

## **A CELEBRATION OF MANITOBA'S BEST COACHES**

**April 3, 2009** – Manitoba coaches will be honoured for their contribution to sport, leadership, personal development and coaching effectiveness.

The Coaching Manitoba Excellence Awards are an annual event established to celebrate Manitoba's best coaches. These awards are designed to acknowledge the contributions coaches have made to their sport and athletes over a number of years.

"Recognizing coaches is an essential part of what we do," states Greg Guenther, Director of Coaching for Sport Manitoba. "It's very important to formally recognize the dedication, hard work and commitment our coaches are making to the community and the amateur sport system."

The Coaching Manitoba Excellence Awards celebrate four categories, which include Grassroots, Developmental, High Performance and School System.

The finalists for this year's Coaching Manitoba Excellence Awards are:

### **Vince Leah Memorial Award – Grassroots**

- Tony Franklin – Hockey (Brandon)
- Peggy Glassco – Artistic Gymnastics (Winnipeg)
- Arleigh Mackenzie – Rugby (Winnipeg)
- Sue Sutherland – Figure Skating (Thompson)

### **Dr. Jack Hunt Memorial Award – Developmental**

- Pedro Daza – Soccer (Winnipeg)
- Roslyn Evason – Special Olympics (Brandon)
- Dan Gilbert – Volleyball (Winnipeg)
- Bob Lawrie – Alpine Ski (Winnipeg)

### **Peter Williamson Memorial Award – High Performance**

- Janet Arnott – Curling (Winnipeg)
- Kevin Benson – Hockey (Winnipeg)
- Tammy Fournier – Figure Skating (Brandon)
- Cheryl Jean-Paul – Basketball (Winnipeg)

### **Peter Dick Award – School Systems**

- Rene Comeault – Athletics (Stonewall)
- Daryl Ford – Volleyball (Winnipeg)
- Andrew Harder – Hockey (Winnipeg)
- Philip Hudson – Volleyball (Winnipeg)
- Kelsey McKay – Football (Winnipeg)

Honourees at the brunch will also include Manitoba coaches who coached internationally in 2008, as well as those that have dedicated thirty years of service to their sport in the province.

The awards brunch will be held Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 10am the Hilton Suites Winnipeg Airport, located at 1800 Wellington Avenue.

Coach Bios are available upon request.

Sport Manitoba is a not for profit organization and the lead planning, programming and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba. Sport Manitoba partners with over 100 organizations to deliver sport in our province and is responsible for programs including the Power Smart Manitoba Games, Coaching Manitoba, Team Manitoba, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and KidSport.

*“Good coaches build better people!”*

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For more information contact:

Tara Skibo  
Communications Officer  
Sport Manitoba  
w. 925-5735  
c. 781-6782  
[taraskibo@sport.mb.ca](mailto:taraskibo@sport.mb.ca)