



2024 Election Candidate Bio

Name: Rod Garossino

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

Residence: Calgary, Alberta

Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer and Skating Experience

I am seeking my third term on the Skate AB | NT | NU Board of Directors.

As a long-time competitor and former National Champion, I have a strong connection to the sport. For 16 years, Karyn and I trained, competed, performed, won and lost, recovered from injury and disappointment, and felt the pride and satisfaction of representing our country on the world stage. Skating prepared me for many other aspects of life and remains a significant part of who I am.

After retiring from competitive skating, I earned a Bachelor of Physical Education in Leisure & Sport Administration at UBC. My first job out of university was in public relations with Sport BC, where I wrote, produced and hosted a 4-episode cable television program called “Say Yes to Sport”, which celebrated the positive impact of sport in the community.

My Sport BC role provided some significant and rewarding volunteer opportunities: Team BC mission staff at the Western Canada Summer Games; and Manager of one of the two Technical Officials’ Villages at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

I spent 7 years with LANG & Associates, working with a variety of corporate and non-profit clients including Coca-Cola, TELUS, Neilson-Cadbury, CTV Sports, NBA/Vancouver Grizzlies.

I then spent 5 years in fund development roles for a number of non-profit organizations, including the Calgary International Organ Festival, Honens Piano Competition, and Centrepont Nonprofit Management.

Moving into the corporate sector, I worked in Community Investment with Encana for 8 years, where I developed and managed a portfolio of funding relationships with community organizations and post-secondary education institutions. One highlight of my time at Encana was developing and managing the company’s corporate hosting program at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

After leaving Encana, I worked in several consulting roles, including Encore Fellow with Social Venture



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Partners, and Executive Director of the APEGA Foundation. I spent two years working with the City of Calgary as a Civic Partnership Consultant, supporting the City-wide implementation of the Investing in Partnerships Policy. I have thrived in the space at the intersection of business and community, and my various roles have given me significant breadth of experience and perspective.

I now work as Director of Fund Development with Fresh Start Recovery Centre, applying everything I have learned on my career journey to helping people recovering from addiction.

My board experience includes serving with Canada Ice Dance Theatre, the SHARP Foundation, EducationMatters, Youth Singers of Calgary, as well as Skate Canada at the National and Section level.

While on the Skate Canada National Board of Directors, I served on a number of committees:

- Athlete Fund & Alumni Committee (Chair)
- Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- External Relations Committee
- CEO Operational Review Committee
- Membership Policy Committee (Chair)
- Finance & Enterprise Risk Management Committee
- Governance Committee

For the last 4 years on the Skate AB | NT | NU Board, I have served on the Governance Committee and the Membership Relations Committee. This past season I have served as Chair of the Membership Relations Committee.

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

My philosophy of Board service is to apply my skills, experience, and perspective wherever it is useful to serve the interests of the organization. I believe that my career experience in marketing, sponsorship, fund development, and nonprofit management, coupled with my extensive board experience with Skate Canada and elsewhere would continue to be of value to the Skate AB | NT | NU Board.

And even though my skating days are in the distant past, I maintain a strong athlete-centric focus. When Karyn and I cautiously stepped onto the ice as Juveniles at our first Sub-Sectionals in Taber in 1973, we had no idea that 15 years later we would glide onto Olympic ice in Calgary. Every skater in every rink in our Section is on their own path, and regardless of where that path ultimately leads, our role as a Board is to enable that skater to have a meaningful journey in skating.