

September 23, 2019

## **John Heilig awarded 2019 Dee Read Memorial Award**

*Canadian Snowsports recognizes extraordinary leadership as a FIS Technical Delegate*

**Vancouver** – Few people in Canada have worked so hard for athletes and their sport as John Heilig. From an athlete on Canada's National Nordic Combined Team, to international official, Olympic leader, coach and administrator, John has devoted over forty years to his sport and has inspired multiple generations of athletes and parents to aim to represent our country the Olympic disciplines of ski jumping and nordic combined.

In recognition of his remarkable career as an International Technical Delegate who has been committed to Canadian sport on and off the snow, the Canadian Snowsports Association has selected John Heilig as the recipient of the 2019 Dee Read Memorial Award.

The Dee Read Memorial Award is presented by the Canadian Snowsports Association to a life-long International Technical Delegate who, through their leadership, example and passion have elevated Canada's reputation in snowsports and has worked tirelessly to bring opportunities to athletes, events and programs for one or more of the member disciplines of the Association.

"John has risen internationally and the respect he holds within the International Ski Federation (FIS) community, confirmed by his appointments as an International Technical Delegate to both the Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships" said CSA President, Chris Robinson. "His ongoing work and personal initiative in relentlessly supporting Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined in Canada have maintained opportunities and John continues to do everything in his power to keep these sports moving forward."

After seven years as an athlete competing for Canada (1980-87), John became Head Coach and also lead for both Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping while based at Canada Olympic Park, using the legacy venue for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. In 2006, John joined the 2010 Olympic Organizing Committee as venue manager for ski jumping and nordic combined. Since 2010, he has worked in athlete development with Whistler Sport Legacies as well as serving as a FIS Technical Delegate for the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea and as a FIS TD for multiple World Championship events.

"This award recognizes an individual based in Canada who has made an extraordinary contribution as an international official, has demonstrated concern for over-all athlete development, is committed to fair play and contributes to sport beyond their own athletes and their own sport," said CSA Awards Committee Chair, Ken Read. "John has been instrumental in providing opportunities for young athletes in two Olympic sports, building and maintaining facilities and working with his peers internationally to grow the two FIS disciplines and working with his colleagues within the Canadian Snowsport Association at FIS meetings. We are truly honored to recognize his life-long passion and dedication."

The Dee Read Memorial Award is named in honour of Dee Read (1926-2004), who left a remarkable legacy in Canadian Snowsports, as an athlete, coach, administrator and a dedicated international and national official. She was one of the first women named as a FIS TD by the International Ski Federation and was well known for her dedication to athletes and to fair play.

For further information:

**Lillian Alderton | CANADIAN SNOWSPORTS ASSOCIATION**

202 - 1451 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 1H6

Office: 604-734-6800

Email: [info@canadiansnowsports.com](mailto:info@canadiansnowsports.com)