

Dear Rob and Emir

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Jon Blackwood, and writing in regards to submitting my name for the extra position on the UIAA Ice Climbing Athletes Consultation Group. Currently, I am a proud member of the Canadian National Ice Climbing Team and an advocate for the growth of this incredible sport across Canada.

My Journey

Born and raised in the rugged landscapes of East Kootenays, I spent my early years ski racing before transitioning into rock climbing in the late '90s. After dedicating a decade to military service and 15 years to the Lethbridge Police Service, I was forced to step away due to severe PTSD. During a difficult period, supportive friends reintroduced me to climbing, which became both a passion and a form of therapy. By 2021, I fully embraced competitive ice climbing, turning it into a lifestyle and a new purpose.

Accomplishments so far:

Since then, I have had the honor of representing Canada in several prestigious events, including:

- Competing at the Continental Cup in Ouray, Colorado.
- Competing in the World Cup event in Edmonton, Alberta.
- Currently holding a world ranking of 58 in the World Cup series and 72 in the Continental Cup series.

I'm also actively projecting two challenging routes:

- Swiss Cheese (D9-) at The Playground Crag.
- Al Capone P1 (D10) at Alcatraz Crag.

Looking Forward

My commitment goes beyond personal achievements. I am also honored to be the chairperson of Ice Climbing Canada where we have an amazing team dedicated to fostering the growth of the sport for both youth and adults. I believe in the power of consistency, effort, and a positive attitude. My ultimate goal is to create opportunities for the next generation of climbers, ensuring they have the support and mentorship they need to succeed.

It would be an absolute honor to represent Canadian climbers on the UIAA Ice Climbing Athletes Consultation Group. I am passionate about contributing to the growth and future of ice climbing, and I would be proud to bring the voice of our community to this important platform.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Best regards,

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