



**SPORT
BC**

#250 – 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3C1

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

CONTACT: Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Awards Coordinator

604-333-3421

Abdul Shaikh of Badminton BC named recipient of the Daryl Thompson Award

Shaikh to be honoured at a ceremony on March 28, 2018

VANCOUVER, BC (March 5, 2018) — Sport BC is pleased to announce the recipient of the prestigious *Daryl Thompson Award* is Abdul Shaikh of Badminton BC! The Daryl Thompson Award is proudly sponsored by the BC Games Society and named in honour of the late Daryl Thompson, former chair of Sport BC. Daryl's contribution to sport as an athlete, coach and executive officer were exemplary. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has contributed their time in an extraordinary way to sport over a long period of time or has made a major contribution to amateur sport in British Columbia. Congratulations Abdul!!

The BC Games Society is the organization responsible for setting the ongoing policy and direction of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. The BC Games is the leadership organization that guides the BC Winter and BC Summer Games and prepares Team BC for national multi-sport Games. They build on the expertise and support of partners to create development opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and communities. Credit: BC Games Society Website

We are proud to be the longest standing sport recognition event in Canada and this year signifies a historic achievement for sport with our 52nd anniversary. The 52nd Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala dinner is set for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver Hotel. The ceremonies will recognize BC's best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport over the 2017 season. Each finalist was nominated by their Provincial or Multi-Sport Organization, High School, College or University. The Selection Committee, chaired by Bernie Pascall, included 16 highly regarded sportswriters, broadcasters, and amateur sport leaders in British Columbia.

Abdul Shaikh is a distinguished sport leader who has made an outstanding contribution to the sport of Badminton. When Abdul landed in Toronto he had \$80 dollars in his pocket, two suitcases, two children, and his number one supporter by his side, his wife.

The year was 1967 and Shaikh, and his wife Val, arrived in Canada as India's premier Badminton players. Nearly 50+ years later, Abdul has become one of BC's most celebrated leaders in the sport. The Canada Games Council inducted him into its Hall of Honour on February 12th, 2015 in Prince George recognizing his dedication to sport, as well as his excellence and leadership.

Abdul has been a Racquets Professional at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club for thirty years and he couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities that position afforded him. He's worked with hundreds of athletes of all levels of the sport, worked tirelessly to shape talent, strengthen the badminton community, and increase participation at a provincial and national level. Abdul's efforts were recognized with the naming their badminton hall after Abdul when he retired in 1999.

Since 1971, Abdul himself represented BC at the Canada Winter Games as a badminton athlete and then went on to coach many editions of Team BC over the years. His coaching career culminating with a number of National Team assignments including coach of the Olympic Team in the 1996 Games in Atlanta.



Between his appearances as a Coach, Abdul worked tirelessly to grow talent at home and build a solid foundation of athletes on the performance pathway to becoming Canada’s next generation of national team athletes; and many did, including and Claire Sharpe (Backhouse), a BC Hall of Fame Inductee. Abdul coached Canada Games alums Anil Kaul (now President of Badminton Canada) and Darryl Yung before leading them to the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics as the Olympic Coach.

At the age of 85 one might wonder just how long Shaikh is planning on dedicating his time to the next generation of badminton players and coaches. “I will coach and mentor coaches as long as I can,” he says. “Forever – why not? I can walk, I can see, I might not move like a young man but it’s my passion. Our future is in our young people and I want them to be involved in sport, so I must remain in sport.”

While you will find Abdul’s extensive list of accomplishments and awards in the Provincial and National Sport Association record books, what you may not find in the statistics is the depth of his generosity, selflessness, and the extent of his positive influence on the lives of those who have been lucky enough to be coached or mentored by him. Shaikh has spent the past five decades working with athletes, coaches and administrators. He knows first-hand what it takes to become great. “Attitude is essential,” he said. “You have to be willing to learn, willing to take chances, willing to work hard. Yes, the other pieces are important – agility, balance, coordinator, technical work, paperwork, administration – but you must do it from your heart and then it becomes very easy for a coach and support.”

While he is technically retired, Abdul’s passion for badminton keeps him involved as a builder, as a developer of talent, and as a mentor for those who are fortunate enough to know him.

“The recipient of the Daryl Thompson Award is determined by the Sport BC Board of Directors”, notes President & CEO of Sport BC, Rob Newman. “Over the last several years, we have received numerous nominations for individuals that are all representative of the characteristics that are reflective of the late Daryl Thompson and it positively exemplifies the spirit of sport in British Columbia. On behalf of Sport BC and the Board of Directors, congratulations Abdul!”

Tickets are now available through *Eventbrite*:
[Purchase your Athlete of the Year Awards tickets here!](#)



About the Athlete of the Year Awards

The Athlete of the Year Awards, founded by Sport BC, is the longest standing amateur sport recognition event in the country. Awards in 18 different categories are given each year to athletes, coaches, and officials on their performance and contribution to sport in the province of British Columbia. The awards play a valuable role in nurturing athletic success while recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in BC.

24th Annual Presidents Awards

The 24th Annual Presidents Awards is proudly sponsored by *Sports with Balls*. This group is comprised of Basketball BC, Volleyball BC, BC Lacrosse Association, BC Soccer Association, Softball BC, Baseball BC, Tennis BC and the BC Ringette Association. These awards are presented annually to volunteers from Sport BC member organizations who represent the spirit of volunteerism, and whose dedication, energy, and commitment contribute to the development of their sport or organization.



About Sport BC

In 1966, a small group of dedicated volunteers created an organization to provide a unified voice for amateur sport in British Columbia. While much has changed in 52 years, our core purpose remains the same.

Who we are:

Sport BC is the non-profit sport federation, representing over 60 Provincial Sport Organizations in British Columbia. As a member-based organization, Sport BC offers services and programs to build the capacity of our members and advocate on their behalf to improve the landscape for organized sport in BC.

Mission:

Sport BC, as a member-based organization, supports the growth of amateur sport in BC and provides leadership through delivery of its programs and services for members.

Vision:

Sport in British Columbia is thriving through the leadership of Sport BC and our members.

Values:

Integrity, Transparency, Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation

For additional information, please contact

Rob Newman

President & CEO, Sport BC

Tel: 604-340-8432

Email: rob.newman@sportbc.com

Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Coordinator, Sport BC

Tel: 604-333-3421

Email: christine@sportbc.com

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS: *For a list of previous award winners and additional information, including recognition of our corporate and community sponsors and partners, please visit:*

www.sportbc.com