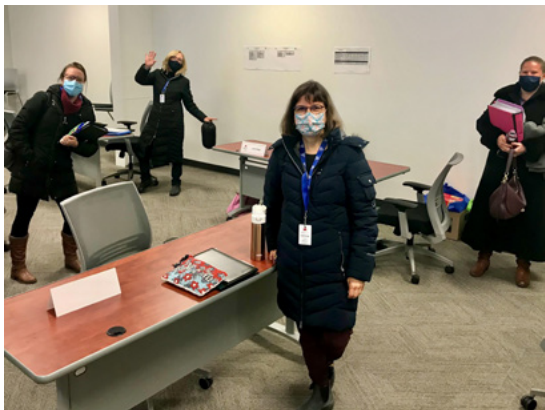
The following learning opportunities were held:

- BLTO mentored support sessions
- Section Singles Technical Specialist support sessions
- Ice Dance Technical Specialist and Technical Controller support sessions
- Ice Dance Judge update
- Pair Judge update
- Pair Technical Specialist and Technical Controller support sessions
- STAR 6-Gold new Evaluator training sessions
- STAR 6-Gold Evaluator Check-In
- STAR 6-Gold Virtual Co-Evaluations in Freeskate, Dance, Artistic and Skills
- Novice Synchro Judge Training
- Junior/Senior Synchro Judge Training

# OFFICIALS

## Competitions

The OC was responsible for the competition schedule and assignment of officials and provided general support in the planning and organization of the 2021 Sectionals in Calgary.



Internationally, officials were invited to:

- Skate Canada International: Lynne Dey (event not held)
- Jennifer Betts evaluated international synchronized skating teams as part of the ISU monitoring sessions.

## National Committee Involvement

- Jennifer Betts: Officials Appointment and Development Committee
- Jodi Abbott: Recruitment and Development Committee, Officials Appointment and Development Committee
- Ravi Walia: High Performance Development Committee
- Jeff Lukasik: High Performance Development Committee
- Scott Davis: Technical Coordinating Committee
- Leslie Lawrence: Skating Programs Committee, Remote Assessment Pilot Working Group
- Brenda Hart: Recruitment and Development Committee, Officials Development Committee





# REGIONS

The 2020-2021 season was a season of change and adaptability for Clubs and Skating Schools. The volunteers, coaches, officials and parents that all dedicate their time to create programming and activities for skaters across our Section were challenged this season to find new ways to operate and constantly change to meet the COVID restrictions. Our clubs and skating schools rose to the challenge!

Although there were times when skaters could not be on the ice, assessments were on hold, competitions were cancelled and seminars, carnivals and ice shows were cancelled, club boards across the Section found creative ways to motivate their skaters and coaches. Clubs and skating schools were creative in using technology to stay connected with their members and found fun and interactive ways to feel connected while practicing physical distance. Many coaches created fun online challenges for their skaters that helped them stay engaged and motivated during the pandemic.



The Skate Canada Safe Sport program continues to develop and provide support to all members who 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 released their new Safe Sport framework which provides a clear and concise pathway to work through general disputes, misconduct and incident reporting.

The Regions Committee, in coordination with the Section, offered a speaker series as a development opportunity specifically targeted towards leaders in our clubs/skating schools. There were three speakers that focused on staying upbeat through COVID, mental wellness and learning more about your online footprint and how to manage your club's profile on the new Section website.



# REGIONS



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. Sharing motivating skating stories, achievements, milestones and general club/school information works great on social media and is a great way to stay in touch with current and future members.

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 74 nominations received from 29 clubs/skating schools. Although nominations were down, we are so proud to recognize the achievements of our members during such a challenging season.

To acknowledge the challenges faced this year, the Regions Committee created the COVID Hero Award to celebrate the stories of embracing change! Submissions featured inspiring stories of triumph and perseverance stemming from the unexpected changes in sport due to the pandemic. There were 45 nominations submitted to recognize the hard work and dedication of our COVID Heroes.





