

MR. CRAIG VOKEY

POSITION SOUGHT: PRESIDENT

PLATFORM / BIO:



It has been a challenging three years. Not long after the crowning of our first mainstream world champion in Cadet +70kg kumite, Mr. Ethan Small, the world was gripped by a global pandemic which continues to have lasting reverberations. Despite this, Karate Canada athletes continued to make history with Mr. Daniel Gaysinsky becoming Canada's first Olympian for Karate at the Tokyo 2020 (2021) Olympic Games. Ms. Haya Jumaa is currently ranked #2 in the world, and just this past week Claudia Laos-Loo and Patricia Wright became Commonwealth Champions in Birmingham England. This does not begin to cover the many successes of Canadian athletes who have excelled despite the challenges of Covid-19.

During the Pandemic Karate Canada, with the support of Sport Canada, conducted both a Governance review and a High-Performance Pathway review. Both reviews listed several recommendations to improve both areas of Karate Canada. It is my intention, if elected, to continue to work with the Board, staff, and member federations to implement recommended changes. Karate Canada has come a long way and we have achieved much, now we will continue to build upon that success.

I often joke that being the President of Karate Canada is the worst paying full-time job I have ever had (it is a volunteer position), however, it remains a labour of love. I would like to thank the Board for its support and counsel over the past three years as well as the Provincial and Territorial Presidents who are key to the success of the national federation. Together we can achieve so much. As we move forward with a new Executive Director and a first ever Sport Technical Leader there are certainly a great many challenges, but as always, we will meet them head on.

A little about myself:

I have served on various volunteer boards and committees since the age of 16. My introduction to Karate was in 1984 and I currently hold the rank of nanadan in gojuryu karate. I have an honours BA in Psychology and have been teaching karate on a volunteer basis since 1994.

Sincerely,

Craig Vokey