

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR ROLES

THOMPSON/OKANAGAN ZONE

Ben Mihailescu

Ben started skiing at an early age in Europe, volunteered as a Ski Patroller for 6 years in Ontario, and became a member of the CSIA in 1995, 28 years ago.

Teaching skiing at Snow Valley Ski Resort in Ontario seemed like a great way to make new friendships and learn all about the Canadian skiing world. He has since worked as a Ski Pro in Ontario, Quebec, New Zealand, and BC snow schools and resorts.

Along the way, he went back to school and earned a Bachelor of Commerce in Management Information Systems from Concordia University in Montreal. He built a 30-year career around Management in Information Technology and Project Management, working with education organizations like McGill University in Montreal and UBCO in Kelowna, as well as for-profit businesses in various industries.

His love of teaching skiing kept him always involved part-time or full-time as a Ski Pro and this allowed him to earn his CSIA Level 3, TD, and CSCF Level 1. In 2016, after moving as a family to Kelowna, BC it has all come full circle working as a full-time Ski Pro and GAP Trainer at Big White Ski Resorts in the Okanagan Valley.

He would like to represent the Thompson/Okanagan Zone membership to the CSIA BC Board of Directors and bring his experience, transparency, and passion for skiing and training new instructors, helping them achieve their goals in an atmosphere that brings joy and fulfillment.

Christopher Young

My name is Christopher Young. I am writing to express my interest in filing to the BC Regional Board seat for the Thompson Okanagan region.

Currently, I am employed as a full-time ski instructor at SilverStar Mountain Resort under the direction of Tom Gibson (Ski School Manager) and Norman Kreutz (Technical Director). I am a CSIA Level III, CSIA Level I Course Conductor, ACA Level II, working towards my CSIA Level IV. As a trainer for our resorts Internship programs as well as Head Coach for our weekend youth programs, I have a strong understanding of what is needed to be a valued ski instructor.

Having grown up in BC since 1976, skiing at SilverStar from that time until present day, teaching/coaching since 2002, I have been fortunate enough to see the ski industry grow and change.

My hope is to help shape the direction of ski teaching within British Columbia and nationally. As an organization it is the CSIA's duty to create strong relationships with our membership, our resorts owners and operators, Alpine Canada, along with all other ski industry partners. If you choose to have me as the Thompson Okanagan representative, I will bring a new set of eyes to the organization helping the CSIA thrive and move forward.

I am excited to put my name forward and to have an opportunity to work with the CSIA on a more internal level.

Daran Young

My name is Daran Young, and I am putting my name forward for the 2023 election for the Thompson/Okanagan Zone Director position. I have extensive experience within the ski industry. I started skiing when I was seven and had an instant passion. This has led me to make skiing a career. I have worked my way through the system to become a level 4, working at multiple BC ski resorts along the way. The most recent has been as the training supervisor at Sun Peaks Resort. I also have a background in hospitality and management.

The vision of my role in this position is to bring better communication for all the members. I would like to see every member have as many opportunities as possible as part of the CSIA BC. This would be in the form of the board having clear and frequent updates. Programs, scholarships, bursaries, and events are some of the areas I would like to see more communication on. I would like to see as many BC members as possible be able to take advantage of these programs. With all the changes that have happened recently on the board, I would like to keep the focus on all our BC members and what we can do for them.

It would be a privilege to be a board member of the BC CSIA. I look forward to improving membership involvement and engagement on all levels.

Michael Sinclair

I have been a ski instructor for over 20 years now. I began in the industry working at Lake Louise and moved on to instruct at Whistler. Thereafter I pursued a law degree and shifted into the practice of law, doing some coaching on the side. In the past few years I have re-entered instructing / coaching with the Vernon Ski Club where I have been both a member of the board (up until this year) and a coach. I hold my Level III CSIA and DL Trained with the CSCF.

I have worked at hills small and large with some (namely my home mountain Silverstar) in-between. This gives me a good view to the different needs of instructors at different sized resorts. It is important to me that the CSIA pursue an approach in BC that serves all instructors, no matter whether they work for a large hill close to a major center or a smaller resort in one of the more remote regions of the province.

My 16 years of practicing law gives me a unique approach towards board work when combined with my instructing and coaching experience. I am currently the past-chair of the Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia. That position gives me unique insight into the delivery of continued professional development, some of which will be applicable to the CSIA. I also had the opportunity to take board governance training through that role which would serve me well on the CSIA BC board.

Rachel Taylor

Hi, I'm Rachel from Sun Peaks! I started teaching skiing when I was 15 years old at a small ski hill just outside Ottawa and moved to BC in 2014 to pursue it full time. I now live full time in Sun Peaks, and love teaching every kind of lesson from tots to adults to gap programs! I am a part time supervisor within the ski school and a CSIA course conductor. As a new level four, I can't wait for the season ahead!

