

August 2013

Dear CanSkate parents/participants:

Welcome to the new CanSkate program!

Skate Canada is pleased to present some exciting changes to the CanSkate program, based on findings and feedback from coaching, sport science and Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) experts in the field.

What are the changes?

CanSkate has a fresh new look on and off the ice. Technical revisions include a renewed focus on teaching and mastering strong basic skills earlier to prepare skaters for all ice sports – hockey, ringette, speed skating and figure skating. On-ice delivery focusing on continuous movement emphasizes the use of newer and more dynamic group teaching concepts including the Fast Track, Fun Zone and station rotation all of which has been proven to increase practice opportunities and improve the rate of skill acquisition among skaters. More visual aids and music are used to create a fun, stimulating and welcoming environment. The new look also includes new report cards and an exciting new series of award ribbons to achieve, in addition to the Stage 1 to 6 badges.

For skaters currently in CanSkate - Where does my child fit in the new program?

In light of the curriculum changes to the Stage badges (several skills have been shifted to previous badges), it may be possible that there will be a transition period for some skaters. For example, if your child passed their Stage 1 badge using the old program last season, based on the changes to the elements in the new badge system they may be placed, at least initially, in a group that is working on the new Stage 1 badge. The CanSkate coaches will be able to assess and place skaters in the groups best suited to their abilities and interest.

Thank you for your interest in CanSkate, Canada's learn-to-skate program. The Kenora Skating Club is excited to have you aboard this season! Should you have any questions on the above please don't hesitate to contact us at [skatinginkenora@shaw.ca](mailto:skatinginkenora@shaw.ca). You may also visit the Skate Canada website at [www.skatecanada.ca](http://www.skatecanada.ca)

Best regards,

The Kenora Skating Club