

ICE SUMMIT 2024



Election Candidate Bio

Name

Brenda Hart

Running for the position of

Regional Director West (2-year term)
Director-at-Large (2-year term)

Residence

Beaumont, Alberta

Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:

Graduating from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Human Ecology degree led to a career within both Manitoba Agriculture and Alberta Agriculture. As part of an inter-disciplinary team, with attention to strategic directives and identified district needs, I developed resources and delivered programming in an ever-evolving industry impacted by global economies, markets, and climate-based challenges. Amid a career shift that coincided with starting a family, I freelanced in the areas of agri-business conference organization and marketing strategies to increase brand exposure for an Alberta dairy company.

Volunteerism has been a tightly woven thread throughout my life and increased exponentially as my daughters became involved in school, sports, and the arts. I volunteer to make a difference. I value volunteerism for the contributions of time and expertise enables organizations to offer amazing opportunities to participants that would not be possible otherwise.

My most extensive volunteer experience rests with figure skating. At the age of five, I joined the Dauphin FSC, and it sparked a lifelong passion for skating. I trained to reach goals, competed up to the Pre-Novice level and was a volunteer coach in the former National Skating Test program. From that experience, I obtained coach certification and coached at three Parkland Region clubs for one season prior to pursuing post secondary education.

I returned to skating when my children joined the Grande Prairie SC. Once my skating background became known, I was tapped on the shoulder to volunteer at events and subsequently was elected to the board as Secretary and Test Chair and served on the Peace Region Committee. Skating brought a lot to my life as an athlete and being part of the skating community again led to a new adventure when I trained to be an official.

I have been a Skate Canada official for 23 years and it has been a rewarding experience to be part of such a dynamic organization. I have travelled near and far to officiate across Alberta, NT and other Sections as a Senior Judge and Referee in Singles, Pairs and Dance, Evaluator and Singles Technical Controller.

In 2022 I was privileged to be elected as Director West on the Skate Canada Board and enjoy contributing at this level of sport. Over the past two years I have chaired the Recruitment and Development Committee and currently serve on the Membership Policy, Governance and Section Coordinating Committees.

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I recently completed the COC- NSO Governance Education Series and DEI Education Series offered by the Smith School of Business at Queen's University. As a lifelong learner, I utilized this opportunity to deepen my skills to further support the work of Skate Canada's engaged policy board.

Experience Relevant to the Skate Canada Board of Directors

As an active official I have extensive knowledge of ISU and Skate Canada rules, policies, and procedures from grassroots through the podium pathway structures. With continuous service across many roles, my skating knowledge has grown, and from that I sought opportunities to serve Skate Canada beyond the role of judge, evaluator, and technical official.

I was elected to the AB-NT-NU board as Officials Coordinating Committee Chair where I helped set policy, strategic direction, and deliver workplan activities for Judges, Evaluators and Technical Officials.

I served extensively in many leadership roles in the AB-NT-NU section including Judge/ Evaluator and Technical Officials Representative. These roles have common themes centering around recruitment, training, and retention. As a Learning Facilitator, I have organized and led a variety of seminars. Officials' development remains an enthusiastic pursuit and given the extensive geography of the section, the creation of innovative approaches in the delivery of training is a priority in the support and advancement of officials. I presently serve as Officials Training and Development Lead on the Officials Committee.

I have had the privilege to lead and be a member of operational working groups tasked with the development of training resources, participate in advisory circles and was a member of the Skate Canada Officials Development Committee.

I have served as a Lead Technical Representative at STARSkate, Podium Pathway, Sectional, National Summer Series, Challenge and most recently at Novice Nationals and Canada Cup. Event organization has many moving parts and is only possible with leadership, teamwork, and the support of many dedicated local organizing committee volunteers.

As chair of the former Skate Canada Nominating Sub-Committee and subsequent service as a member and Chair of the Recruitment and Development Committee, involvement centred around board succession planning, skill set, and competency needs with respect to recruitment and the development of a Board Education Resource Library.

I am presently a member of the Skate Canada Governance Committee where significant work has taken place to review and revise the bylaws to align with the Canadian Sport Governance Code. This important work ensures that the organization complies legally and ethically and is relevant for the membership.

On the Membership Policy Committee, I collaborated in an extensive review of policies relating to the club and skating school operating standards and approval policy, respectively. As the

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sport evolves so must policies, and having direct knowledge of what is happening at the club and section level is imperative in creating policy that provides for clear direction and accountability.

My skating background and volunteer activity have strong grassroots connections while also being a part of a Section with World medallists and Olympians. Experience gained on operational and standing committees along with extensive sport technical knowledge, provides me with a broad-based perspective regarding the need to build policy, programs, and opportunities at all levels and abilities across the sport.

Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:

I feel my background and experience could be an asset in continuing to strengthen and build the foundations that Skate Canada needs to take the organization forward in the areas of fiscal responsibility, good governance and policy development while ensuring a grassroots voice is represented.

I have time to commit fully and serve selflessly to support the work of the board and Skate Canada's strategic plan. I will listen and seek opportunities for advancement of the sport where my skills can add value. If elected, I will bring a thoughtful and measured approach to discussions and decisions as the organization strives to meet member needs across Canada and remain mindful of regional differences and challenges that clubs, and sections face. I will always place the organization first. Thank you for your consideration of my application.