



Media Release

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For more Information Contact: Tiffany MacLaren
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Canada Games Council
Tel: (613) 526-2320
e-mail: tmaclaren@canadagames.ca

The Canada Games Support Canada's Next Generation Champions

(September 8, 2008) Ottawa – The Canada Games Council (CGC) and the Foundation for Athletes and Sport Training (FAST) today announced the list of recipients of the **2008 CANADA GAMES FAST TRACK** athlete grants.

The CGC and FAST received over 500 winter sport applications for the grants this year. For 2008, the program is awarding 40 grants, each worth \$2,000, to Canada Games level athletes who are targeted and on the pathway to excellence at the national, international and Olympic team level.

“As the recent Beijing Olympics just proved, there is nothing in our country that seems to rally its citizens like supporting the success of our Canadian athletes on the world stage,” says Sue Hylland, President and CEO, Canada Games Council. “Although we would like to do more, knowing that the Canada Games have helped play a role in the success of our Canadian athletes encourages us to keep giving back because of their lack of funding.”

The grants were administered based on specific criteria whereby recipients were identified using past performances over the last two competitive seasons. National sport organizations gave input to the selection committee to help rank athletes in their respective sports.

"The Foundation for Athletes and Sport Training is pleased to once again team with the Canada Games Council to award the Canada Games FAST Track grants for 2008. Thanks to the Government of Ontario's support and the Canada Games Council's administration, together we are able to really make a difference in the amount of funding some developing athletes receive to continue their progression to the podium in major international events like the Olympic Games and World Championships," says Larry Cain, Chairman, FAST Board of Directors.

This represents the fourth year grants have been awarded in partnership between the Canada Games Council and FAST. As part of the FAST partnership with the Government of Ontario, 13 of the grants were awarded to Ontario athletes.

CG FAST GRANT - 2008

The program was designed as part of the Canada Games' Dreams and Champions programs, to fill a void in Canada's sport system and support Canada Games level athletes who are targeted and on the pathway to excellence. Each year, worthy applications are received and following the selection process letters of thanks and or appreciation are received by the Council.

"To be identified as a next generation National Team athlete is a great feeling. Although results from various competitions help show an athlete's potential, being identified by a National organization just adds to an athlete's moral," says Mark Hinnen 2007 FAST Track grant recipient for cycling. "It is nice to know that all the effort I am putting into training and competing is paying off, and that I am being recognized for my accomplishments."

Please find following the listing of all grant recipients:

First Name	Family Name	Sport	P/T
Megan	Aksenchuk	Speed skating	AB
Tyler	Derraugh	Speed skating	AB
Kyle	Gendron	Speed skating	AB
Andrea	Bull	Freestyle Skiing	BC
Eddie	Hicks	Freestyle Skiing	BC
Justine	Dufour-Lapointe	Freestyle Skiing	PQ
Jamie	Sinclair	Curling	ON
Neil	Sinclair	Curling	ON
Brett	Gallant	Curling	PEI
Miguel	Bernard	Curling	PQ
Jeremy	Ten	Figure Skating	BC
Monica	Pisotta	Figure Skating	ON
VANESSA	GRENIER	Figure Skating	PQ
Deion	Green	Wheelchair Basketball (Mixed)	BC
Jeremy	James	Wheelchair Basketball (Mixed)	ON
Shayne	Smith	Wheelchair Basketball (Mixed)	ON
Erik	Read	Alpine Skiing (Slalom, GS, Super G)	AB
Mathieu	Routhier	Alpine Skiing (Slalom, GS, Super G)	PQ
BRITTANY	MUELLER	Synchronized Swimming (Female)	MB
Catherine	Powell	Synchronized Swimming (Female)	PQ
<i>Pending</i>		Artistic Gymnastics	BC
Robert	Watson	Artistic Gymnastics	BC
Kristin	d'Eon	Snowboarding	NS
Emily	Dee	Snowboarding	ON
Marianne	Leeson	Snowboarding	ON
Kevin	Sandau	Cross Country Skiing	AB
Mary	Thompson	Cross Country Skiing	ON

Alyssa	Caughy	Judo	PQ
Ena	Ward	Shooting (Air Pistol, Air Rifle)	ON
Matthew	Klein	Shooting (Air Pistol, Air Rifle)	BC
<i>Pending</i>		Squash	AB
<i>Pending</i>		Squash	ON
Pierre-Luc	Thériault	Tennis de table	PQ
Michelle	Li	Badminton	ON
NYL	YAKURA	Badminton	ON
Jonathan	Russell	Archery (Indoor)	BC
Vanessa	Lee	Archery (Indoor)	ON
Tana	chesham	Biathlon	AB
Tyson	Smith	Biathlon	AB
Erika	Lipsett	Ringette (Female)	BC

- 30 -

Held once every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Canada Games represent the highest level of national competition for the next generation of national team athletes and future champions. The Games have been hosted in every province at least once since their inception in Quebec City during Canada's Centennial in 1967. The Games are proud of their contribution to Canada's sport development system in addition to their lasting legacy of sport facilities, community pride and national unity. Since the first Games more than 100,000 young athletes have participated in the Canada Games.

The organization of the Canada Games is made possible through the tireless dedication of the local Host Society, the contribution and support of the federal, provincial/territorial and host municipal governments and the Canada Games Council. The 2009 Canada Games will take place in Prince Edward Island August 15 – 29, 2009 and the 2011 Canada Games will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.