

Executive Director's Report**British Columbia Speed Skating Association****Annual General Meeting June 2018****PARTNERS**

CANADA



This past season saw much success both on and off the ice. Our skaters did well at National events as highlighted in the Athlete Development Committee report. The Coaching Committee was able to provide more direct assistance to representative coaches in supporting our skaters at targeted events and this committee will focus on providing opportunities for professional development this coming season. The Officials Development Committee focused on supporting clubs with assigned officials to targeted events within the Province this past season. The expectation to see out-of-province officials' support this coming season will aid our developing officials with their professional development.

This past fall, the Association was required to challenge an initial decision by Canadian Sport Institute to continue their Enhanced Excellence Funding primarily supporting our Academies. The resulting face-to-face interview required many hours of staff pre-interview activities. I want to particularly thank Christina Acton for all her attention to the detail necessary for BCSSA's appeal to be ultimately successful with an increase in support from the previous year.

Last September our office lease expired and since that time staff have been operating within a "virtual office". This did create some challenges, however with some minor glitches we were able to keep the Association forging ahead. Thanks to Chris and Keara for making this office approach work.

Of course, the focus remains on building our membership across all areas of the Association. At the upcoming AGM, there will be every opportunity for clubs to engage in discussion in this key area and identify where the Association can provide support to meet our mutual membership goals. The sharing of best practices, across our membership structure, will be key to increasing our overall

membership numbers.

PARTNERS



You will hear an exciting partnership opportunity which, in part, will help raise the awareness of our sport. The Association looks forward to what this will mean to our sport...

Fiscally, I am again pleased to report the Association remains in a strong overall position. We were able to deliver top quality programming throughout the Association under the strong commitment of our volunteer committees. Thank you for all the time you devoted to meeting our goals and objectives.

Many, many thanks to Chris and Keara for the countless hours they devoted to keeping BCSSA strong. Defined office hours for them did not exist...they just got it done. Unfortunately for BCSSA Keara has left the Association. She had an amazing opportunity to pursue her professional career and could not let it pass her by. We are most grateful for all her hard work and wish her every success in her professional life.

I personally wish to thank Chris Acton for another year of complete dedication to working to make BCSSA the strongest possible branch of SSC. We are most fortunate to have her knowledge, expertise and passion within our Association.

Finally, this AGM weekend will be the last one I attend as your Executive Director. It is certainly with very mixed emotions that I made the decision, after 14 years, to retire from this role. I have been truly blessed to have met and worked with many amazing dedicated volunteers throughout the Association and will carry the friendships I have made into retirement.

I am most grateful to the Board of Directors (past and present) for allowing me the opportunity to contribute to the well being of the Association.

Thank you to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Houghton
Executive Director
B.C. Speed Skating Association