# COMPETITIONS

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **COMPETITION COMMITTEE** worked with the Section and the Officials Committee to alter, modify and cancel competitions planned for the 2020-2021 season based on the everchanging environment of COVID-19 and subsequent public health restrictions.

The Committee continues to prioritize our athletes and focus on competitions that can best deliver meaningful experience and competition to those athletes.

Several objectives were prioritized by the Committee this year:

- Modified Section Technical Package and Crossover Chart to reflect the changes in competitive environment from COVID-19 pandemic
- Development and Implementation of COVID-19 protocols for the delivery of safe competitions that also comply with public health restrictions
- Integration and dissemination of resources for Clubs/Regions to deliver experiences to their skaters in the absence of organized competitions
- A resource to host STAR 1-4 Club Events has been developed to support Clubs and Skating Schools for when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and these activities are permitted

## Competitions

The Section was proud to deliver a live, in person 2021 Sectional Championships in Calgary with COVID-19 protocols in place for Pre-Novice to Senior competitors. The Pre-Juvenile and Juvenile Sectional Championships, the STARSkate and Adult Championships and the Leading Edge Series were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 public health restrictions in place at that time.



A virtual delivery of the 2021 Skate Canada Challenge gave way for skaters and officials to become familiar with online, remote video submission and officiating.

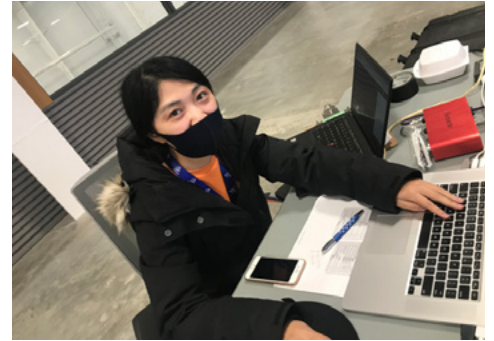
All Local Organizing Committees of the 2020-2021 STARSkate Region Invitational Competitions secured their respective competitions for the 2021-2022 season despite the loss of their event this season.

The Section was also extremely proud to have been selected to host the following National and International Events:

- 2021 Skate Canada Challenge (Edmonton) November 23-29, 2020 - Adapted to a virtual competition due to COVID-19 restrictions
- 2021 Skate Canada Cup (Edmonton) March 18 – 21, 2021 - Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2021 ISU Junior Grand Prix (Edmonton) Tentative August 25-28th, 2021
- 2022 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Nationals (Calgary) February 25-27, 2022
- 2023 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships (Calgary) February 27-March 5, 2023

# EVENT TECHNICIANS

The **EVENT TECHNICIAN AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE** (ETEC) was brought to fruition during the 2020-2021 season. ETEC brought together many of our seasoned volunteers who work behind the scenes to make the magic happen at many of our events.



The recruitment, training, and retention of ETEC volunteers are focuses of this committee while also supporting Section initiatives. Although 2020-2021 was a challenging turn of events, there were still highlights to look back on:

- Six ETEC volunteers assisted in the success of the Regional Performance Opportunities
- Four new ETEC volunteers were trained for the first time during the Regional Performance Opportunities
- Two announcers, two music technicians, and four live-streamers volunteered for the 2021 Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Sectional Championships
- Two camera assistants participated in our first-ever filming hubs for athletes competing at the Skate Canada Challenge.

Our ETEC volunteers assisted the Section with the implementation of the COVID protocols to ensure that while our ETEC team was setting up for Sectionals and the performance opportunities, that everyone stayed safe and in compliance with public health orders.



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

ELIZABETH ANDREW

THE POWER OF ... **TECHNOLOGY**

# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

2020-2021 was the first full season where Skating Programs was incorporated into Athlete Development to align programming and provide opportunity for cohesive and strategic planning in all stages of development of our skaters. Although in-person activities were affected by COVID-19, Athlete Development continued to pivot throughout the season to develop programming and find new ways to support our Section athletes.

