



**British Columbia Speed Skating Association**

PO Box 2023 Station A, Abbotsford BC V2T 3T8 Tel: 604.746.4349 Fax: 604.746.4549

**PARTNERS**



CANADA



**Memorializing the BC Long Track 5,000m Open**

To All Members of BCSSA

As President of the British Columbia Speed Skating Association it is my honor to announce that the Open 5000 metre race held annually during the BC Long Track will now and in the future be named, The Randy Sulyma Memorial 5,000m Open

This past March the Board received an email requesting that consideration be made to naming the Open LT 5,000 in the memory of Randy Sulyma.

As you may remember, in January 2011, Randy was tragically lost in a motor vehicle accident while travelling to Fort St. John for the BC Long Track Championships. Randy was a driving force behind speed skating in Northern British Columbia and, in particular, his hometown Fort St. James for more than twenty years.

While I did not know Randy, I have come to find out that he spent many hours over many years providing guidance, coaching and showing his love of sport to his skaters, fellow coaches and all members of our association he touched.

The letter was received from Sylvia Masich who skates with the Prince George Blizzard In her letter she wrote:

*Randy had a special way of connecting and recognizing individual skaters. This comment from a Vanderhoof parent captures the essence of Randy's ability to connect with the kids: "You could tell he was passionate for the sport...there was no question...the kids always came first. Both my children experienced this first hand as he would tell them how much they had improved since the last time he saw them race. As neither of them are high performance athletes but love speed skating, they noticed that he noticed and were encouraged by and appreciated the fact he made the effort to say so."*

*Randy's commitment, enthusiasm, laughter and determination sped not only the Falcons club forward, but also speed skating in the north.*

*Commitment, Enthusiasm, Laughter and Determination*, words that describe not only Randy but each member of our association.

On behalf of the Board of BCSSA, I would like to thank Sylvia for her letter. As this announcement comes just before the 2016 BCLT I look forward to watching the participants race this first annual and enjoy the experiences ahead.

Thank you

Kindest Regards



Dave McQuaid  
President