

On behalf of the High Level Skating Club we would like to bring forward the issues that are affecting our club and other clubs in the northerly part of Alberta.

Our club has struggled with hiring certified CanSkate and StarSkate coaches for many years now, due to our location. We were successful in certifying two of our homegrown skaters as CanSkate coaches in 2010, however since this time our coaches have both gone on to further education and once again we struggle, and unfortunately this year we are not able to offer any programs through our club. Some of our StarSkaters moved to a neighboring club at a travel distance of 150km one way to attend lessons three times a week, only to have this clubs StarSkate program also be shut down due to inadequate coach availability.

We are aware that Skate Canada does provide a one time only special permission for CanSkate coaches who are in the process of certifying for Primary StarSkate to provide StarSkate instruction. However this does not permit the StarSkaters the ability to test under a special permission coach. With the limited availability of neighboring clubs having certified StarSkate coaches it makes it almost impossible to complete the certification of these CanSkate coaches to Primary StarSkate coaches. The necessity of completing 50 hours of instruction under a fully certified coach then becomes a large financial/travel/time burden to the club and coach. This of course is only possible if you have a certified CanSkate coach. As we have not been able to offer a StarSkate program for the past few seasons we have not continued to grow our skaters to have the ability to become CanSkate coaches.

As our club struggles with the coaching aspect, we as an organization fail to meet the needs of our communities in offering a skating program.

We as a club and community would like to request that Skate Canada provide our northerly clubs with a year by year exemption of having a fully certified CanSkate coach to run our CanSkate program, we would like the opportunity to be able to use fully capable volunteer coaches who unfortunately do not meet the CanSkate Certification Requirements due to not completing the required amounts of testing at the StarSkate level.

We further would request an extension of the special permission to coach the StarSkate program if we are successful in hiring a fully certified CanSkate coach. The extension of special permission we would look for would be a two-part extension (first year of extension, and a further year extension if proof of home study and registration in upcoming course). With this extension we would also like to request that any StarSkaters being coached under a coach with special permissions be permitted to attend test days.

We do understand that Skate Canada has a high standard of programming and we would maintain that any volunteer coach provide the same quality and quantity of coaching as a CanSkate coach.

The High Level Skating Club has been actively advertising for a skating coach for the last four years and as of yet has not been successful in recruiting.