## **SynchroSkate**

Provincial health restrictions put in place because of the Pandemic created significant challenges for our Synchronized Skating teams to train the past season. We responded by finding new ways to engage and work with our Synchro Coaches this season.

- Two virtual Think Tanks with Synchro Coaches were hosted. June 2020 with guest presenters Alma and Carol Moir (15 registrations) and September 2020 (13 registrations)
- Video Monitoring Program - Our annual program began in November 2020 and was scheduled to run through January 2021. All Section teams were invited to submit video programs, portions of programs, skills, or elements for review and feedback from a panel of officials. The COVID-19 November shutdown of group sports halted synchro activities and therefore, the monitoring program.
- Funding support for Skate Canada's Synchro Coach Mentorship Program - Six Section synchro coaches participated. Grants were provided to each participating coach to support them with the costs associated with paying their mentor coach. One-on-one end-of-season meetings with the coaches were held with the Athlete Development and Programs Leads.

## **AdultSkate**

Four virtual sessions catered to the AdultSkate community were hosted:

- Kurt Browning – February 2021 - Fireside Chat, 36 registrations
- Kurt Browning – February 2021 - Performance, Musicality, Choreography, 30 registrations
- Susan Massitti – February 2021 - Corrections and Connections to Ease Movement, 13 registrations
- Ravi Walia – March 2021 - Jump Technique, 26 registrations

## **Special Olympics**

We promoted the following five skaters who were named to the Special Olympics Team Canada Training Squad, with the potential to represent Canada at the Special Olympics World Games happening in Kazan, Russia 2022

- Emma Bittorf - Level 3 Singles - Strathmore FSC
- Meg Ohsada - Level 3 Singles, Level 4 Dance - Canmore FSC
- Amber Harriman - Level 4 Singles, Level 2 Dance - Lake Bonavista FSC
- JorDen Tyson - Level 5 Singles, Level 1 Dance - Lake Bonavista FSC
- Kennedy Zaytsoff - Level 6 Singles, Level 5 Dance - Nanton FSC

# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

## Inclusive Skating

Inclusive Skating programming was restricted to align with Public Health Measures and Return to Skating Protocols for the entirety of the season. As a result, our funding program was suspended until the 2021-2022 season when we hope programming can resume.

## Centralized Assessment Days

In response to STARSkate and Adult Championships being cancelled, ice originally scheduled for the competition was reassigned to support STAR development by coordinating centralized assessment days in both Edmonton and Calgary. 166 assessments were taken through the 2 weekends - 72 in Edmonton and 94 in Calgary.



Athlete Development remained active throughout the 2020-2021 season. Activities included virtual Yearly Training Plan reviews with coaches and athletes (52 meetings), implementation of Fall Performance Opportunities, Sectional Championship monitoring, Challenge Skate Video submissions, Multi-Sport Games applications (Arctic and Canada Winter Games), and virtual educational opportunities for athletes and parents.

## Athlete Education Series

Six virtual educational opportunities were hosted:

- Athlete Scoring Education - offered to STAR 6 – Juvenile (36 registrations) – Olympian Kaetlyn Osmond, Senior Canadian Judging Official Leslie Lawrence, and Challenge level Technical Specialist Robin Forsyth as facilitators.
- Nutrition for Performance - offered to parents and skaters (53 registrations) – National Sport Institute and Skate Canada Nutrition consultant Kelly Drager - facilitator.
- Pair Skating Scoring Education – Offered to Pair Skaters (10 registrations) – ISU Officials Lynne Dey and Raoul LeBlanc - facilitators.
- Keeping Active with Keegan – offered to all skaters (85 registrations) – Olympian Keegan Messing - facilitator.
- Coping Skills during Covid – offered to 2020 Select Team members (50 registrations) – Dr. Matt Brown, Mental Skills Trainer at Edge School.
- STARSkate Challenge – (23 registrations) – Skating Education in a fun environment was offered for the younger STARSkaters – Leona Boyle - facilitator.

