



February 8, 2010

## **Alberta's emerging athletes heading to the Olympics**

### ***Pathway to Excellence Program chooses 26 high-performing young athletes***

*Edmonton...* More than two dozen Alberta athletes will have the opportunity of a lifetime this month to see their own sports, live and up close at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

Provincial sport organizations nominated 26 high-performance emerging athletes through the Pathway to Excellence program. The program is sponsored by the Alberta Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat and coordinated by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

"We are very proud of these athletes for working so hard to achieve success in their chosen sports," said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. "I hope this trip to Vancouver will inspire and motivate them on the journey to future Olympics."

There will be two athletes, one male and one female, from each of the Olympics sports who, along with their parent or legal guardian, will travel from Alberta to Vancouver to experience a day at the Olympics at an event of their sports discipline.

"We know this opportunity will have a positive and lasting impact on our emerging athletes," said Bill Persley, Chair, Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. "These athletes are a great example of our province's commitment to winter sports and sport excellence. The Foundation is pleased to play a role in providing this opportunity to enhance athletic excellence for Albertans."

The Alberta athletes taking part in the program are competitors in alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, hockey, luge, ski jumping/nordic combined, speed skating, skeleton, and snowboard.

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**Backgrounder:** Pathway to Excellence – Alberta Representatives

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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780-427-1828

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.



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## **Pathway to Excellence – Alberta Representatives**

### **Alpine Skiing**

Jeffrey Bell, Airdrie  
Catharine Wood, Calgary

### **Bobsleigh**

Alex Newcombe, Calgary  
RosalyN Nykolichuk, Calgary

### **Curling**

Derek Clark, Calgary  
Jessica Henricks, Grande Prairie

### **Freestyle Skiing**

Morgan Hunter, Calgary  
Luke Ulsifer, Calgary

### **Luge**

Brian Marriott, Calgary  
Jordyn Carss, Calgary

### **Ski Jumping/Nordic Combined**

Sebastien Dandurand, Calgary  
Taylor Henrich, Calgary

### **Speed Skating**

Gilmore Junio, Calgary  
Crystal Phillips, Calgary

### **Biathlon**

Samuel Groeneveld, Canmore  
Anna Eriksson, Camrose

### **Cross Country Skiing**

Matthew Saurette, Edmonton  
Maya MacIsaac-Jones, Athabasca

### **Figure Skating**

Andrew Wolfe, Calgary  
Natasha Purich, Sherwood Park

### **Hockey**

Joel Hamilton, Cochrane  
Taylor Sakundiak, Calgary

### **Skeleton**

Travis Brockway, Calgary  
Elisabeth Vathje, Calgary

### **Snowboarding**

Kade Philips, Calgary  
Erin Lee, Banff

For more information on Alberta at the Games, visit [www.alberta.ca/vancouver2010](http://www.alberta.ca/vancouver2010).

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