

Susan Smith

Susan "Susie" Smith is the founding pioneer of women's freestyle skiing in Canada. From 1973 to 1978, with no women's category in existence, she entered men's fields, placed on the national podium, became the first Canadian woman on the PFA World Cup Tour, and achieved the highest international results of any Canadian woman in the sport's professional era. She was simultaneously Canada's first certified female freestyle coach, the organizer of the country's first freestyle ski camps, and the first woman to perform aerials and front somersaults in competition. The athletes she mentored and coached at Sunshine Village many of whom endorsed her HOF nomination became World Champions, National Champions, and Olympic Gold Medal coaches, creating a direct and traceable lineage to Canada's modern freestyle dynasty. Seven letters from competitors and coaches, along with Peter Judge, CEO of Freestyle Canada and John Johnston, former Chairman of FIS Freestyle (both Canadian Ski Hall of Fame Members), speak unanimously to her bravery, generosity, and quiet leadership. Now 69, she continues to race competitively and in the 2026 edition of Whistler's iconic Peak to Valley Race, placed 7th among 40 athletes. Susan Smith did not just compete in a sport she opened the door for an entire gender to enter it.