

# ICE SUMMIT 2024



## Election Candidate Bio

**Name**

Andrew Poje

**Running for the position of**

Director-at-Large (2-year term)

**Residence**

Waterloo, Ontario

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### Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:

With a Masters in Business Innovation, Governance education, Project and Leadership development, coupled with a long career and volunteer experience in the sport, I bring a multifaceted skill set and more importantly, a deep-rooted passion for skating to the table.

My educational background equips me with a solid understanding of organizational structures, strategic planning, and governance principles essential for effective board leadership. Moreover, having been raised in the Skate Canada environment, I have traversed through the ranks from CanSkate to the pinnacle of success at the Olympic level. This firsthand journey leaves me with unique insights into the nuances of the sport, its challenges, and its evolving landscape.

In addition to my academics, my career trajectory reflects an unwavering commitment to the world of skating. As a coach, seminar leader, and performer, I have continuously contributed to the sport's growth and development. These roles have not only honed my technical skills but have also instilled in me a profound appreciation for the transformative power of skating in individuals' lives.

Furthermore, my volunteer engagements underscore my dedication to giving back to the skating community. Spending my formative years volunteering at competitions allowed me to witness firsthand the impact the sport can have on a community. That is also why I have given my time and efforts these past two years on the board to serve where I can. Moreover, my ambassadorship for Right to Play reflects a broader commitment to leveraging sports as a vehicle for social change, particularly in underserved communities.

Serving on the board of directors for Own the Podium, I have gained invaluable experience in steering high-performance sport initiatives and implementing strategic interventions to optimize athletes' performance. This role has not only broadened my understanding of the technical intricacies of sports development but has also equipped me with the necessary acumen to navigate the complexities of governing bodies such as Skate Canada.

My vision for the organization revolves around fostering a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and innovation that empowers athletes, coaches, and stakeholders alike to realize their full potential. As a member of the board of directors, I am committed to championing initiatives that prioritize athlete development, enhance grassroots participation, and amplify the positive impact of skating on individuals and communities alike.

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In conclusion, my candidacy is underscored by a deep-seated passion for skating, a track record of impactful contributions, and a vision for transformative change within Skate Canada. I am eager to bring my unique blend of skills, experiences, and perspectives to the board of directors, where I am confident in my ability to drive positive change and propel the organization towards greater heights of success.

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

In the context of Skate Canada's board of directors, several experiences I find are particularly relevant:

1. **Skating Experience:** My involvement in the Skate Canada sphere, ranging from CanSkate to the Olympic level, and being on the national team for close to two decades, provides insights into the sport's dynamics, challenges, and opportunities. My experience as a skater enables me to understand some of the needs of athletes, coaches, and clubs while still maintaining a strong network to hear about new opportunities.
2. **Coaching:** My role as a coach and seminar leader now signifies desire to provide expertise in skill development, technique refinement, and athlete mentorship where I can. These experiences equip me with the ability to contribute to Skate Canada's coaching education programs, talent identification efforts, and athlete development pathways.
3. **Global Performance and Ambassadorship:** My ongoing experience as a performer on global platforms allows me to represent Skate Canada's values, brand, and aspirations on an international stage. Additionally, as an ambassador for Right to Play, I am able to speak to social impact initiatives, aligning with the organization's broader mission of promoting the positive benefits of sports participation.
4. **Governance and Leadership:** My position on the board of directors for Own the Podium demonstrates your proficiency in sports governance, strategic planning, and organizational leadership. This experience equips me with the governance frameworks, decision-making processes, and stakeholder management skills necessary to contribute effectively to Skate Canada's strategic direction.

## **Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:**

I am committed to championing initiatives that prioritize athlete development, enhance grassroots participation, and amplify the positive impact of skating on individuals and communities alike. I want to help develop healthy, high-performing athletes, the business, the image of the sport and organization nationally, and globally. I also want to return confidence back into a world that has seen challenges lately.