



# 2023 Ice Summit

## Connect With Us

**Name:**

Cherisse Woonsam

**Running for the position of:**

Director-at-Large (2-year term)

**Residence**

Toronto, Ontario

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**Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:**

As a National level judge in synchronized skating, I have a deep passion for the sport that has been a part of my life since I was five years old. Although I started as a singles skater, my focus shifted to synchronized skating as I grew older.

Synchro skating provided me with many life lessons and experiences, which I greatly attribute to skating on the National team for four years with KW Queens, Burlington Ice Image, and Nexxice. My biggest accomplishment as a skater was competing at the first ISU World Championships in 2000. My other significant achievement while skating on the National Team was graduating from York University with a BA in Philosophy.

I later transitioned to adult skating and continued to skate for fun and fitness. It was during this time that I discovered my passion for judging. I have been a judge for the last fourteen years, five of which have been as a National level judge.

I feel privileged to be a part of the sport in this capacity. And it has allowed me to use my experiences and skills in other areas of skating. I am currently a mentor in Skate Canada's EDIA Mentorship Program. I also had the opportunity to serve as Technical Representative for four years for a competition now known as Synchro Series #4. And in 2017, I was a member of the local PR and Sponsorship Committee for the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships.

For the past twelve years, I have worked in the real estate industry. I have honed my skills in sales, marketing, and negotiation, helping clients navigate the complexities of the real estate market with ease. With a lifelong fascination with personal development, I am also a certified high-performance life coach. My coaching focuses on assisting individuals in attaining long-term success by instilling discipline in their mindset, habits, and relationships while also improving their well-being and nurturing positive connections with the individuals around them.

Outside of skating, I have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps build affordable housing for families in need. I also fostered a partnership between RE/Max Hallmark Realty and Habitat for Humanity to make an even greater impact on the community.

I believe in giving back and making a difference, both professionally and personally, and I am always looking for new ways to make a positive impact in the world. My passion for skating remains as strong as ever, and I am committed to giving back to the skating community in any way I can.





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### Experience Relevant to the Skate Canada Board of Directors

As someone who has yet to have the opportunity to serve on a board, I am eager to bring my unique background and skill set to the Skate Canada Board of Directors. As a woman of colour, I bring a distinctive viewpoint that is valuable. Representation is essential, and diverse voices at the table lead to more effective decision-making and outcomes. I am well aware of diverse communities' challenges, and my experiences will enable me to bring a unique perspective to the Board.

I am impressed with Skate Canada's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility for its members and the general public. Skate Canada stands out as a global leader in this area. Contributing to positive change and progress in EDIA is a privilege, and I am eager for the chance to offer my support in this area.

I am a travel enthusiast and have visited 46 countries, 30 of which I have travelled solo. Travel has taught me invaluable skills such as adaptability, resilience, patience, and flexibility, particularly in dealing with unexpected challenges. Strategic planning is also crucial when coordinating trips that involve multiple countries, flights, and hotels.

Travelling has also given me a greater sense of self-awareness and social consciousness. More than just a vacation, my travels are a way of connecting with people, immersing myself in different cultures, and evolving as a person. It has also allowed me to connect with people worldwide through social media. I take great pride in fostering a sizeable online community on Instagram that promotes personal growth through my travel experiences.

My knowledge and understanding of social media allowed me to work on the local PR and Sponsorship Committee for the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships. My role involved handling the event's social media presence by working closely with other committee members to develop social media strategies to increase engagement and reach new audiences.

My BA in Philosophy has given me strong critical thinking and effective communication skills that have served me well in various pursuits. I have also developed an understanding of ethical and moral reasoning and human nature.

As a certified high-performance coach, I have learned how effective understanding human nature is. Active listening and asking thought-provoking questions are essential in helping clients achieve their full potential. I have worked with clients such as community leaders, lawyers, executive leadership, and C-suite executives, helping them with goal setting, strategic planning, leadership development, and stress management.

Lastly, my experiences as a team member of synchronized skating teams for many years have taught me effective leadership skills and the importance of being a team player.

My collective skills and competencies align with the requirements of the Skate Canada Board of Directors. In addition, my unique experiences will make me a valuable asset to the organization. I am excited about the possible opportunity to contribute to positive change and progress and am eager to bring my expertise to the table.





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#### Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:

I am an enthusiastic and dedicated individual looking to make a positive impact wherever my skills and expertise are needed.

With my personal experience and dedication to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, I am confident I can positively impact these areas. I would also like to contribute to initiatives that promote the long-term participation of skaters, particularly those who identify as BIPOC, by encouraging them to take on roles as officials or volunteers.

I can also contribute to fostering a culture of safety and inclusivity within Skate Canada by helping develop membership policies that prioritize these values. Working together, we can educate the Membership of Skate Canada's values throughout the organization.

As a realtor, I possess valuable marketing, sales, and legal skills, which would be useful for external relations. My experience as a content creator has also equipped me with social media skills that can further enhance my contributions.

With my experience as a young BIPOC skater, progressing to the National Team in synchronized skating, transitioning to adult skating, and now serving as a National level judge, I am committed to leveraging my expertise and unique experiences to benefit Skate Canada and its members.

