



**Minutes of the
2026 Annual General Meeting of Skate Canada
Hilton Garden Inn Ottawa Airport, Ottawa, ON
May 23, 2026**

ATTENDANCE

1. The list of club delegates in attendance at the 2026 Skate Canada Annual General Meeting, is attached to the minutes in full as **Appendix A**.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

2. On behalf of Skate Canada, President Karen Butcher welcomed all delegates to the 2026 Skate Canada Annual General Meeting. She acknowledged that the land in Ottawa on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people. The President also acknowledged the ancestral and unceded territory of the Inuit, Métis and First Nations people from coast to coast who call this land home and thanked the generations of people who have taken care of this land.

The President relayed important information regarding the meeting and declared the 2026 Skate Canada Annual General Meeting open.

CALL TO ORDER

3. At this time, the President called upon Corporate Services Director, Jeff Partrick, to formally convene the meeting.
4. J. Partrick confirmed that in compliance with Article 4, Bylaw 4.2, the AGM Notice of Meeting was issued to the membership via a national e-campaign on February 28, 2026. He explained that as per Bylaw 4.15, quorum is identified as 125 persons entitled to vote in person or present through the telephonic, electronic, or other communication facility provided by Skate Canada, and representing at least 2000 votes.
5. J. Partrick then confirmed that there are 195 persons entitled to vote, representing 2880 votes in attendance either in person or via the online meeting and that the necessary quorum was present.

EXPLANATION OF VOTING PROCESS

6. J. Partrick provided a detailed overview of the voting process that is to be used during the meeting.

7. Following the voting process overview, the President reminded delegates that this is their meeting. She encouraged their participation by inviting them to speak to subject matters on the agenda and encouraged anyone who would like to speak to approach the microphone or use the chat window.
8. The President recognized the groups identified by Skate Canada Bylaws as being entitled to speak and/or to add an item to the agenda:
 - Club and Skating School Delegates
 - Skate Canada Coaches
 - Skate Canada Board of Directors
 - Skate Canada Officers
 - Section Chairs
 - Skate Canada Auditor
 - Chief Executive Officer of Skate Canada
 - Employees of Skate Canada and employees of each of the Sections
9. The President invited anyone wishing to address the assembly to approach the microphone with the following instructions provided:
 - Identify yourself before asking a question or making a comment.
 - If a club or school delegate, to state your name and name of club or school,
 - If a Skate Canada Coach, to identify yourself as such,
 - Virtual participants were requested to identify themselves in the same manner through the chat window.

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

10. The President referenced the meeting agenda and asked if there were any new items of business to be added to the agenda. It was noted that none were brought forward. The President then called for a motion to approve of the agenda which is attached to the minutes in full as **Appendix B**.

MOTION: Moved by Matt MacMurdo, Seconded by Ravi Walia, THAT the agenda of the May 23, 2026 Skate Canada Annual General Meeting be approved as presented, with the order of the agenda remaining flexible as per the President's discretion.

CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025-2026 SKATE CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

11. The President introduced the 2025-2026 Board of Directors. She indicated that the Board's passion for our sport and the expertise and energy they bring to the work of the Board is greatly appreciated:
 - Amanda Desmarais
 - Glenn Fortin
 - Brenda Hart
 - Dr. Gregor MacLean
 - Matt MacMurdo
 - Joni McPhail
 - Andrew Poje
 - Marc Puddy
 - Ravi Walia
 - Tracy Wilson

- Shawn Winter
- Catherine Wood

12. The President acknowledged those staff members who support the AGM in various ways and went on to recognize those staff members in attendance:
- Dr. Shae Zukiwsky – Chief Sport Officer
 - Simon Austin – Senior Manager, Safe Sport and Business Operations
 - Ken Chu – Manager, Information Technology Operations
 - Kathie Cloutier – Administrative Assistant
 - Steve Finney – Lead Developer/Analyst
 - Jeff Partrick – Corporate Services Director
 - Lenka Seniglova – Member Services Representative
 - Christina Skinner – Member Services Representative
 - Annie Thibodeau – Member Services Representative

The President also expressed her appreciation to all staff in every department who aren't in attendance at today's meeting.