“The Four Figure Skating Disciplines” resource was produced, distributed in the In The Loop Newsletter and can be located on the Section website.



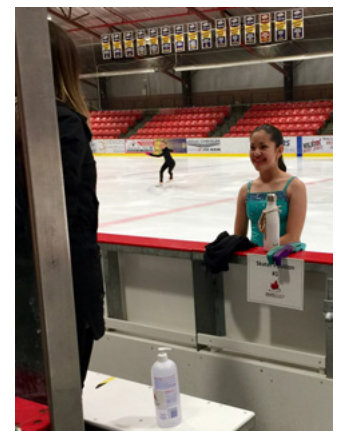
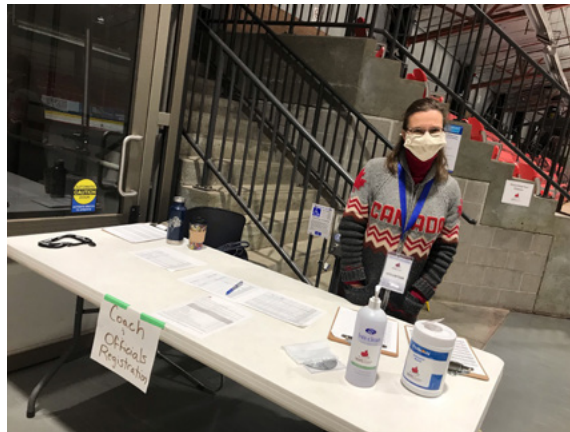
# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

## Monitoring

Section Select team athletes were monitored by Officials and/or the Technical Director in their home clubs or at Section events. In June and July, pre-season monitoring began with Judges and Technical Officials who were invited to review programs and offer feedback. NextGen members continued to be monitored by Andre Bourgeois and the Skate Canada High Performance team. National Team members received monitoring by Mike Slipchuk and the Canadian Sport Institute team. On-site live monitoring occurred at the Fall Performance Opportunities with feedback delivered to participants post-event.

## Fall Performance Opportunities - Edmonton and Calgary

Due to the cancellation of the Fall Competitions, the Section provided two livestreamed opportunities for Pre-Juvenile to Senior categories. Two day meaningful opportunities were held in both Edmonton and Calgary in October. Officials attended each live event and were able to provide the Technical Director with feedback on each skater. Feedback was presented to the skaters through their coaches. 276 programs were performed over two consecutive weekends.



## Multisport Games

The Arctic Winter Games originally scheduled for 2022 were postponed due to COVID-19 until January 29th - February 4th, 2023. We are currently waiting for an announcement from the Province regarding the 2022 Alberta Winter Games but anticipate that the games will be postponed or cancelled as there is no information available to date. The Section was successful with its funding application for the 2023 Canada Winter Games and as a result, initiatives, training and monitoring to support athlete development will take place each year leading up to the games.

## Spring Development Camp – Cancelled due to COVID-19

Plans for the April Spring Development Camp were well underway and halted by COVID-19 restrictions.

## Brian Pockar Male Seminar

The 2021 Male Seminar was hosted virtually and featured two sessions. One with Kurt Browning and one with Keegan Messing and Nam Nguyen. Select Team members Eric Liu, Brian Chiem, and Matthew Newnham assisted with the presentations. 33 skaters participated (12 STAR 1-3, 11 STAR 4-6, 10 Juvenile-Novice).



# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

## Skate Canada NextGen

Eric Liu (Senior Men), Matthew Newnham (Junior Men), and Kaiya Ruiter (Junior Women) were selected as 2020-2021 NextGen athletes. All NextGen members attended a live monitoring camp in Burnaby, BC in September. Further activities were suspended due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the Junior Grand Prix season.

## Junior Development Team

Due to COVID-19 postponement of activities, the Athlete Development committee provided an opportunity for the athletes to be chosen virtually for the 2021 Junior Development Team. The team was announced May 5, 2021. Fifty athletes were selected.

