

SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022

COVID – 19 continued to impact us all again during the 2021 – 2022 skating season.

There have been many positives during the past months all our competitions were able to be held, not on the originally scheduled dates, but our skaters got the opportunity to perform. Thanks to Skate Canada and the BCYK Section's support we were able to live stream some of our competitions. We gathered more often via Zoom with meetings, information sessions and training. Skate Canada Nova Scotia is available anytime to have a meeting with your club and all questions are welcome. If you wish to hold your club AGM with Zoom and do not have an account Skate Canada Nova Scotia would be happy to facilitate the meeting.

An exciting new opportunity was offered to our competitive skaters as they were able to take part in the BC SummerSkate Competition via video. This gave our skaters a great learning opportunity, to see themselves skate with others from across the country, as the videos were submitted prior to the competition.

Nova Scotia was extremely fortunate to be on the ice with covid protocols in place throughout the year, with little interruption. While numbers for the CanSkate Programs have been impacted for some clubs and new to the ice skaters limited, we sincerely hope that the numbers next season rebound, and our clubs continue to produce our next generation of skaters.

A Regional Coach Course was held in August and a planned CanPower Course was cancelled due to small numbers. Skate Canada Nova Scotia recognized that due to Covid restrictions many of our CanSkate trained coaches were not able to complete their videos, therefore we offered an opportunity for those needing to complete videos a session at our expense to assist in the process. Availability of coaches is becoming an increasing issue for many clubs. Coaches are a critical part of our skating community, we realize that the training they must receive to become certified is a commitment, but that training is what gives our skaters the skills to be successful.

Team Challenges that were held in the summer and again in February with remarkable success and spirit. Skater's smiles and talent were inspiring to the officials that assessed their ever improving skating elements. Thanks to all who participated.

Nova Scotia was excited to have a Challenge Team compete in Regina, with representation in Junior, Novice and PreNovice Women, Novice and PreNovice Men and PreNovice Pairs.

Congratulations to Jacob Cote who was the first Nova Scotian to bring home a Skate Canada National Medal since 2009. Jacob earned a bronze medal in the Novice Men's Category and has been selected to participate in the National Nex Gen Program this May.

Congratulations to our ____ newly trained judges, thank you for giving back to our sport. While our judging and technical community numbers are strong, we cannot say the same for the numbers of data specialists. There is a critical need for Data Specialists, these volunteers are responsible for scoring the events. **NO SKATING KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED** and if we do not have volunteers come forth for these positions holding competitions will be exceedingly difficult or costly if it is needed to bring data specialists in from other parts of Canada. Please contact skatecanadans@sportnovascotia if you are interested in giving of some time.

Assessment Days were held regularly throughout the province. The addition of Coach Assessors for Skills in the STAR 6 to Gold is an added bonus to our assessment system.

Thank - you to all the officials, assessment chairs and coaches who helped these happen so successfully!

A reminder to all clubs to send in Executive Lists with e-mail addresses and phone numbers, this is particularly important for the communication of information. 2022 – 2023 Club requirements will again be, the club's Annual General Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements. We would urge all clubs to look at their bylaws in detail to see if the needs of your club are being met by this document. Bylaws should be reviewed annually, and any changes brought forth to the club's Annual General Meeting, with copies being sent to Skate Canada Nova Scotia.

As Section Chair and Executive Director we continue to sit on several committees at Sport Nova Scotia and Skate Canada representing the needs of skating in Nova Scotia.

We would like to thank our funding partners, for without whom many of our projects would not be possible, SUPPORT4SPORT, Sport Nova Scotia, the Department of Community, Culture, Tourism & Heritage, Sport Fund, Skate Canada and KidSport. Without KidSport funding, many children would not have had the opportunity to skate in our province. In 2021 KidSport provided \$20,283.97 for 52 skaters to enjoy our sport. Funding for KidSport went up from \$300.00 per participant to \$500.00, which allowed for more access to programs and equipment.

Despite the challenges of the year our financial picture looks stable. We continue to work with the Xero Accounting Program, learning more each month that will help us to give the most accurate financial picture possible. The Canada Emergency Business Account Loan has given us a cushion until the portion of the loan will be repaid in 2023.

We hope that you are enjoying the fresh look and information on the website, special thanks to Jackie Atkinson, who has done an amazing job for us with our social media platforms.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone in the skating community in Nova Scotia this year for being so supportive and understanding of this ever-changing year.

As a Section we are here to help whatever your questions or concerns may be, we are only an email skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca away. We can be available to come to your club, or Zoom with you, to help in whatever way a club may need.

To our skaters, we do it all for YOU, whether you are 3 old or 93 years old, learning to skate for the first time or going to the Canadians, we are so proud of your accomplishments and love to see your smiling faces at the rink.

Best of luck with the 2022 – 2023 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Knowles
Executive Director
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

Sheila Beard
Chair