My vision for the CSIA in BC is one full of excitement, passion, and diversity. I would love to create more events that are fun and accessible to attract new members and keep current members passionate about learning and skiing. Combining all of the amazing experience and wisdom within our industry with innovative, exciting ideas to make skiing fun and exciting for everyone!

For the last couple of years, I have been the community coordinator for the Women in Skiing mentorship program at Sun Peak and have really enjoyed being more involved with the CSIA. While completing my Human Rights degree at university, I was a part of several different student groups and organizing committees. This experience was so valuable in teaching me skills and strategies to work as a team, organize effectively, and plan events successfully. These skills, along with my ski experience, would make me a great fit for the board!

SOUTHWESTERN ZONE

Colin Wilson

With over a decade of dedicated service in the ski resort industry, I am a seasoned professional who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. My journey began as a passionate skier, and over the years, I have successfully obtained my CSIA Level 3 certification, a testament to my commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in ski instruction.

My career in the ski resort industry has been nothing short of diverse. I've had the privilege of working in various roles, both in winter and summer operations. From slope management to guest services, I've gained a comprehensive understanding of the resort's dynamics and the multifaceted needs of our visitors. However, what truly drives me is my vision for the Canadian Ski Instructors' Alliance (CSIA) and specifically, the CSIA in BC. I firmly believe that it's crucial to open up our organization to a younger and more diverse demographic. To achieve this, I aim to help develop innovative programs and approaches that resonate with the interests and expectations of today's generation. My goal is not only to share my wealth of knowledge but also to inspire and mentor young individuals in the industry.

Incorporating my CSIA Level 3 certification and extensive ski resort experience, I am determined to help lead the CSIA into an era of engagement, inclusivity, and enthusiasm. Together, we can harness the passion for skiing and introduce it to a broader audience, ensuring the future of the sport remains bright and vibrant.

Mark John-David Thomson

Skiing is one of my strongest passions and has been since I started skiing as a child, nearly 60 years ago. My love for the sport blossomed in 1965, when I did my first turns at Whistler Creekside, the start of what is now one of the very best ski resorts in the world! Many years later I became a member of the Whistler Blackcomb Snow School where I spent 13 years teaching all levels of skiers. After starting at Kids Camp, I moved on to the Blackcomb Privates pod and worked with some of the best pros in the industry.

When not skiing, I was busy with my work in the medical technology industry, where I held senior executive and board roles and developed valuable skills in key functional areas including finance, operations, corporate strategy and governance, market development, team building and fundraising. It is these same skills which I believe can be applied to the Southwestern BC Region Board of the CSIA. I am an active member of the CSIA and maintain my Level 2 certification each year. I am also a 'gym rat' and workout on a daily basis to maintain a strong level of fitness for skiing and other sports activities.

My hope is to apply my on snow and corporate experience to increase the visibility and accessibility of the CSIA for both existing and new members towards an expanded program offering and enhanced experience for everyone in the BC Region of the CSIA.

Michel "Meesh" Berthoud

I am seeking re-election to the CSIA BC/Yukon Board for a 2nd term. I still possess the same passion and drive as when I started this journey and feel like I have more to contribute to this great organization that has given me so many great opportunities and experiences.

My vision for the CSIA in BC/Yukon is one of enthusiasm, passion, and community that creates strong, collaborative relationships with all our membership, snow schools, and industry partners. It's time to reconnect with why we all love to ski and bring back the fun, the passion to all resorts, big and small.

By supporting our ski community through regional events, scholarships, bursaries, training opportunities and resources, we can provide value for our membership and continue to grow stronger.

The CSIA is currently undergoing a change in its governance structure and as a director with one term experience, I would like the opportunity to continue being a part of this process. Now is the time for everyone (members, boards, industry) to work together and continue to evolve for the benefit of our membership, the ski industry and the overall betterment of our organization.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Al Dubé

I passed my level 1 in 1986 and have been ski teaching on and off ever since, truly ski teaching brings me joy! I have traveled and taught in France, Japan and on both coasts of Canada. Currently working part time at Whistler Blackcomb as a Level III CSIA, ACA II and Cads instructor. I am relatively new to the BC scene and believe I bring a fresh set of eyes at the board level and given the changes withing ski teaching and the CSIA recently would likely be welcomed, I am keen to get involved at the board level.

I am the past Board Chair for Make-A-Wish Atlantic, sat on the National Make-A-Wish leadership council and currently am Treasurer of a non-profit in Victoria.

I am a Financial Professional with work in Wealth management, cost accounting, managerial accounting, and capital budgeting, I have operated and managed retail operations, gov't run entities, currently my own financial planning firm amongst others. Experience in the professional and non-profit world as a Board

Chair and Treasurer has given me firsthand experience in long term strategic planning and governance within the non-profit world.

I would like to see the CSIA in BC continue to promote our love of the sport and of ski teaching to new and existing Members. I would also emphasize transparency and communication between the board and the membership and to be a strong voice at the national level.