## Athlete Funding

The Athlete funding program continues to support Section athletes who have competed in all disciplines at the Challenge, National and International Level. High Performance Athlete Funding support was delivered in 2021 with the regular funding program adapted due to COVID-19. The program was reviewed at year-end and the updated program was posted on the Section website in April 2021.

The Jump Scholarship Program continued for the 2021 season. The awards were calculated from the 2021 Sectional Championship only. The total amount awarded for this year was \$1875. Six skaters benefited this season. 12 jumping passes were awarded in the following age categories: U14-6, U16-4, U19-2.



**Sectional Legacy Scholarship**  
Matthew Newnham



**John Vipond Official's Scholarship**  
Megan Ure, Technical Specialist



**Barbara Graham International Award**  
Keegan Messing

# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

## Skate Canada Challenge and Section Select Team

Following the 2021 Sectional Championships, 40 skaters/teams were named to the Select Team. Due to COVID-19, only Junior and Senior athletes of the Section Select Team advanced to the 2021 Skate Canada Challenge. Challenge Skate videos were recorded in both Edmonton and Calgary over two days in each city. The 2021 Skate Canada Cup which was originally scheduled for Pre-Novice and Novice athletes to compete at was cancelled due to COVID-19.

### Pre-Novice Select Team Members

Kento Nakashima  
Kole Sauve  
Cooper Feser  
Jayden Johnson  
Angelina Grant  
Anjou Karino  
Sofya Fursova  
Kassidy Sinclair  
Peyton Murphy and Kurtis Che  
Maia Balan and Andrew Song  
Anni Heinikainen and Ryan Heske  
Annika Behnke and Kole Sauve  
Kaylee Hammer and Parker Vaudrin  
Cassidy Tutt and Caleb Hoveland

### Novice Select Team Members

Ethan Scott  
Anson Chung  
Christopher Hammer  
Paulina Grant  
Rose Savard-Ferguson  
Karen Slade  
Erin Higa  
Savanna Martel and Kobi Chant  
Kaitlyn Ho and Daniel Yu  
Paige Nguyen and Christopher Hammer

### Junior Select Team Members & Challenge Results

Matthew Newnham – 2nd  
Brian Chiem – 9th  
Tim Pomares – 5th  
Michelle Deng – 9th  
Alexandra Sarmiento-Diaz – 20th  
Grace Johnson – 30th  
Mia Saunders and William Oddson – 9th  
Alyssa Robinson and Jacob Portz – 7th  
Torrie Hollstein and Joshua Burger – 14th  
Mikala Cutler and Mackenzie Mah – 14th  
Grace Pele and Zaheen McKnight – 17th

### Senior Select Team Members & Challenge Results

Keegan Messing (Bye)  
Eric Liu – 7th  
Kaiya Ruiter – 4th  
Madison Moore – 24th  
Jessica-Lee Behiel and Jackson Behiel – 8th



# ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

## Canadian Tire National Skating Championships Team

10 Junior and Senior entries qualified for the 2021 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships which were cancelled due to COVID-19.

### Men

Matthew Newnham - Jr. Men  
Brian Chiem - Jr. Men  
Tim Pomares - Jr. Men  
Keegan Messing - Sr. Men  
Eric Liu - Sr. Men

### Women

Michelle Deng - Jr. Women  
Kaiya Ruiter - Sr. Women

### Dance

Mia Saunders / William Oddson - Jr. Dance  
Alyssa Robinson / Jacob Portz - Jr. Dance  
Jessica-Lee Behiel / Jackson Behiel - Sr. Dance

## Senior Grand Prix and ISU World Figure Skating Championships

2020-2021 National team member Keegan Messing was assigned to compete at the 2020 Skate America International where he earned a Bronze medal. Keegan was subsequently assigned to the 2021 World Championship placing 6th and earning Canada the ability to compete at Nebelhorn Trophy for an additional spot for the 2022 Beijing Olympics.



