



Board Nominee Credentials of Michael Bates (Cochrane, AB)

Provide a brief history of your hockey involvement:

I played almost all of my minor hockey from what was then called 'Eaglets' (now Initiation) up to Midget in Innisfail, AB. In my last year I played Midget "AA" in Calgary, AB as I had graduated high school at age 16 and started attending the University of Calgary.

I had several years that I did not make the top team in Innisfail, but would eventually develop and participate for a brief time in the Alberta Program of Excellence and was selected twice for the Bantam "AA" All Star Team. I went on to have the good fortune to win Midget "A" Provincials with Innisfail in 1994, and in Calgary, I was part of the 1995 City and Provincial Championship winning team for the NEAA Midget "AA" Blazers.

I attended a number of major junior and Tier 2 Junior "A" camps but was not able to make any roster at those levels. I then played 4 years in the Heritage Junior Hockey League for the Innisfail Blades, the final two years of which I was named Captain.

My greater talent in the game of hockey may have been as a referee. For nearly 20 years I was an active official (highest was Level III), including one year with the Saskatchewan Hockey Association when I was in Saskatoon for law school. My skill and judgment was recognized with selections to call games in the 1998/99 Mac's Midget Tournament (including playoffs) and the 1998 Alberta Cup. In 1999 I was selected for the Elite Development Camp but regrettably had to decline due to personal work and pending university obligations.

In university I was hired as a coach and program manager for a spring "AAA" hockey program. Our teams were successful in tournaments in Whistler, BC and Brandon, MB. Several players I recruited and coached at novice and atom levels went on to play college, junior and even NHL hockey. One of those players should surpass 750 NHL games played this season and remains in contact.

In recent years I have been an assistant coach for my son's teams in novice and atom. Since 2015, I have been the President of a family advisor company which provides advice and guidance to players with goals of playing in the NCAA. I continue to play recreational hockey in my spare time and I am now looking for new ways to give back to the game of hockey.

Provide a history of involvement in other professional or volunteer positions that you believe would help you excel in this position:

In general, for the 15 years I have been a practicing lawyer, I have held volunteer board and committee positions which require a working knowledge of specific legislation / bylaws / rules and the need to conduct orderly meetings. While some positions are more advisory in nature, others such as my involvement in the Canadian Bar Association and Criminal Defence Lawyers Association are more focused on advocacy, marketing and lobbying on behalf of members. Primary examples include:

- (1) Canadian Bar Association (2003-current)
Executive Member, National Criminal Justice Section (2009-2010)



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Co-Chair, Alberta South Criminal Justice Section (2012-2014)

*various other executive positions as required

Agenda for Justice and Advocacy Committee (2016 - current)

Access to Justice Committee - Legal Aid Benchmarks Working Group (current)

Supreme Court of Canada Liaison Committee (current)

(2) Alberta Court of Queen's Bench

Calgary Criminal Coordinating Committee (2017-current)

Court Management Advisory Committee (2014-current)

(3) Criminal Defence Lawyers Association - Vice President (2017-current)

Co-Chair, Legal Aid Action Committee (current)

Chair, Policing Committee (current)

(4) Criminal Trial Lawyers Association (2010-current)

Policing Committee (2010-current)

(5) Alberta Justice - 2017 Criminal Justice Summit (Re: R v Jordan and court delay)

Defence bar representative - Legal Aid working group

(6) Cochrane Town Council

Cochrane Environmental Committee

(Chair, 2016; Vice-Chair, 2015; Member 2013-2016)

What skills, attributes, experiences would you bring to the Hockey Alberta Board if elected?

Communication skills are the lifeblood of the practice of trial and appellate litigation. Being able to effectively express oneself orally and in writing in a manner that is persuasive and assertive yet respectful of differing views is essential. I feel I would be able to bring the skills I have developed in court to the meetings and discussions of the Board, and also assist with any requirements for communicating on behalf of the Board to various stakeholders.

Representing the interests of accused people that require legal aid and who are often from marginalized and disadvantaged communities brings with it the need to effectively communicate with and lobby government officials for increased funding, improvements to service delivery, and finding organizational efficiencies. Over the years I believe I have become a welcomed advisor to provincial cabinet ministers in large part due to the common sense and practical approach I bring to the search for solutions to complex problems.

In terms of governance of large organizations, the ability to build consensus is extremely valuable. The CBA, for example, represents in excess of 30,000 members of the legal profession from highly diverse backgrounds. I was able to successfully draft a submission that gained formal approval of the organization to be presented to the Canadian Senate as the official CBA position on proposed legislative amendments. This was a complicated task that was able to be achieved by my being fully capable of hearing and considering multiple perspectives on an issue in spite of the fact that I had strong personal views. While most organizations necessarily require careful adherence



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to policy and procedure, one cannot forget that such associations are groups of actual people and by showing basic respect and a willingness to listen, most people can find significant amounts of consensus on even some of the most difficult issues.

Beyond the above, I look to approach the opportunity to serve as a Board member as just that - an opportunity to serve and give back time and commitment to an organization that in many ways can take credit for the person and professional I have become. The enthusiasm I have to use the skills I learned as a player, referee, coach, and now parent, to improve the game of hockey for those who now follow is genuine, and I hope can be at some level, inspiring.

What is it that you believe is important for the Hockey Alberta Board to focus on in the next three years?

I do not approach the prospect of becoming a Board member with any particular agenda or preconceived idea of things that must be changed. My intention, if elected, will be to educate and inform myself about the various challenges faced by member associations and bring to the table my passion to give back to the game of hockey to hopefully assist in finding creative yet practical solutions. That said, as a parent and a student of the game, both in terms of its real-world player experiences and also its economic and business realities, it is my belief that some of the focus of the Hockey Alberta Board in the next three years should include:

1. Continued development of female leagues, players, officials and coaches. While much has been accomplished in recent years, the opportunities for continued growth and improvement in this area are vast. As more female stars and role models continue to become known and respected in the hockey world, the Board can help set a course to foster and maximize the participation of girls and women in every aspect of the game. There remains much untapped potential to grow the game in this regard.
2. Continued leadership in best practices and education for concussion prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation. While there may continue to be a certain level of controversy as concussion lawsuits and debates about the science of CTE are ongoing, there is no doubt that rule changes and emphasis on taking head-shots out of the game have had a positive impact on player safety and the overall enjoyment of the game for everyone involved. There is a need to continue to educate all players, parents, coaches and on-ice officials so that concussion injuries are prevented as much as possible, and managed properly when they do occur. The Board can continue to play an important role in this area.
3. Increasing the buy-in and support from players and parents on progressive skill development as the key to success. As more is learned about the benefits of evidence-based training in sport in general, the Board can play a key role in helping hockey players and parents to see the benefits of new approaches being tested and implemented at an organization level. In the Olympics, athletes routinely train to set goals and achieve 'personal best' results regardless of whether they reach a podium. At a grassroots level, hockey players of all skill and experience levels can implement similar approaches. While a difficult transition, the move to half-ice play for the youngest players should pay major dividends in terms of fundamental skill development. The Board can continue to play a positive role in helping parents and players come to see meaningful skill development as the highest priority for defining a successful hockey season.