

Presidential Sector

Report by the Chairperson

This was the year of our 40th anniversary and to top it all, we have for a first time a local Olympic medallist. Bravo Joannie, a living model of courage and perseverance. We also had five of our skaters on the Olympic team and we have been very proud of them. Congratulations also to Jessica, Anabelle, Cynthia, Bryce and Cody. Thank you all, fifty percent of the team, it is a victory by itself.

It is very important to highlight the work done by our builders. Think of Jean Dussault who has been the man who headed our sport for so many years and who has largely contributed to the evolution of figure skating within our province. He has done an outstanding job. He has been followed by extraordinary Chairpersons: Carmen Michaud, Jean Cloutier, Pierre Limoges who was also an experienced high level judge and finally Éric Bergeron whose contribution has been a more functional and efficient Board of Directors. I wish to thank them all.

In fact, what have we done to follow their travel towards excellence? We needed a strong team to carry on in what they had started. A different structure and a new approach at the head-office to benefit from the personnel assets available have contributed to a faster progress. We must put trust in experts. The hiring and support of an expert coach has been very beneficial. She has improved the status of coaching by her passion and dedication to the service of skaters. It is a fact that each coach that has been trained through a continuous program brings us ten skaters that are better prepared to face competitions and to perform better. Our skater's development program is the best in Canada and the results prove it. Inviting international judges every year to provide back feeding at our training camps and provincial, national and international competitions is part of this program. What a source of knowledge for our officials and coaches to meet with such experienced officials! Skating is in full evolution and we must do all we can to follow the trend and more so, to be the leaders in this area.

An exceptional work has been done with our judges, data specialists and technical specialists to provide clubs and regions with some of the best and most competent officials in Canada. Finally, we can hope to have sufficient officials to meet the needs of all regions. Many of our officials have been to national competitions and a few have been invited to do trials at international competitions. A first this year : three of our senior judges, André-Marc Allain, Sylvain Guibord and Jérôme Poulin have written their international exam. Congratulations! This will provide a good visibility and possibility for our officials

It is in our best interest that our officials, coaches and volunteers work with the welfare of our skaters in mind so the Fédération could continue to fulfill its mission.

We have consulted a lot during the past few years and it is on account of these consultations that we have progressed so much.

I wish to express our thanks to our generous sponsors for their constant support because without them, such work would not be possible. I think specially of BMO whose extraordinary support provides us with the means of accomplishing great things.

I express my thanks to all for your assistance.

Sylvie Simard
Chairperson