## 2023 ISU WORLD JUNIOR FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS®

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5 • CALGARY, AB



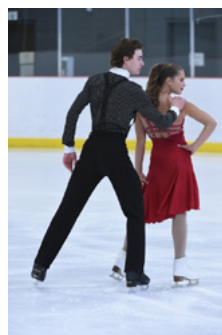
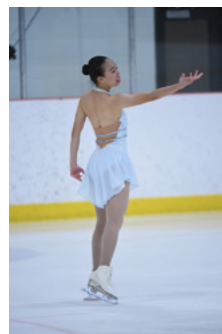
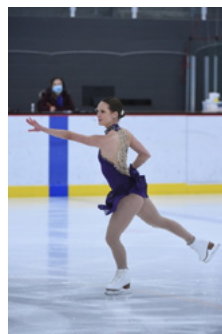
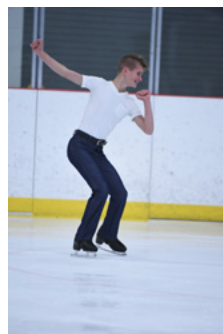
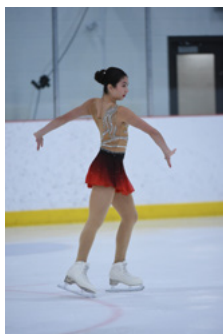
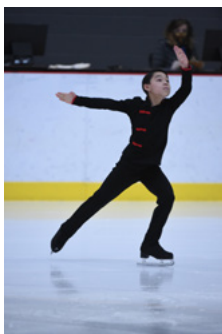
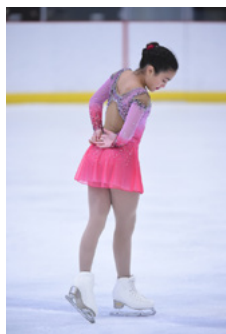
THE POWER OF . . . **RESILIENCY**



# MEDALISTS

## 2021 SKATE CANADA: ALBERTA-NWT/NUNAVUT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	GOLD 	SILVER 	BRONZE 
Senior Women	Madison Moore	Sydney Biensch	Alisha McCann
Junior Men	Matthew Newnham	Brian Chiem	Tim Pomares
Junior Women	Michelle Deng	Alexandra Sarmiento-Diaz	Grace Johnson
Junior Dance	Mia Saunders / William Oddson	Alyssa Robinson / Jacob Portz	Torri Hollstein / Josh Burger
Novice Men	Ethan Scott	Anson Chung	Christopher Hammer
Novice Women	Paulina Grant	Rose Savard-Ferguson	Karen Slade
Novice Dance	Savanna Martel / Kobi Chant	Kaitlyn Ho / Daniel Yu	
Pre-Novice Men	Kento Nakashima	Kole Sauve	Cooper Feser
Pre-Novice Women	Angelina Grant	Anjou Karino	Sofya Fursova
Pre-Novice Dance	Peyton Murphy / Kurtis Che	Maia Balan / Andrew Song	Anni Heinikainen / Ryan Heske
Pre-Novice Pair	Annika Behnke / Kole Sauve	Kaylee Hammer / Parker Vaudrin	Cassidy Tutt / Caleb Hoveland



## 2021 SKATE CANADA CHALLENGE

Junior Men      Matthew Newnham      Silver

### Athlete Information/Information de l'athlète

Age/Âge **17**

Began Skating/ **3**  
Commencer à patiner

Home Club / Club d'appartenance  
**Ice Palace FSC**

Home Town / Ville d'origine  
**St. Albert, AB**

School / École  
**Paul Kane High School Grade 12**

Coach(s) / Choreographer  
Entraîneur(s) / Choréographe(s)  
**Ravi Walia and Lance Vipond**

Music/Musique  
**Tosca**



**MATTHEW NEWNHAM**  
ICE PALACE FSC

THE POWER OF . . . **DEDICATION**



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