

ICE SUMMIT 2022

 BUILDING TOWARDS 2026

Name:

Kristy Balkwill

Running for the Position of:
Director-at-Large (2-year term)

Residence:

Toronto, Ontario



Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:

As a former competitive skater and long-time volunteer with Skate Canada, my roots are deeply entrenched in Skate Canada's vision, values and traditions.

In 2020, I left law firm life to practice in-house at a leading international financial services provider where I am AVP in the Investment Tax group, advising on international tax issues related to transactions, investments, and fund creation.

I owe so much of my professional success to the life lessons taught to me by skating and the people involved with Skate Canada. I appreciate the amount of work and dedication that our athletes, coaches, and volunteers pour into our beautifully athletic sport.

I served as a Member of the Skate Canada Board of Directors (the "Board") from 2014 – 2020. In 2020, I reached the maximum term limit pursuant to Section 5.9 of the Skate Canada General Bylaw (the "Bylaws"). Section 5.10 of the Bylaws states that an Elected Director who has served the maximum term is eligible for nomination if it has been two years since such Director's term limit was reached. As such, I am eligible for election to the Board at the 2022 Skate Canada AGM.

During my tenure on the Board, I served as the Chair of the Finance and Enterprise Risk Management Committee and the External Relations Committee, and as a Member of the Governance Committee, Membership Policy Committee, and CEO Operational Review Committee. I was also Skate Canada's Member to the Canadian Olympic Committee ("COC") and I continue to serve on the COC's Nominating Committee. I also serve on the Board of the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame and have been appointed to Skate Canada's National Review Board.

Skating is my passion. I began in CanSkate when I was three years old. I have been volunteering with Skate Canada for over 25 years. I spent nearly a decade as a competitive Ice Dancer and feel extremely fortunate to have been a member of both the Junior and Senior National Teams. I try to give back to the sport and organization that has given me so much through my involvement as a Judge, a National level Technical Specialist, and as a member of the Board.

Coaches – from grassroots to the Olympic podium – are a huge part of Skate Canada's success. I am an avid supporter of our Skate Canada Coaches and consistently endeavour to ensure their voices are heard.

In 2007, I was admitted to the Law Society of Ontario and in 2017, I became licensed to practice law in the State of New York. An overview of my relevant education:

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- 2009: Osgoode Hall Law School (LL.M. (Tax))
- 2003 – 2006: Queen’s University – Faculty of Law (J.D.)
- 2004: International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle (East Sussex, UK) (Certificate, International Business Law)
- 2001 – 2003: University of Ottawa (B.A., Magna Cum Laude)

I genuinely care about the future of our sport; from Learn to Skate and Skate to Win to Skate for Life, my vision for Skate Canada is “skater-first”.

Experience Relevant to the Skate Canada Board of Directors:

While on the Board, I attended, prepared for, and actively participated in each Board meeting. I believe that I continue to be a viable candidate bringing as much to the Board from my business and legal experiences as I do from my skating experiences.

Prior to being elected to the Board as a Director, I served as a member of the Skate Canada Ad Hoc Committee regarding The Not-for-Profit Corporations Act; as a Director, I worked to ensure compliance with that legislation. As aforementioned, I also served as the Chair of Skate Canada’s Finance and Enterprise Risk Management Committee and the External Relations Committee, and as a Member of the Governance Committee, Membership Policy Committee, and CEO Operational Review Committee. From 2014 - 2016, I dedicated considerable effort to our sport, serving as Chair of the Ontario Sections Organizational Working Committee, ultimately resulting in the successful amalgamation of the Ontario Sections at the 2016 Skate Canada AGM.

As a tax lawyer, I believe that I will contribute to the Board with financial and legal competencies, with a strong understanding of the law and finance. I am able to grasp complex concepts and distill them for pertinent use. The practice of law is inherently strategic. When negotiating a deal, it is critical that I am quick on my feet, thinking through complex matters and shifting ideas in a very short period of time. I am highly aware of this as I conduct myself and helped to guide Skate Canada through the implementation of its last Strategic Plan, and will continue to exercise focus and agility as, together, we implement the next Strategic Plan that will take us through the next quadrennial.

As a lawyer, I constantly work in conflict resolution. I understand the importance of furthering my party’s cause while respecting and appreciating the other party’s concerns.

As a Member of the COC Nominating Committee, I further the COC’s commitment to diverse representation, promoting and advancing EDI.

I believe that I can be influential in furthering Skate Canada’s strategies and policies, both domestically and internationally. In 2015, I was selected by Skate Canada to attend the International Skating Union (“ISU”) Youth Seminar in Frankfurt, which was without a doubt the most rewarding and edifying symposium I have ever attended. Being in a room with 33 delegates from 26 ISU member nations was extremely inspiring and required strategic proficiency.

I am both a strong leader and a team player; I credit this apparent dichotomy with having been an Ice Dancer. As an Ice Dancer, one must always be a team player while striving for personal excellence. It is easy for me to foster and promote another’s good idea, giving credit where due, and it is equally satisfying for me to forge a path or offer a solution.

I believe that I exhibit the core skills and competencies that are required to support the Skate Canada engaged policy governance model and am therefore a strong candidate to once again serve on the Board.



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Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:

As Chair and Member of the Finance and Enterprise Risk Management Committee, I was able to capitalize on my skills as a tax lawyer; I am very interested in contributing to this committee again. I also served as the Chair of the External Relations Committee; I was honoured to lead this committee in developing and fostering our partnerships with external stakeholders and aspire to build on those relationships.

In the 2020-2021 season, I remained as a member of both the External Relations Committee and Governance Committee. A lot of great work has been conducted with respect to the Bylaws and key policies under the purview of the Governance Committee and I am interested in continuing with this work.

The experience I gained at the ISU Youth Seminar allowed me to build friendships with those of my generation at the ISU level, and I cherish the opportunity to explore those relationships in a way that is meaningful for Skate Canada.

My time on the Board had its challenges; with each opportunity, I rolled up my sleeves and leaned in, trying to be an active part of the solution. I look forward to the opportunity to once again serve Skate Canada's Members.