Amy McCarthy

I am currently the Director at Large on the CSIA BC board. I live and work in Whistler BC and am passionate about the ski industry, particularly Women in Skiing. I want to see improved numbers of women performing at higher levels and in more leadership roles within the snow sports industry.

I am seeking a second term to provide continuity and stability to the current board. I have been involved in creating the CSIA BC scholarships during the height of Covid which gave our members much needed financial support. I have also assisted with setting up Bursaries and have been involved in various nomination committees during my tenure. I assisted with the CSIA BC Speaker Series and other membership engagement opportunities over the past 3 years.

I continually support Women in Skiing and feel we will continue to need female representation on the CSIA BC board. We also need to do more for our younger members and members from all backgrounds. I want to encourage and grow those demographics as much as possible. I look forward to the opportunity to represent all BC and Yukon CSIA members once more, and to finish work that I have started.

Don Pitman

Bio coming soon

Mark Impey

Previous Board and/or Ski Industry Experience

My name is Mark Impey, I am seeking your vote for the CSIA-BC Board Director at Large Position. I am CSIA Level 4 Certified and have worked for close to 20 years on the Level 4 program, I remain an active CSIA Course Conductor. I have previously held the positions of CSIA Western Program Director and the CSIA-BC On Snow Level 1 Co-ordinator. I have attained my CSCF Level 3 Certification. I have also worked for many years in Australia as an Instructor and Race Coach, where I also served as a Senior Level Examiner for the APSI. I have previously served one term on the BC Board. I am CASI Level 2 Certified, I

strive to attain the CASI Level 3 Certification-to keep moving forward. My home resort is Red Mountain where I run the Canadian Ski Quest program. I am grateful to the CSIA for providing me with direction and camaraderie throughout my 38 year career, I feel I am now in a position to give back to the CSIA by serving on the CSIA-BC Board as your Director at Large.

Why I would be an ideal candidate

I have been fortunate enough, through the CSIA, to have instructed at almost all of the Ski Resorts and Clubs in BC. The Director at Large position on the CSIA-BC Board should be responsible for creating and maintaining a bond amongst the diverse regions and Ski Resorts of British Columbia. Through the CSIA, I have become well connected with CSIA Members and Ski Area Operators throughout BC. I believe these connections are imperative in order to create an environment of collaboration at a time when the CSIA finds itself in a state of competition.

Vision for the CSIA in the BC Region

Being a member driven not-for-profit organization, the CSIA-BC Board needs to continue to be in tune with the unique needs of the various CSIA-BC regions, as well as the Ski Area Operators. As the Director at Large I would see it as my duty to manifest this information into events, scholarships, and programming that benefit all CSIA-BC regions collaboratively and proportionally.

Tom Klingspohn

Hello everyone, I am an ideal candidate for the Director at Large, because I am a very good listener. I travel our region each season teaching courses. This gives me the opportunity to listen to many members and Snowschool Directors in our region and can bring this information back to the board.

I have extensive board experience with the CSIA. In my years, as a manager of snow schools, I have become passionate about our members. I interact with new and experienced ski professionals daily and have seen how the needs of our members has changed over the years.

We are at a crucial stage in our organization's history, and we need to be at our absolute best. My vision for the CSIA in the BC region is to ensure we are transparent, listening and delivering what the members want and the snow schools need. I believe in delivering the best instructor training to help our members be the best product on snow for our industry partners. Everyone who teaches skiing must have a good understanding of technique, methodology and what it takes to deliver great customer experiences.

I want to help the BC Board listen to the members, share their needs with the CSIA and ensure that we are partners in the development of future ski professionals who, ultimately, share their passion with our ski resort guests.

NORTHERN ZONE

Jesse Wright

Jesse has been an active ski instructor since 2008 when he started working for his local hill as an assistant and has never looked back. He was a full-time ski instructor for a decade, working in Ontario at Devil's Elbow Ski Area. In 2016 he chased the snow and taught in Australia at Perisher Ski Resort during Canada's summer season. He has also taught for Brimacombe Ski Area, and as a Municipal instructor for the City of Toronto at Earl Bales and for the District of Mackenzie at Little Mac. Jesse currently has half of his Level 3 Certification along with his Level 1 Coach and Level 1 CADS Certification.

Jesse is currently a Municipal Councillor for the District of Mackenzie. He also works as a Child & Youth Worker for a local non-profit. Jesse sits on numerous boards including the CNC Community Advisory Committee for Mackenzie, NDIT's Regional Advisory Committee, is an alternate director for the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, a Council Liaison for Mackenzie's New Horizon's for Seniors Project and previously sat on the Board of Directors for the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce.

Jesse wants to ensure the north is represented by CSIA BC. Jesse was an active member of the CSIA in Ontario, taking numerous courses and working his way through the certification pathway. Since moving to BC in 2019, his connection to the CSIA has gone away. He wants to change that. Jesse wants to ensure skiers in Northern BC feel the CSIA represents them.