

INS Québec innovator and stalwart of coach training

ANDRÉ FOURNIER SET TO LEAVE INSTITUT NATIONAL DU SPORT DU QUÉBEC TO ENJOY WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

“André has played a key role in the development of coaches”

Montréal, December 09, 2014 – After four decades of professional involvement in sports and physical activity, including more than sixteen years at the Institut national du sport du Québec* (INS Québec), André Fournier will be leaving his duties as Director of Training and Development Programs behind to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Through the work he initiated at the National Coaching Institute (since incorporated into INS Québec), André was among the innovators who laid the groundwork to develop one of the best programs in the Canadian Sport Institute network. With his retirement from INS Québec planned for spring 2015, he will be an important asset during the transition period.

“André has been a stalwart of coach training and has played a key role in the development of coaches within the INS Québec programs,” states Marc Gélinas, President and CEO of INS Québec. “Since his arrival in 1998, just one year after the organization was founded, André has taken the lead in matters related to the training and professional development of coaches with both great passion and insight into the sports world and coaches’ day-to-day lives. We are pleased to be able to count on André’s cooperation as the transition within the management structure of INS Québec’s training and development programs team takes place next spring.”

“Sports have been part of my life since I was a kid, whether competitively or just for fun,” Fournier relates. “I made the transition from athlete to coach, and then to Phys Ed teacher before going back to coaching and finally entering sports management. I am coming full circle with a sense of serenity. I’ve had wonderful experiences and taken part in great events. Above all, I’ve worked with endearing, inspiring people. Looking back, I’m both proud and enthusiastic about the huge strides we have made in coaching athletes. Training coaches will no longer be part of my everyday life but rest assured that I will remain an interested observer.”

“I first met André Fournier when he started at the National Coaching Institute, and I was immediately struck by his discreet leadership style,” recalls Charles Cardinal, a pioneer of coach training programs in Canada and an instructor at INS Québec. He has the fundamental qualities of a good leader, such as a great ability to listen attentively and to get his message across both clearly and concisely. He knows how to bring experts from different fields together to work towards the same goal.”

A coach's impact is often measured by the performance of his or her athletes. From this perspective, the spectacular performance of Québec's athletes on the international stage, year after year, is an indicator of the quality of their coaching. The influence of INS Québec alumni goes beyond direct coaching, as 42% have gone on to fill management positions in the Quebec and Canadian sport systems, such as directors of national sport federations and high performance directors.

*(*Before April 2012, the organization was known as the National Multi-Sport Centre – Montreal.)*

About the Institut national du sport du Québec

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE! – Headquartered at its new complex in the heart of the Olympic Park in Montréal, the Institut national du sport du Québec (INS Québec) is a private organization whose vision is to provide all Québec's high-performance athletes and coaches with world class resources. As a key partner in the sport systems of both Québec and Canada, INS Québec serves nearly 500 high-performance athletes and over 900 coaches; it is part of a national network of four institutes and three multi-sport centres and of a provincial network that currently includes seven regional multi-sport training centres and 17 single-sport training centres. The Institute is supported by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Sport Canada, Own the Podium, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Olympic Foundation, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Coaching Association of Canada, and by private-sector partners such as CISCO, Bell, AQUAM, Mondo, Teknion | Roy & Breton, Côté Fleury and Inaxsys.

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