13. The President also acknowledged the commitment and dedication of all Skate Canada staff members as they work conducting the day-to-day operations of the organization and thanked them for the work they do, often going above and beyond the call of duty.

Moment of Silence

14. At this point in the meeting, the President asked that meeting participants observe a moment of silence to honour and remember all members of the Skate Canada family who passed away during the 2025-2026 season.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 AGM MINUTES

15. The President referred to the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting which were posted to the Skate Canada AGM webpage.
16. Following the acknowledgment of the minutes and given there were no questions or comments, the President then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2025 AGM.

MOTION: Moved by Brenda Hart, Seconded by Amanda Desmarais, THAT the minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

17. The President explained that as per Article 12 of the Skate Canada Bylaws, the following groups had until 90 days prior to the AGM (i.e. February 22, 2026) to file with the CEO notice of any proposals, amendments, and repeals to the Bylaws of Skate Canada:
- Skate Canada Board of Directors
 - Skate Canada Sections
 - Skate Canada Clubs or Skating Schools in good standing
 - Skate Canada Coaches in good standing

18. The President confirmed that no bylaw amendments were received by the stated deadline.

SKATE CANADA REPORT

19. The report presented by President Karen Butcher and Chief Sport Officer Shae Zukiwsky is attached to the minutes in full as **Appendix C**. The President and the Chief Sport Officer both highlighted some of the major achievements of the past year including the opportunity to watch our athletes compete on the Olympic stage. S. Zukiwsky provided an overview of the Olympic performances and results.
20. The President discussed the ISU's proposed updates to the international skating and noted if implemented they could potentially make the skating season longer beginning in 2027. She confirmed that Skate Canada will have more information to share following the ISU Congress in June and will continue to play an influential leadership role within the ISU, actively contributing to discussions on constitutional and rule modernization.
21. S. Zukiwsky provided an overview of events noting that Skate Canada hosted five domestic competitions this season, including the Canadian National Skating Championships which were held at Gatineau's Centre Slush Puppie for the first time. This event also provided a memorable backdrop for the Olympic team announcement and drew the largest crowds we've seen in over four years. Skate Canada's digital engagement also grew significantly with more than 3.1 million views across all platforms.
22. S. Zukiwsky also discussed the introduction of new disciplines, including Synchro 9 and solo dance, to be featured at domestic events. He also noted that beginning next season solo dance will be further integrated into the competitive structure with novice, junior and senior events included at the 2027 Skate Canada Trophy and confirmed more details will be shared very shortly.
23. S. Zukiwsky explained that continued growth and retention of registrants are critical to ensuring vibrant clubs and skating schools as well as Skate Canada's long-term success. He confirmed that membership remained strong with more than 209,000 registrants participating in Skate Canada programming across the country as well as a record number of coaches this season with more than 7,100 coaches across the country which is over 400 more coaches than last season.
24. S. Zukiwsky noted encouraging progress in athlete retention and explained that for the first time this quad, the conversion rate from learn-to-skate programming to figure skating reached a peak of 9.7% demonstrating increased success in transitioning participants into lifelong involvement in the sport.
25. S. Zukiwsky also noted that participant satisfaction continues to rise which reflects the impact of Skate Canada's efforts to create welcoming, inclusive environments at clubs and skating schools nationwide. He provided an overview of events and new development support tools and resources available to support clubs and coaches.
26. The President confirmed that the next chapter of Skate Canada will be supported by renewed leadership and expressed her sincere thanks to Debra Armstrong for her 10 years of dedicated service at the head of Skate Canada.
27. The President also thanked all the staff who made the transition period so seamless as we prepare to welcome the organization's new CEO which will be announced in the coming week. K. Butcher also thanked everyone who contributed insight and feedback that helped shape the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

28. The President also expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of Skate Canada to the coaches, officials, staff, athletes, volunteers, Sections, clubs and skating school who continue to demonstrate extraordinary dedication and passion and whose work continues to shape a strong, inclusive and vibrant skating community.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

