



37TH CANADIAN SPORT AWARDS PRIX SPORTIF CANADIEN

For immediate release

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 37th Canadian Sport Awards *Canada's Top Sporting Honours in 2009 to be awarded March 3 in Toronto*

(Ottawa, ON – **February 5, 2009**) – The True Sport Foundation (TSF) today announced the finalists for the 37th Canadian Sport Awards (CSA), the ultimate recognition event for excellence in Canadian sport. The awards promote sporting excellence across Canada and is a tribute to the hard work, dedication and victories of our country's finest athletes.

“The annual Canadian Sport Awards is the ideal time to honour our amateur athletes,” says **Victor Lachance, Executive Director of the True Sport Foundation**. “It will be a great way to cap off the thrill of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and get revved up for the Paralympic Games.”

The Canadian Sport Awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at the Canadian Sport Centre Ontario in Toronto. A limited number of tickets to the awards/press conference are available. Tickets will be awarded on a first serve basis by contacting the Program Director Robin Turnbull at rtevent@sympatico.ca. **Passes for accredited media can be requested through Christine Mulkins at cmulkins@rogers.com.**

“We are honoured to provide the venue for such an important event as the Canadian Sport Awards. As a leader in providing high performance programming and services to our amateur athletes, it is exciting for the CSC Ontario to host this elite group of athletes,” says Debbie Low, President, CEO, CSC Ontario.

3rd Annual True Sport Road Trip: Athletes Visit Toronto Students

The morning of the Canadian Sport Awards, nominees and recipients will visit Grenoble Public School in Toronto where these role models will engage with students, sharing success stories and challenges and advancing the True Sport benefits of values-driven sport in Canada.

Grenoble P.S. is a dynamic, community-based school in the Flemingdon Park area and is committed to the principles of academic excellence, safety, equity, partnerships, and collaboration. The staff serve approximately 700 students - J.K. to Grade 5. Approximately 93% of the students and/or their parents have immigrated to Canada and there are more than seventy-three different languages represented at the school.

"The staff and students of Grenoble Public School are excited about the opportunity to meet our Canadian Athletes and hear their message about fair play in sports," says **Ted Goldring, School Principal**.

Media are welcome to accompany athletes on the school visit between 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Event details to follow.

2009 Canadian Sport Awards Finalists

The *Athletic Performance Awards* recognize outstanding athletic performance. Finalists include:

Male Athlete of the Year:

Jasey Jay Anderson – Snowboarding
Charles Hamelin – Speed Skating
John Kucera - Alpine Skiing

Female Athlete of the Year:

Christine Nesbitt – Speed Skating
Annamay Pierse - Swimming
Sherraine Schalm - Fencing

Junior Athlete of the Year:

Aaron Brown – Athletics
Marianne St-Gelais – Speed Skating
Kurtis Wenzel - Biathlon

Team of the Year:

Men's Hockey – IIHF
Para Curling – Wheelchair Mixed Team
Women's Water Polo (WC)

Partners of the Year:

M Eights (M8+) (VanKnotsenburg/Laidlaw/Csima/O'Farrell/Bergen/Gibson/DunawayHoward/Byrnes)
Para Nordic Ski (B. McKeever/R. McKeever)
Women's SSK – Speed Skating (Groves/Nesbitt/Schussier)

The *Leadership Awards* recognize and celebrate an individual's outstanding contribution to the betterment of sport. Finalists include:

Leadership in Sport Award:

Christine Hampshire
Robert Jackson
Jack Poole

Athlete Leadership Award:

Pete Andrews
Sylvie Frechette
Adam Kreek

Volunteer Achievement:

Slava Corn
Maureen Orchard
Carole Thomas

The *Corporate Excellence Award* recognizes and celebrates a corporation who provides outstanding support to Canadian sport. Finalists include:

**Intact
Pfizer Canada
Shaw Cable**

The *Spirit of Sport Story of the Year* category recognizes and celebrates Canadian heroes. Finalists include:

**Soldier On (SO) program - Canadian Forces Personnel & Family Services
Duff Gibson
Woodstock Thunder**

Nomination Eligibility

Any Canadian citizen can nominate an individual, team or corporation for the Canadian Sport Awards. Individuals and corporations can also self-nominate. Eligible entries were for performances or contributions from January 1, 2009 through to December 31, 2009.

About CSC Ontario

The Canadian Sport Centre Ontario (CSC Ontario) is a multi-sport organization that supports elite sport development and performance in Ontario through long-term partnerships with Provincial and National Sport Organizations. These relationships enable the CSC Ontario to deliver holistic programs and sport science services to high performance coaches and athletes that enhance their ability to achieve international success.

About the Canadian Sport Awards

Established in 1972, the Canadian Sport Awards brings together leaders from the sporting and corporate communities who represent the pinnacle of commitment and competition: Canadian amateur athletes, coaches, sport leaders and volunteers. The annual award promotes sporting excellence across Canada, and reminds Canadians how sport lifts the human spirit. It is a tribute to the hard work, the dedication and the victories of our country's finest athletes.

About the True Sport Foundation

The True Sport Foundation is a charitable organization committed to ensuring that sport makes a positive contribution to Canadian society. Managed by the Foundation, the Canadian Sport Awards boasts a strong relationship with its modern day founding partners, which include Athletes CAN, the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, the Canada Games and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport. For more information about the Canadian Sport Awards, please visit www.canadiansportawards.ca.

For complete nomination rules and guidelines, and more information about the Canadian Sport Awards, please visit www.canadiansportawards.ca.

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