



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## February 22, 2019

### **#GOTEAMAB Figure Skating athletes head to Red Deer for 2019 Canada Winter Games**

Edmonton – Alberta Figure Skating Athletes will board buses tomorrow morning in Edmonton and Calgary to compete during week two of the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer.

“The Canada Winter Games provide a wonderful opportunity for our athletes. This experience will be very special and unique as the Canada Games are different than any other competition” states Donna Moses, Chair of Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section.”

Team Alberta is sending 14 athletes including 2 Special Olympic Level II Figure Skaters to compete in Red Deer. Figure Skating will start on Monday February 25, 2019 at the Gary W. Harris Canada Games Center.

“We have a strong team heading to Red Deer for the Canada Winter Games with several of our team members recently bringing home medals from the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in January” Lisa Hardy, Executive Director of the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section states, “we are extremely proud of the time, hard work and commitment all of our athletes have put in to get to, and be ready for this competition.” Chair, Donna Moses adds “I encourage the athletes to aim high, compete strong and to enjoy the atmosphere, make new friends and have fun! Remember the Games motto and make this *Your Moment*”

#### **2019 Team Alberta Members include:**

**Novice Dance Team - Isabel McQuilkin & Jacob Portz**, Calgary, Calalta Figure Skating Club. Coached by Kim Slopak-Weeks, Tyler Myles, & Team. Recent achievements include a Bronze Medal at the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships, and Gold Medal at 2019 Skate Canada Challenge.

**Pre Novice Dance Team – Grace Pele & Joel Portz**, Calgary, Calalta Figure Skating Club. Coached by Kim Slopak-Weeks, Tyler Myles, & Team. Recent achievements include a Silver Medal at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge, and Gold at the 2019 Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Sectional Championships.

**Pre Novice Dance Team – Savanna Martel, Airdrie & Tyler Myles**, Olds, Calalta Figure Skating Club. Coached by Kim Slopak-Weeks, Tyler Myles, & Team. Recent achievements include a Bronze Medal at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge.

**Single Novice Male – Matthew Newnham**, Edmonton, Ice Palace Figure Skating Club. Coached by Ravi Walia. Recent achievements include Bronze at the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships, and Silver at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge. Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section 2018 Competitive Skater of the Year award recipient.

**Single Novice Male – Tobiah Wong**, Edmonton, Ice Palace Figure Skating Club. Coached by Jessica Gosse. Recent achievements include Silver at the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Sectional Championships.

**Single Pre-Novice Male – William Oddson**, Calgary, Huntington Hills Skating Club. Coached by Donna Hallatt and Tammy Schmidt. Recent achievements include Silver at the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Sectional Championships, 6<sup>th</sup> place at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge. William is also a 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate in Novice Dance for Team AB. William is also competing in April at the Canadian Open Ballroom Competition.

**Single Novice Female – Kaiya Ruiter**, Calgary, The Glencoe Club. Coached by Jeff Langdon and Scott Davis. Recent achievements include Bronze at her 1<sup>st</sup> International Competition, the Bavarian Open in Germany earlier this month and Gold at the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in January.

**Single Novice Female – Alexandra Sarmiento Diaz**, Edmonton, Extreme Edge Skating Club. Coached by Angela Duffy and Doug Schmierer. Recent achievements include Silver at the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Sectional Championships.

**Single Pre-Novice Female –Michelle Deng**, Edmonton, Ice Palace Figure Skating Club. Coached by Rafi Walia. Recent achievements include medals the past two years in the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section’s Leading Edge Series. Michelle was also part of the Torch Relay in Edmonton.

**Special Olympics Singles Level II Female – Tamara Lambert**, Calgary and **Jacqueline Coutts**, Calgary. Both skaters are coached by Barb Prystai.

Special mention also goes out to **Victoria Hamm**, Yellowknife NWT, Coached by Brenda Dalton who is a member of the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section and competing in Pre-Novice Female for Team NT at the 2019 Canada Winter Games.

The 2019 Canada Winter Games is livestreamed in addition to being broadcast on TSN/RDS. The Broadcast and Webcast schedule can be found at <https://www.canadagames.ca/2019/broadcast-and-webcast-schedule> . Current standings and results will be posted at:

[https://cg2019.gems.pro/Result/Event\\_List.aspx?Sport\\_GUID=d02f1951-3ddd-42a0-9d44-0beb81ee603b&SetLanguage=en-CA](https://cg2019.gems.pro/Result/Event_List.aspx?Sport_GUID=d02f1951-3ddd-42a0-9d44-0beb81ee603b&SetLanguage=en-CA)

**Skating Clubs and Schools represented at the 2019 Canada Winter Games:**

Calalta Figure Skating Club – Calgary

Ice Palace Figure Skating Club – Edmonton

Extreme Edge Skating Club - Edmonton

The Glencoe Club - Calgary

Huntington Hills Skating Club – Calgary



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### **Background:**

Skate Canada: Alberta – NWT/Nunavut (“Section”) is a non-profit sport organization and is the provincial governing body for the sport of figure skating in Alberta, NWT and Nunavut. The Section is dedicated to the principles of providing safe and inclusive programs, enabling everyone to participate in skating throughout their lifetime for fun, fitness, and achievement.

Past champions of the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section include 2-time Olympic medalist and 2018 World Champion Kaetlyn Osmond, four-time World Champion Kurt Browning, 2002 Olympic Champion Jamie Salé, and 1982 World Bronze medalist Brian Pockar.

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### **Related Information**

[www.skateabnwtun.ca](http://www.skateabnwtun.ca)

Facebook: skateabnwtun

Twitter: @SkateAB\_NWT\_NUN

Flickr Team Member Photo's:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/161713185@N08/albums/72157705490523501>

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