



2023 Annual General Meeting Standing Committee Report

Standing Committee Name: External Relations Committee

Committee Chair and Members:

- Leanna Caron, Chair
- Debra Armstrong
- Karen Butcher
- Benoit Lavoie
- Andrew Poje
- Sally Rehorick
- Ravi Walia

Committee Mandate Summary:

- Engagement with international and national sport bodies that are affiliated with the objectives of Skate Canada.
- Development of Skate Canada's external stakeholder relations strategy.
 - Monitor the implementation of the established strategy and make recommendations to the Board as appropriate.
- Preparation of proposals to the International Skating Union (ISU) for changes in the Constitution, General Regulations and Special Regulations as well as Technical Rules.
 - Monitor the implementation of new rules / regulations.
- Identification and assessment of risk including recommendations to the Board to mitigate risks that could impede or prohibit Skate Canada from achieving its objectives and/or strategies relating to external relations.
- Development of succession plans for positions of influence within the ISU and other domestic sport bodies/organizations.
- Discussion of appointments of individuals to external sport bodies to the Board.

Committee Report:

1. ISU Congress and proposals

In lead-up to the 2022 ISU Congress (June 2022), the committee evaluated all Rule, Regulation and Constitution change proposals and held meetings with various stakeholders prior to and during the Congress to ensure key proposals were passed. The Skate Canada Congress Team on-site was successful in securing the election of Benoit Lavoie to the position of Vice President, Figure Skating. Congratulations to Benoit in his new leadership role! The direct line



of communication via Benoit will certainly aid in our efforts to ensure that Skate Canada's strategic priorities are understood particularly as it relates to critical areas such as competitive athlete age limits and equity, diversity, and Inclusion issues.

2. Event hosting strategy

The committee established a hosting strategy prioritization chart with a focus on international events. Following robust discussions, the committee agreed upon primary and secondary objectives for each event. With this clarity, management will redraft the event hosting strategy for presentation to the Board of Directors.

3. Appointments and succession planning

Skate Canada regularly appoints individuals to various committees with external domestic bodies. For many of the domestic appointments, a member of the management team is appointed.

Annual succession planning focused on both domestic and international roles with the ISU and the Canadian Olympic Committee. Candidates have been identified and interest assessed. Where gaps have been identified in terms of readiness or qualifications, collaboration has occurred with management and in turn with the respective operating committee if applicable.

Appointments and Elections in the 2022-2023 season include:

- Benoit Lavoie: ISU 2nd Vice President, Figure Skating
- Eric Radford: ISU Athlete Commission Chair and ISU Council Member
- Cathy Dalton: ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee Member
- Kaitlyn Weaver: ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee Member
- Leanna Caron: Canadian Olympic Committee, Session B Member (Olympic Supporter)

4. ISU initiatives

The committee discussed the challenges of hosting **international synchro events** in North America. The committee identified various options going forward including remote scoring and further engagement with other Member Federations in the Americas, Four Continents, the ISU Technical Committee, and the ISU Development Commission.

Regarding **international solo dance** events, the committee supports this ISU initiative and acknowledged that the approach domestically may be different from the ISU given our strategic imperative of Skating for Life.

As committee chairperson, I'd like to extend my appreciation to all committee members and Skate Canada support staff for their engagement throughout this past season.