



July 27, 2007

Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

FEMALE COACHES IN B.C. GET A CALL TO ACTION

VICTORIA – The BC Games Society, Coaches Association of BC and ProMOTION Plus are looking for women to take part in their coaching mentor program, announced Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen.

A call for women who are coaching sports included in the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games is the newest phase of a program aimed at assisting female coaches who are interested in developing their coaching skills. “One of the most effective methods of developing coaches is through a mentor-apprentice relationship,” said Hagen “Having qualified female coaches train and be role models for our up and coming female athletes is important, and this program will give them the opportunity to build their skill set and get practical training.”

The coach mentorship program for women in B.C. is designed to address the lack of female coaches in the sport system by increasing their numbers – starting at the club and provincial level and progressing toward the national and international level. The program, which was first launched at the Fort St. John 2007 Northern BC Winter Games, recognizes the obstacles that many women face in their pursuit of coaching skills, beyond just achieving a higher level of coaching certification.

“We have been working for the past 18 months on putting the program together and we are absolutely thrilled about being able to launch the program in time for the 2008 BC Summer Games in Kelowna,” said ProMOTION Plus executive director Beverley Siver.

The program will match a female apprentice coach with a mentor coach (NCCP Level two certified) to work towards the apprentice’s participation at the 2008 BC Summer Games. A maximum of 10 mentors and 10 female apprentice coaches will be selected to attend the 2008 BC Summer Games in Kelowna in July 2008.

Applications for apprentices and mentors are being accepted until midnight Sept. 15, 2007. The selection of candidates will be completed by Oct. 31, 2007, with the program commencing December 2007 or January 2008 (dependent on sport).