

## Executive Director's Report

### *British Columbia Speed Skating Association*

#### Annual General Meeting May 2017

#### **PARTNERS**



This past season saw much success both on and off the ice. Our skaters did well at National events as highlighted in the Athlete Development Committee report. The Coaching Committee was able to provide more direct assistance to representative coaches in supporting our skaters at targeted events and this committee will focus on providing opportunities for professional development this coming season. The Officials Development Committee focused on supporting clubs with assigned officials to targeted events within the Province this past season. The expectation to see out-of-province officials' support this coming season will aid our developing officials with their professional development.

The Association was most fortunate in welcoming Keara Maguire, in the position of part-time Sport Manager, to support our committees meet their goals and objectives. Thank you, Keara, for this seamless transition. This past fall, the Association was required to challenge an initial decision by Canadian Sport Institute to continue their Enhanced Excellence Funding primarily supporting our Academies. The resulting face-to-face interview – with very strong support by Yves Hamelin, Director of the Calgary Olympic Oval, and Ian Moss, CEO of Speed Skating – required many hours of staff pre-interview activities. I want to particularly thank Christina Acton for all her attention to the detail necessary for BCSSA's appeal to be ultimately successful where, in fact, additional funds were secured. You will hear of the very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our Sport Academies expanded this past season to four locations throughout the Province. Thank you to the local Academy providers for a very successful year.

**PARTNERS**



The Association is very pleased to again have Keara employed in the role of Sport Manager on a part-time basis. She was and is a valued member of the Association.

We have welcomed back Christina Acton from her maternity leave and know we were and are well served by professional staff whose sole objective is the betterment of the Association.

At the expiration of the BCSSA office lease – September 30, 2017 – the Board has chosen not to renew and so, effective that date there will no longer be a physical office. Staff will in operate in a “virtual office” environment as we go through another transition phase.

We will be advising you in due course of what roles and responsibilities fall within each staff member’s portfolio.

Of course, the focus remains on building our membership across all areas of the Association. At the upcoming AGM, there will be every opportunity for clubs to engage in discussion in this key area and identify where the Association can provide support to meet our mutual membership goals. The sharing of best practices, across our membership structure, will be key to increasing our overall membership numbers which continue to remain static.

You will hear an exciting partnership opportunity Saturday afternoon of the AGM weekend activities which, in part, will help raise the awareness of our sport. The Association looks forward to what this will mean to our sport...

Fiscally, I am again pleased to report the Association remains in a strong overall position. Our Auditors remain confident in the fiscal management of the Association. We have seen our Equity grow from \$84,000 in 2012 to more than double that (\$177,000) in just 5 years. This has been achieved without compromising program support and will allow the Association to continue to support skaters, coaches and officials at present levels. I commend the committees in the fiscal management of their budgets and appreciate the Board supporting our other Administration and Operating costs.

**PARTNERS**



Many thanks for the countless hours your committee members have devoted to striving to meet their mandates. It is through your commitment that our skaters are able to succeed.

Thanks also to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support as the staff strive to meet the objectives set by you.

Lastly, as some may now know, this AGM weekend will be the last one attended by Lorna in her capacity as Office Administrator and Membership Services Coordinator as she is retiring effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. To say the Association will miss her understates all that she has brought to the position.

It is inadequate to extol what she has meant to the Association for the past 17 years. Simply, she was the "go to" person for all matters pertaining to the membership and their queries and so much more.

I know you will take the opportunity over the weekend to talk to Lorna wishing her well as she looks forward to focusing her energies among family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Houghton  
Executive Director  
B.C. Speed Skating Association