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**ON TRACK 3.1:
NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE
THE NEWSLETTER FOR OFFICIALS, ATHLETES, COACHES
AND ADMINISTRATORS**

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WALL OF HONOUR

Congratulations to three inductees to the Athletics Canada Officials Wall of Honour. Ian Gordon, Helen Vasilic and Peter Hocking are officials with over 100 years of collective service.

Ian Gordon of Calgary Alberta has been officiating for 30 years. He is a Level 5 Track Referee, and a National Mentor and Clinician. He has officiated at multiple national championships, the IAAF Championships, NACAC and World Masters championships. He,s been a member of both the Alberta Officials Committee and the National Officials Committee. In 2016 he was the Athletics Canada Official of the Year.

Helen has over 30 years of officiating experience. She is dedicated, enthusiastic, righteous in principle and she loves her work. She has been Chief Umpire or Track Referee at several major championship events, including Special Olympics and Para events. Helen has been the chief organizer of the well-respected roster of officials in Windsor, Ontario. She has been the Officials Coordinator for countless meets including Canadian Championships and Pan Am Juniors. She served on the provincial executive for many years and also serves on the National Officials Committee.

Peter has officiated in various capacities at all levels of meets from twilight to International. An IAAF Race Walk Judge, Level 5 Track Referee, Umpire and National Technical Official, Mentor and Clinician, Peter has officiated in Australia, Malaysia, Jamaica, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile and the USA, and at World Championships, World Junior Championships, Commonwealth Games, NACAC championships and numerous Canadian championships.



SASKATCHEWAN NEWS



OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Don Hedman is a Vert Jumps 4, Umpire 3 and Hort Jumps 3 official.

Don began officiating during the 2000/01 season. His daughters joined the track community that year and they encouraged him to begin officiating. He finds the work very gratifying to watch athletes grow and develop into respectable young adults. As long as kids keep joining track and field, Don will be there to encourage and help.

NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

Nova Scotia's Officials of the year is Heather Maessen.

Heather Maessen is recognized as our Official of the Year for 2018. Heather has been an Athletics NS official for over fifteen years. Not only does she help our organization but she dedicates many hours to Special Olympics NS as well. She is a positive and reliable presence at the Vertical Jumps at most, if not all, of our Athletics NS meets. She is also trained as a Track Umpire and is Level 3 designated official in the Vertical Jumps. She officiates from high school meets to National Level meets - having volunteered her time at past Legion Youth Championships. She has immense knowledge in the area of vertical jumps and is willing to mentor new officials in that area at any given time. People like Heather help us ensure high quality competition for our members. Thank you Heather for all that you do!



Congratulations to **Enrico Toscano**, our Ontario Official, who recently received his 50 year pin for all his volunteer service in the sport of Track & Field. Thank you Enrico for your passion and dedication to all the athletes and officials who benefitted from your knowledge and expertise.

CONGRATULATIONS ENRICO!



QUEBEC NEWS

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR IS CECILE LEFEBVRE



SPECIAL AWARD QUEBEC WALL OF HONOUR 2018

DANIEL MICHAUD



1. Just a reminder to all Officials to please review our **Code of Conduct and Ethics Policies** from the NOC Handbook

2. To ALL Branch Chairs, please send to Helen Vasilic a list of all those Officials who will have officiated for 50+ years in your province for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Officials who achieve this milestone will receive a gift **only once** when they reach 50+ years officiating. NOC needs this information in order to set their budget for the future.

3. We are still looking for "Official of the Year for 2018" from some provinces. Please respond to Helen Vasilic with the information. Thank you to those who have already done so.

EMAIL HELEN

MESSAGES FROM NOC AND AC BOARD

We have had a very active year at the National Officials Committee but 2019 promises to be transformative as we work to improve the education, training, mentoring and evaluation of our Officials in Canada. At the annual meeting of the NOC and the Branch Official Chairs held in Vancouver on November 29-30 we discussed the next steps of improving our system of training and evaluating officials. We agreed on a number of steps to move forward:

1. Update and upgrade our content and material so it is more current and meets the needs of officials across the country emphasizing consistency and ease of access;
2. Move as much content as reasonable to an online learning platform.
3. Change the role of our current Mentors to be more of a true mentorship with those officials being mentored;
4. Develop a group of evaluators who can assess the progress of an official.

We have agreed on an Action Plan to accomplish this ambitious goal. It is a three year plan and we recognize the need to maintain the system after it is developed. We will also put in place a transition plan so all branches and officials are aware of what is being done and, working in partnership with the Branches, how we will move the ball forward towards the goal posts.

The National Officials Committee is very excited about this project and we will ensure that everyone is aware of the steps in the transition as we move forward. We feel we have a framework that can not only maintain our current level of quality of officials but which can also improve our ability to recruit and retain officials at the lower levels.

Andy Walker
Chair, NOC

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