



**Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award Winner – June 2009: Debbie Keel
Nominated by Action Schools! BC and Premier's Sport Awards Program (p.s.a.p)**

Debbie Keel has been a leader in Physical Education (PE) and physical activity in the BC school system for almost 30 years. Debbie began teaching elementary PE and her knowledge and expertise led to her assuming the district Healthy Living Facilitator position in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. In this role, she supports healthy living in local schools and promotes physical activity, physical education and healthy eating best practices. Debbie is also the Master Trainer for the Action Schools! BC initiative and has conducted more than 600 Action Schools! BC workshops for BC teachers and student leaders on how to integrate physical activity and healthy eating into the school community. Debbie was a member of the writing team for both the Ministry of Education's PE and Dance Integrated Resource Packages (IRPs) and recently participated in the revision process for the K to 7 PE IRP.

Debbie has been a dedicated volunteer for decades. In her district and community, she has coached lacrosse, dance, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball and track and field. She has also sat on several volunteer committees including the Walk to School Committee, Bike to School Committee, School Nutrition Committee, School Gardens Committee, and Spirit of BC Committee. In 2008, she organized a District 42 Food Show which showcased healthy living initiatives available to schools and families and she was selected to pilot a new provincial initiative called hearts@school, sponsored by the Healthy Heart Society of BC.

From 1993-1998, Debbie volunteered as president of the BC Teachers' Federation PE Provincial Specialist Association, a position which she has recently taken over again. As President, Debbie is on the planning committee for the annual provincial PE Conference and is the BC representative at the Physical and Health Education Canada Council of Provinces.

As a tireless and inspiring volunteer, supporter, and role model of physical activity and physical education not only in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, but provincially and nationally, Debbie Keel is a Community Sport Hero.