

2010 Bobbie Steen Awards of Excellence Recipients Announced

APRIL 1, 2010

On Wednesday March 31st ProMOTION Plus honoured Denise Coutts and the Kamloops Long Blades, this year's Bobbie Steen Award of Excellence recipients at the annual ceremony held in conjunction with Sport BC President's Awards at the River Rock Casino in Richmond, BC. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for the phenomenal work that you do for women and girls in sport.

2010 Career Achievement Award: Denise Coutts

One look at Denise's extensive resume shows her undeniable love for sport and commitment to promoting women in the BC sport system. Her many contributions include 20 years of managing and playing in the Vancouver Basketball Commission's Women's League and helping to aim the spotlight on women in sport through her work on the Minerva Foundation's Women in Sport Award. Denise has amassed more than 25 years of provincial, national, international and multi-games sport experience as a player, coach, volunteer and administrator. Denise is a certified coach in basketball, volleyball, softball and ringette and has coached at the community, elementary, high school, post-secondary, regional and elite levels. As an athlete she excelled in basketball and continued to compete in spite of personal health issues. Her dedication to staying active led to her being awarded the 2000 Harry Jerome Come Back Award. Through her passion, energy, creativity and commitment, Denise models the way to contribute to the community through sport.

2010 Development Award: Kamloops Long Blades

The Long Blades Short Track Speed Skating Club was founded in 1992 by former speed skater Sandi Vyse, her mother, Phyllis Vyse, Bill Zirnhelt and Sharon Wall. Making sports accessible to girls is the goal of the club and they ensure that girls are participating at all levels. Recognizing that it is important to have female role models, the club works to encourage young women to become coaches and officials. This award will enable the club to support the training and certification of 6 women to become starters and referees. Once trained at level 2, these women will officiate in local competitions, and the club plans to develop their skills further to officiate at provincial, national and international competitions.

The **Career Achievement Award** recognizes mature outstanding role models who have, over the course of their career championed women in sport and physical activity. (no cash disbursement).

The **Development Award** of \$1500 is given to an individual or organization for a new or existing program or for professional development which champions women in sport and physical activity.