

For immediate release

Darren Wilcox elected Chair of Sask Sport Inc.

Darren Wilcox was elected Chair of Sask Sport Inc.'s Board of Directors today at the sport federation's annual general meeting in Regina. Wilcox joined the board in 2015 after being nominated by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. He has served on the board as the Vice Chair of Lotteries and as a member of the Sport Committee, Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan (CSCS) Management Committee, Lottery Division Committee, Audit Committee and Dispute Resolution Committee.

In addition to his volunteer activities with Sask Sport Inc., Wilcox has been responsible for fundraising for the University of Regina men's hockey team and has served on the board of the University of Regina Cougar Hockey Alumni Association. He has also organized several golf tournaments for the university as well as the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers.

He replaces outgoing Chair Tavia Laliberte, who remains on the board as Past Chair. The other members elected to Sask Sport Inc.'s Executive were:

Misty Alexandre, Vice Chair, Sport Division

In 2016-17, Alexandre served on the Aboriginal Sport Leadership Council, Administration Center Advisory Committee, Dispute Resolution Committee and Provincial KidSport Committee. She was nominated to the board in 2016 by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. She has been the chair of the KidSport Saskatoon Breakfast Committee and one of the lead organizers for the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) Huskie Women's Hockey Alumni. She was also a committee member for the U of S Ice Facility Campaign and has served as a colour commentator for the U of S Huskie Women's Hockey Team web broadcasts.

Leslie Blyth, Vice Chair, Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

Blyth was the Chair of Sport Funding Committee in 2016-17, and served on the Officials Advisory Committee, Trust Committee and Community Funding Committee. Blyth was nominated to the board by the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) in 2016. She has been a strong supporter of soccer for almost 20 years. She has been a SSA board member since 1998, serving as president, vice-president and past president and participating on many committees. During her time as president, she had the opportunity to chair several provincial competitions and serve as the provincial representative for the Canadian Soccer Association National Championships.

Todd Hollinger, Vice Chair, Saskatchewan Lotteries

In 2016-17, Hollinger served on the Sport Committee, CSCS Management Committee and Lottery Division Committee. Hollinger was nominated to the board by the University of Regina in 2016. He has spent several years coaching in Hockey Regina and has participated in the growth of the Cougar Hockey Alumni Association, which raises money for scholarships and brings together members of the business community. He has also served as a volunteer coach in the Regina Community Basketball League.

Cathy Gale, Secretary Treasurer

Gale was the Vice Chair of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund in 2016-17, served as Chair of both the Trust Committee and Community Funding Committee, and also served on the Audit Committee. Gale was nominated to the board by Softball Saskatchewan in 2015. She has coached softball for 17 years at the Division 1 Level and has served on the Regina Ringette and Softball Regina Board of Directors. She was also a member of the 2013 Grey Cup planning committee.

New members elected to the board include:

Kenric Exner, Regina, Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Exner has spent the past five years coaching in the 345 Fun Hockey League. Over the years, he has organized and instructed various youth private hockey schools and instructed specialized goalie clinics for the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. Exner played minor hockey in Regina with the Pat Canadians and went on to play hockey in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, Western Hockey League, American Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League, Australian Hockey League and in the Allan Cup.

Al Dyer, Prince Albert, Special Olympics Saskatchewan

Dyer has been actively involved with Special Olympics Saskatchewan, previously serving as chairman of the board and the audit committee. He is the organizer of the North Female Hockey Program. Dyer has been involved in several major events: 2015 Special Olympic Canada Summer Games (mission staff), 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Games (chairman) and 2013 Special Olympics Canada National Games (mission staff).

Chris Keleher, Eston, Rivers West District

Keleher is the recreation director for the Town of Eston. He volunteers as a coach, evaluator and mentor for the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. Prior to his current position, Keleher was employed as a program recruiter/camp coordinator by Notre Dame College and a camp coordinator by the University of Guelph.

Dale Reed, Regina, Gymnastics Saskatchewan

Reed has been an active board member with Gymnastics Saskatchewan over the past five years, serving on the nomination committee, strategic planning committee and ends policy committee. He has also served two terms on the Gymnastics Canada board of directors. Reed is the referee-in-chief for the Regina Community Basketball Association and is responsible for recruiting, training, mentoring, evaluating officials and providing advice to the board of directors.

Elan Ballantyne, Saskatoon, Golf Saskatchewan

Ballantyne is a community consultant for the City of Saskatoon and the director of golf and basketball for EB Sports Academy. She has been actively involved with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball Foundation, serving as chairman of the golf tournament committee and as a committee member on the annual breakfast committee.

Other board members returning this year are: Dave Boan, nominated to the board in 2015 by Water Polo Saskatchewan; and Patti Sandison-Cattell, 2016, Skate Canada Saskatchewan.

Sask Sport Inc. would like to thank the following board members whose terms are completed this year: Todd Fuchs, Football Saskatchewan; Garth Belanger, Saskatchewan Hockey Association; Larry Lafrentz, Saskatchewan Games Council; and Jerry Shoemaker, Saskatchewan Curling Association.

For either more information or a copy of Sask Sport's 2016-17 annual report, contact Pat Rediger at (306) 780-9307 or prediger@sasksport.sk.ca.