



2024 Election Candidate Bio

Name: Jennifer Keliher

Running for the position of: Director (2-year term)

Residence: Calgary, Alberta

Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer and Skating Experience

I am seeking my first term as an elected Director on the Skate AB | NT | NU Board of Directors. I had the privilege of serving as an appointed Director during the 2023-24 season.

Professional Experience

I was born and raised in Edmonton, where I spent countless hours in the rink honing my skills first as a singles skater, and later as an ice dancer. I stopped skating in high school after achieving four diamond dances. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hon.) degree in Political Science from the University of Alberta and a Juris Doctor from Dalhousie University. After law school I clerked with the Alberta Court of Appeal in Edmonton and then settled down in Halifax for several years, where I started my legal career practising general civil litigation with a regional firm.

In 2019, I relocated to Calgary with my family. Upon returning to the prairies, I worked as a Claims Counsel and Senior Claims Counsel with the Alberta Lawyers Indemnity Association (a subsidiary of the Law Society of Alberta) focusing on professional negligence law. I currently work for Alberta Justice where I practice in the areas of constitutional and Aboriginal law.

Volunteer and Skating Experience

In 2015, after many years away from the rink, I returned to skating in a different capacity—as an official. I am currently qualified as a Senior Singles Judge and a Novice Pairs Judge, and you can find me at many competitions across the province judging both STAR and Podium Pathway events.

I have also been heavily involved in volunteering on the Section's Board committees. I was previously a member of the Nominating Sub-Committee for three years (serving two of those years as Chair), and I have been a member of the Governance Committee for the past three seasons. I also previously sat on the Governance Committee for the Skate Canada: Nova Scotia Section when I lived in Halifax.



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Experience Relevant to the Skate AB | NT | NU Board of Directors

My legal background and my analytical approach to problem solving are key assets I have contributed and would continue to contribute to the Board of Directors. I am skilled at spotting issues and risks and suggesting pragmatic solutions to move forward. My experience this past season as an appointed Director has been invaluable in terms of learning how the Board operates, building relationships with the other Directors and Section staff, and familiarizing myself with the Section's new strategic plan. I would be able to hit the ground running as an elected Director.

I am a policy wonk, and I am very familiar with the Section's bylaws, constating documents, and policies. Further, I bring this knowledge at a time when the Skate AB | NT | NU bylaws will need to be studied in light of changes being made to bylaws at the national level following the introduction of the National Sport Governance Code.

Besides governance experience, I would also contribute to the Board from the perspective of an official. As an official I have a deep technical knowledge of the sport. More than that, I see first-hand the work of so many skaters, their coaches, and their families when they come to compete at events across the province. This is a reflection of the time and dedication put into skaters' training and the important work done at the club and regions levels. It is also a reflection of the important role officials, staff, and volunteers play in hosting successful events.

Finally, I have three wonderful, young children who are starting to participate in sports themselves (and I hope at least one chooses figure skating, though so far no luck!). I am able to bring to the Board the perspective of a parent who may be new or unfamiliar to programming and who, above all, wants their children to find an environment that supports the joy and fun of sport.

I love figure skating. It has given me so much and it would be a privilege to commit my time, energy, and passion back to the sport in the capacity of Director for the 2024-26 term.