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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a character reference for Lincoln Kerney, who I have known for the past 14 years.

Lincoln joined the Moose Jaw Kiwanis Speed Skating Club as a young boy, and I had the opportunity to coach him until he was a teenager, when I retired from active coaching.

Speed skating is a sport which requires incredible self discipline, independence, determination, and a willingness to work extremely hard in weather conditions that are regularly less than favorable. Lincoln rarely missed a practice or competition. He always gave his very best effort and was rewarded with exceptional results in the competitive arena, with many records and championships to show for it.

While speed skating is an individual sport, it is also a sport where sportsmanship and cooperation with teammates and competitors are highly valued. Lincoln is a very easy going and sociable young man, who gets along well with virtually everyone he meets. He always got along well with teammates and competitors, and remained competitive while understanding and displaying exemplary sportsmanship.

Lincoln is also one who always remains cool under pressure. Speed skating is a very pressure packed sport, and one in which it is impossible to hide among your teammates. I have never seen Lincoln lose his cool or "choke" under the pressure of competition. Even in defeat, which was rare, Lincoln was always classy and able to handle disappointment in a positive way.

Lincoln comes from a very tightly knit family, and has three siblings. I have known his entire family, having coached all of the children and been friends with his parents, and can assure you that Lincoln has grown up in a supportive and encouraging environment. Commitment to family is a high priority in Lincoln's life.

Finally, I would describe Lincoln as one of the most articulate and sociable young men I have known. Despite no longer coaching him, I have seen Lincoln on a regular basis over the years, and have always been impressed with how personable and genuinely interested in others he is. He also maintains an exceptional level of fitness, as one of the places I regularly visit with Lincoln is at the gym.

Having known Lincoln as a coach and family friend, I believe he has everything needed to be an exceptional fire fighter. My son, Tyler Johnston, is a fire fighter in Red Deer, and he shares the view that Lincoln has what it takes to be among the best in this profession. I strongly recommend him for this position. Please contact me at johnston.rod@prairiesouth.ca if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Rod D. Johnston,
School Counsellor