29. The President indicated a great amount of work is completed by the standing committees of the organization and from a governance, policy, and strategy perspective, the Board focuses on ensuring skating remains one of the safest sports for everyone to enjoy. Our organization is all about people and the Board thanks all the members of the skating family who collaborate and partner with Skate Canada to make our governance model work as efficiently and effectively as possible.
30. The President explained that the Board of Directors operates with a domestic and international lens and we're proud that given the changing environment we remain a viable and stable organization, positioned for growth and success.
31. The President advised that the standing committees of the Board are formed of both board members and appointed members and cover the following areas:
- CEO Operational Review Committee
 - External Relations Committee
 - Finance and Enterprise Risk Management Committee
 - Governance Committee
 - Recruitment and Development Committee
32. To understand the actions undertaken by each of the standing committees over the past season, the President invited members of the assembly to review the standing committee reports which are posted to the AGM webpage. All reports are also attached to the minutes in full as **Appendix D**.

SKATING FOR EVERYONE REPORT

33. The President welcomed Pat Que, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Program Manager and invited her to share her report on Skating for Everyone.
34. P. Que advised that meaningful progress has been made this season to deepen Skate Canada's relationship with Indigenous communities, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ and people with disabilities. She noted that Community Skates was one of our cornerstone initiatives this year with four successful delivered in partnership with Sections and clubs and confirmed we aim to host six Community Skates across Canada with a focus on grassroots participation.
35. P. Que explained that the program also extended to adult participants including a special event at Rideau Hall Rink in celebration of World Ice Skating Day. She advised that our commitment to Indigenous engagement continues to advance through cultural learning opportunities and the launch of Skate Canada's Indigenous Community Circle, an important step in ensuring Indigenous voices guide our initiatives. P. Que also outlined education and awareness initiatives delivered on topics such as gender inclusivity, accessibility and Indigenous perspectives. She also discussed the results from a 2025 demographic data collection survey which allows us to examine representation and identify

patterns related to access, participation and equity and helps us create a strong foundation when shaping the future of skating for everyone.

FINANCE REPORT

36. The President called upon Glenn Fortin to speak to the Skate Canada Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2026 which is attached to the minutes in full as **Appendix E**.

37. There were no questions from the assembly with respect to the Skate Canada Audited Financial Statement for the year ended March 31, 2026, nor the related report (**Appendix F**), the President called for a motion to approve the statements:

MOTION: Moved by Glenn Fortin, Seconded by Marc Puddy, THAT the Skate Canada Audited Financial Statements ended March 31, 2026, prepared by the Auditors of KPMG LLP, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Appointment of Auditors

38. At the President's request, the following motion related to the appointment of the Skate Canada auditors for the 2026-2027 fiscal year was put forward to the voting membership:

MOTION: Moved by Catherine Wood, Seconded by Gregor MacLean, THAT KPMG LLP be approved as Skate Canada's auditors for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

CARRIED

ELECTIONS – 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

39. At this point in the meeting the President invited Gregor MacLean, Recruitment and Development Committee (RDC) Chair, to conduct the elections segment of the meeting.

40. G. MacLean confirmed that on January 20, 2026 the RDC released a Call for Applications to the Skate Canada Board of Directors Memo, along with other documents.

41. G. MacLean conveyed that of the nine (9) applications received, six (6) candidates have confirmed their intention to remain in the process, have met the eligibility requirements and are qualified for election.

