



2025 Board of Directors Election Candidate Bio

Name	Running for the position of	Residence
Matt MacMurdo	Director-at-Large (2-year term)	Gatineau, Quebec

Relevant Education, Career and Volunteer Experience:

Matt holds a B.A. Honours in Interdisciplinary Studies from Carleton University, having graduated with High Distinction and an internship at the Canadian High Commission to Tanzania. He also holds a M.A. in International Affairs with a Specialization in International Development Policy from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. During the first year of Matt's M.A. program, he undertook an internship with Sport Positive, a London, UK-based organization that facilitates the adoption and signing of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework that aims to help sports organizations reduce emissions caused by their operations. During his second year, Matt was awarded Carleton University's Graduate Co-Op Student of the Year for his work at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

After his competitive skating career, Matt toured with Disney On Ice for a total of 6 years. This role allowed him to continue his passion to skate and perform while traveling the world as a professional figure skater. He held performing positions in ensemble, semi-principal, and principal roles while also managing cast members as a Line Captain. As Media Mentor, he used his acquired skills in media engagement at the local, national and international level to advise and guide colleagues in media relations. Following his career with Disney On Ice, Matt gained four years of coaching experience at the Connaught Skating Club in Richmond, BC and another four years of experience as a national team coach in Bangkok with the Figure and Speed Skating Association of Thailand. He continues to offer his time as a resource coach at the Gloucester Skating Club in Ottawa since 2021 and volunteers at events throughout the year in support of the club.

To bolster his graduate studies, Matt began working at IRCC in May 2022 as a student. He was bridged into a permanent role in the Director General's Office of the Resettlement and Asylum Strategic Operations Branch at IRCC in September 2022 and was promoted to three other positions up to June 2024. During his time in the DGO, Matt received an Assistant Deputy Minister's Award as part of the branch's Diversity and Inclusion Committee in 2023. In July 2024, Matt was promoted to his current role as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Asylum and Refugee Resettlement at IRCC. In December 2024, he was the recipient of an Assistant Deputy Minister's award for his work at the branch and sector level. Matt is the current National Co-Chair of Pride@IRCC, an employee network for 2SLGBTQIA+ employees in the department and he continues to sit on the Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Diversity and Inclusion Committee as a past Co-Chair. Matt was recently awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal for his work in the Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Accessibility sphere at IRCC.

Experience Relevant to the Skate Canada Board of Directors

Matt has been a Director on the Skate Ontario Board of Directors for the past 2 and half years. He has worked alongside colleagues to support the delivery of programs and events in Ontario and to promote a safe, inclusive and respectful skating environment across the province. In his capacity on the board, he has



served on the Governance Committee which oversees the creation and maintenance of Skate Ontario policies, as well as alignment with Skate Canada and the Government of Ontario.

In July 2024, Matt took on a position as one of the Pride@IRCC National Co-Chairs, IRCC's network for 2SLGBTQIA+ employees. The network educates and supports the community in the workplace, and advocates on behalf of the community for equitable treatment, services, programs, and policies in solidarity with other equity and equity seeking groups at the department and across the public service. He also remains a member of the Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Diversity and Inclusion Committee which works to engage the sector in diversity and inclusion strategies, activities, and education.

Matt is a current member of the Skate Canada Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Operational Committee. The committee engages in education on equity, diversity, inclusion, access, anti-racism, and social justice in relation to sport, as well as education on Indigenous knowledges, engagement and achievement. The committee also advises on matters specific to equity, diversity, inclusion, access, anti-racism, and Indigenous engagement.

Through his work at IRCC, Matt has experience in supporting the research, development and implementation of policies and programs. In his past as a competitor, performer, coach, official, and volunteer within the sport, he has years of experience in a variety of situations that can support work on the Skate Canada Board of Directors. Matt has worked both within and outside Canada, studying, working and traveling to 99 countries, affording him a worldview formed through these experiences.

Areas of Interest Within Skate Canada:

Matt has a keen interest in improving member relations by supporting efforts to promote diversity, equity, inclusivity and accessibility in our sport. Important progress has been made, yet there is more work to be done for racialized groups, Indigenous communities, and other groups who face barriers to accessing and engaging with skating. Matt hopes to work towards a sport that fosters inclusiveness, one where everyone has a deep sense of belonging, where we all embrace differences as a source of strength and ensure that the sport is more representative of the people that make up our country. Our sport must also ensure that we have safe learning and training environments free from abuse and harassment. Having spent his formative skating years in smaller communities, Matt realizes the challenges that our sport faces in continuing to develop skating in areas outside of large urban centres, and hopes to help develop strong policies and strategies to deal with these issues.