

Athlete
+ Dancer
Transitions

LEAP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LEAP – Leading Edge After Performance welcomes Denise Benning-Reid to the position of Conference Coordinator

TORONTO, ON - MAY 30, 2016

Denise Benning-Reid has joined **LEAP** to oversee the coordination of its two-day international conference taking place November 11-12, 2016, at St. James Cathedral Centre in Toronto, ON.

A National, World, and Olympic Team Member, Denise was one of Canada's top pairs figure skaters competing in three World Championships and the 1988 Winter Olympic Games with partner Lyndon Johnston. After retiring from competition, she earned a Bachelor of Human Kinetics from the University of Windsor with a major in Sports Administration. She is honoured to be a member of the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame and the Skate Canada – Western Ontario Hall of Fame. Having experienced the transition from elite athletics first-hand, Denise understands the challenges faced by high performers in dance and sport as they transition to second careers, and the goal of LEAP to create dialogue between these two unique communities.

Denise has organized a wide variety of sport, entertainment, corporate, and special events, bringing over 20 years of event management experience to LEAP. Notable projects include Kraft Hockeyville, Kraft Celebration Tour, Petro Canada FACE Summit, Stars on Ice, and two major festivals for Skate Canada – *Light Up London* at the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships and *Canada Skates! 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Figure Skating Championships*.

"LEAP is delighted to have Denise Benning-Reid join our project," says Michael Du Maresq, Managing Director for LEAP. "She brings a wealth of experience with her many years in event management and planning. More importantly she joins us as a former Olympian figure skater who herself transitioned into a successful career. We look forward to benefitting from Denise's valuable professional and personal perspective from the sport sector." Denise's extensive experience, and deep understanding of the sport community as well as issues of transition will be a considerable asset to LEAP.

About LEAP

Leading Edge After Performance (LEAP) is an innovative initiative bringing the dance and sport communities together in a collaborative partnership to explore career and life transition issues specific to their unique

constituents: high performance athletes and professional dancers. LEAP is a pioneering partnership between Dancer Transition Resource Centre (DTRC) and Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO). A non-profit organization, the LEAP project is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. www.leaptransition.ca

Founding Partners:



LEAP Is Supported By:



- 30 -

Media Contacts:

Michael Du Maresq
Managing Director, Leading Edge After Performance (LEAP)
Tel: 416-595-5655
Email: michael@leaptransition.ca
www.leaptransition.ca | [@leaptransition](https://www.instagram.com/leaptransition)

Laura Albright
Senior Communications Coordinator, Canadian Sport Institute Ontario
Tel: 41.596.1240 Ext. 238
Email: lalbright@csiontario.ca
www.csiontario.ca | [@CSIOntario](https://www.instagram.com/CSIOntario)

Kallee Lins
Marketing & Communications Manager, Dancer Transition Resource Centre
Tel: 416-595-5655
Email: communications@dtrc.ca
www.dtrc.ca | [@dancetransition](https://www.instagram.com/dancetransition)