

ProMOTION Plus and Sport BC To Celebrate Three Inspiring Women

For Immediate Release – March 23, 2021 – (Vancouver, BC)

ProMOTION Plus is excited to recognize three deserving women at the upcoming Virtual Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards on Thursday, March 25th, 2021. Two women will be honoured with the prestigious *In Her Footsteps . . . Celebrating BC Women in Sport* recognition program and one recipient will receive the **Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award**.

In Her Footsteps Honourees



DIANA BARKLEY, Whiterock

Diana is dedicated to the sport of figure skating, from being an active participant, to volunteering to heading up the adult figure skating section of the International Skating Union. Diana is always promoting the sport and believes in the motto “skating for life”. Diana is the go-to-person for many BC skaters both locally and internationally. She has organized many figure skating seminars so adults can improve their skills. She remains committed to her goal to enable everyone who wants to skate to have the opportunity to do so. In all her roles she has been dedicated mentoring young women and lead them by example that a work, sport, and life balance it possible!



PATRICIA VERTINSKY, Vancouver

Dr. Patricia Vertinsky is a clear pioneer in gendered sport and health culture. She is regarded as perhaps the most influential thinker and producer in the fields relating to sport studies. As a social and cultural historian her research focused on the body and its role in society. She is Past-President of the North American Society for Sport History, Vice-President of the International Society of Sport, and is a University of British Columbia Distinguished University Scholar. Her exemplary leadership in various roles where she continues to inspire and support future scholars. Patricia is a champion of critical thinking and discourse on society, gender, and physical culture.

Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award Recipient



MEGHAN HEBERT, Whistler

Before moving into a role as a high-performance coach for the BC Provincial Snowboard Cross Team, Meghan was an athlete on the team, winning the South American Snowboard Cup. Meghan began her coaching career working closely with different female-only programs in Whistler. This led her to work alongside many women who continue to influence her. It hasn't always been easy for Meghan working in a heavily male-dominated environment, but through hard work and perseverance, Meghan has broken down barriers to get to where she is today. Meghan hopes to pass on what she's learned to other women whose goal is to coach at any level through her own experiences.

"The Athlete of the Year Awards is a celebration of sport in British Columbia and we are looking forward to showcasing a wide variety of stories during the event. Our **2020 In Her Footsteps Honourees and Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award Recipient**, are exceptional choices to be recognized by ProMOTION Plus," shares Sport BC's President and CEO, Rob Newman. "We look forward to learning more about their important Gender Equity work at our upcoming **Athlete of the Year Awards**."

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About ProMOTION Plus

As a long-term non-profit society in the BC sport sector, ProMOTION Plus joined Sport BC in March 2019 as an operating committee of the organization. ProMOTION Plus has been committed to increasing opportunities for girls and women in physical activity and sport since 1990, supporting female athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and administrators reach their potential. Under the umbrella of Sport BC, ProMOTION Plus is able to strengthen its impact by delivering expertise in gender equity and recognition to Sport BC members and the community at large. Keep up to date @ProMOTION_Plus

About Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation

The Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award is a \$2000 grant, awarded to an emerging female leader in BC whose dedication to the women and girls of BC parallels that of Bobbie Steen and the Foundation. The Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation has been created to provide financial support to charitable activities dedicated to advancing gender equity in physical activity and sport and/or the

community betterment resulting from female involvement in physical activity and sport. Over 30 young women have been awarded this prestigious grant.

About Sport BC

Sport BC believes in the power of sport and is committed to building stronger communities through positive sport experiences. Our goal is to enhance and support sport participation in British Columbia ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Through our KidSport BC, BC Amateur Sport Fund, and ProMOTION Plus along with our services Sport BC Insurance, and Payroll and Group Benefits; Sport BC supports our sixty plus member organizations. Keep up to date @SportBC

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Athlete of the Year Awards

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#SportBCAOY