42. G. MacLean confirmed the following election categories in this year's elections:

- Category 1 – Director West (2-year term)
- Category 2 – Director Quebec (2-year term)
- Category 3 – Director Coach (2-year term)
- Category 4 – Director at Large (2-year term) (3 positions available)

Acclaimed Board Positions

43. G. MacLean confirmed the names of the individuals who are acclaimed in the following election categories:

- Category 1 – Director West (2-year term): Brenda Hart
- Category 2 – Director Quebec (2-year term): Sophie Doré

- Category 3 – Director Coach (2-year Term: Shawn Winter
 - Category 3 – Director at Large (2-year term):
 - Amanda Desmarais
 - Glenn Fortin
 - Catherine Wood
44. With the conclusion of the elections segment of the AGM, G. MacLean congratulated all newly acclaimed members of the Skate Canada Board of Directors.
45. G. MacLean also extended his thanks to the members of the Recruitment and Development Committee for all their service:
- Karen Howard
 - Paul MacIntosh
 - Joni McPhail
 - Erica Topolski
 - Ravi Walia
46. G. MacLean thanked the Skate Canada employees who assisted with election preparations and also thanked the staff who provided support to the committee:
- Kathie Cloutier, Administrative Assistant
 - Jeff Partrick, Corporate Services Director
47. K. Butcher noted that since there were the same number of board positions available as there were candidates, as Chair of the Meeting, she formally acclaimed the individuals listed to the Skate Canada Board of Directors and congratulated everyone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UPCOMING EVENTS

48. At this time, the President announced the location and dates of the following events:
- **2026 International Adult Figure Skating Competition**
September 16-19, 2026 - Kal Tire Place, Vernon, BC
 - **2026 Skate Canada International**
October 30 to November 1, 2026 - Prospera Place, Kelowna, BC
 - **2026-2027 Skate Canada Challenge**
November 26-29, 2026 - Seven Oaks Arena, Winnipeg, MB
 - **2027 Canadian National Skating Championships**
January 12-17, 2027 - Paramount Fine Foods Centre, Mississauga, ON
 - **2027 Skate Canada Trophy**
February 4-7, 2027 - RBC Centre, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
 - **2027 Skate Canada Cup**
February 26-28, 2027 - Mary Brown's Centre, St. John's, NL

2027 AGM

49. The President confirmed that the 2027 Annual General Meeting will most likely be held virtually on May 22, 2027. More details will be forwarded at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

50. K. Butcher confirmed that no new items of business were brought forward to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

51. The President took the opportunity to thank and honour the invaluable dedication and contributions made to the organization by the following individuals who would not be returning to the Board in the coming season:
- Andrew Poje – Retiring from the Board
 - Tracy Wilson – Retiring from the Board

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

52. At this time the President introduced the members of the 2026-2027 Skate Canada Board of Directors:
- Karen Butcher, President
 - Amanda Desmarais, Director at Large
 - Sophie Doré, Director Québec
 - Glenn Fortin, Director at Large
 - Brenda Hart, Director West
 - Dr. Gregor MacLean, Director Atlantic
 - Matt MacMurdo, Director at Large
 - Joni McPhail, Director Ontario
 - Marc Puddy, Director at Large
 - Ravi Walia, Director at Large
 - Shawn Winter, Director Coach
 - Catherine Wood, Director at Large

[Post Meeting Note: The directors unanimously elected Karen Butcher to serve as Skate Canada President in 2026-2027 at the meeting of the Board immediately following the Annual General Meeting.]

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026-2027 SECTION CHAIRS

53. The President introduced the 2026-2027 Section Chairs. She explained that Section Chairs are valued members of the team and their endless commitment to the organization is sincerely appreciated and thanked them for their work:
- Braden Davie – British Columbia/Yukon Section
 - Mary Moran – Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section
 - Allyson Senecal – Saskatchewan Section
 - Amber Lotz – Manitoba Section
 - Alison Sims – Skate Ontario
 - Jacqueline Gauthier – Patinage Québec

- Carole Thiffault – New Brunswick Section
- Amy MacMillan – Prince Edward Island Section
- Sheila Beard – Nova Scotia Section
- Bev Power – Newfoundland & Labrador Section

CLOSING REMARKS

54. In closing, the President expressed gratitude to everyone for taking the time to participate. She also thanked Skate Canada staff and volunteers for bringing everyone together online.

55. The President closed by encouraging members to continue working together.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

56. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 EDT.

MOTION: Moved by Matt MacMurdo, THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Karen Butcher
President

Minutes recorded by Jeff Partrick, Corporate Services Director and written by Kathie Cloutier, Administrative Assistant.

-