



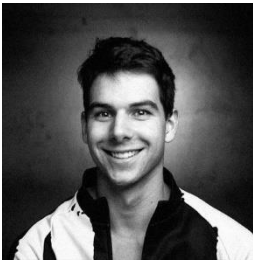
CEC Athletes' Commission Nominees 2022 – 2023 Nominees

Lucas Uchida – Boulder Rep Nominee



As a high-performance athlete, Lucas is one of the most experienced and active competitors in Canada, competing at a national and international level for Team Canada. Lucas brings perspectives from an athlete, route setter and coach. He holds active relationships with fellow competitors and members of the climbing industry across Canada and internationally. Lucas is passionate about finding ways to improve systems around him. Not only does he want to improve resources for high performance athletes, but he is also passionate about grassroots level athletes. Lucas brings a deep understanding of the athletic process having been an athlete for most of his life as well as acting as a coach, and mentor for younger athletes.

Nathan Smith – Member at Large Nominee



I started climbing at age 12 and have been a climber ever since. I started competing from the very first year I began climbing and went on to compete domestically for 3 years before making the national team and thereafter consistently competing on team Canada in both open and youth categories.

Loving both bouldering and lead, I have felt torn between disciplines loving both equally! I am interested in continuing on the AC as it allows me to give back to the community that have given so much to me!

Allison Vest – Member at Large Nominee



I started climbing when I was 5 years old and competing when I was 10. I went on to win a few National titles and have recently been psyched on climbing hard boulders outside. I currently live in Salt Lake city. I want to continue to be on the AC to hopefully the CEC more transparent and make sure athlete interests are at the forefront. It's been a privilege to so far to be on this commission and I hope to get to do so again!

Aiden Pinsk – Member at Large Nominee



As an engineering student at the University of Victoria and high-performance athlete for the CEC, I have come to appreciate the need for diversity of thought and background to represent large, driven groups of people. I am eager to contribute my diversity of experience and represent the athletes of the CEC on the Athletes' Commission to tackle various problems the CEC faces.

As a member of the Athletes' Commission, my experience with the diversity of climbing across Canada will thrive, helping the CEC make more educated decisions for athletes across the country. Living in two provinces during my childhood (AB and MB), and now a third for university (BC) has given me a wide scope of the state of both commercial and competitive climbing across provinces, especially where they lack. I believe this diversity of thought and experience will be an asset to the AC, to provide more well-rounded resources to its athletes.

Grassroots climbing gave me my start, but it also chained me. As a high-performance athlete who has spent much of his career being self-coached, there is a struggle to provide adequate resources to those who desire them, even in more established provinces, unless already at the elite level. My self-taught knowledge of regulations, quotas, and selection protocols is no way for an athlete to progress. Nevertheless, after testing this knowledge in competition I am confident my skills will help the CEC fix these problems moving forward.

Farnaz Esmaeilzadeh – Member at Large Nominee



Farnaz is a competitive rock climber and has been climbing for the last 17 years representing Iran in international competitions. Moving to Canada, Farnaz is looking to compete for the Canadian team and play a part in the athlete community as a member of the athlete commission. Farnaz is a high-performance climbing coach, senior route setter, and a high-performance athlete with over 40 national medals, and 12 international medals including continental championship and 6th in a World Cup.

Farnaz is not only a high-performance athlete, but an active individual in empowering women who openly challenge gender stereotypes in her country and beyond.

Michael Finn-Henry – Member at Large Nominee



Although I am relatively new to competing for the CEC, I am certainly not new to the world of competition climbing, and the administrative needs of our sport. Spending the majority of my early childhood in the US, I began my competition career 14 years ago competing for USA Climbing. As I move to Vancouver Canada, I have transitioned to competing for the CEC at World Cups in speed climbing. My competition experience includes competing and placing top 10 in multiple IFSC finals, winning a youth world

championship medal, as well as multiple national and North American championship victories.

With that, my climbing experience gives little indication as to my ability to help to make decisions at an organizational level for the good of all athletes involved. However, I have led several major organizations for our sport, including founding and leading my university climbing team to extraordinary success, starting with eight members and growing to 84 active members, and producing over \$120,000 in annual revenue for the climbing community. For my work in this area I was a recipient of the USA Climbing collegiate ambassador scholarship, and listed as one of my universities most outstanding students. While at university I studied Mechanical Engineering and Business, and have taken many courses on topics relevant to the operation of CEC including classes such as organizational behavior, and management of operations for a public good. Currently, when I'm not climbing, I run a multi-million-dollar medical device start up that I cofounded, and direct as CEO.

Having grown up in the sport of climbing and competed in all disciplines at all levels, I understand the importance of having programming that allows athletes to reach their maximum potential, whatever that might be. With this, I am incredibly invested in ensuring that CEC provides the best athlete experience possible for athletes at all levels. As the sport of climbing continues with this incredible growth trajectory, it is of non-trivial significance to ensure that the CEC helps athletes grow in a sustainable, productive fashion that will lead to lifelong athletes. I would be incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to give back to the organization that has been so welcoming to me