



Alberta Figure Skaters leave their mark at the 2019 Canada Winter Games winning 6 medals

Edmonton – Alberta Figure Skaters started off strong at the 2019 Canada Winter Games and kept it going through the rest of the week winning medals in 5 of the 7 events they were entered in.

“It is fantastic to be able to contribute to Alberta’s overall results at the Games” says Lisa Hardy, Executive Director of the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section “We are always excited and proud to see our skaters performing their best, and being at the top of the standings in any competition, but in this environment it’s nice to also be playing a role in the bigger Team Alberta picture”

3 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals, with all skaters finishing top 7 in their category are how things finished off for the 14 Alberta athletes. Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section Chair, Donna Moses had this message for the Alberta figure skaters “Great job Skaters competing at the Winter Games! You definitely seized the moment and made it yours!”



Alberta Figure Skating Coach, Anne-Marie Behnke from Peace River was one of 12 coaches from across Canada that recognized on Feb 24th as part of the 2019 Canada Games Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program. “Watching Anne-Marie develop her coaching skills working towards becoming a National Level Coach has been inspiring and we are very fortunate to have her as part of our team, contributing to our sport, and coaching our athletes” states Executive Director Lisa Hardy. “Being from Peace River created

challenges with the additional travel for her to ensure she completed all of the necessary training courses in such a short period of time, but she took it all in stride while also juggling her coaching responsibilities at home.”

Figure Skating ran week 2 of the Games and wrapped up last night but the athletes will remain in Red Deer until Saturday to take part in the closing ceremonies.

2019 Team Alberta Members included:

2019 CWG Bronze Medalist, 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.

2019 CWG Silver Medalist, 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.

2019 CWG Bronze Medalist, Pre Novice Dance Team – Savanna Martel, Airdrie & Kobi Chant, 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.

2019 CWG Gold Medalist, 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.

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

2019 CWG Gold Medalist, 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.

2019 CWG 7th Place 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.

2019 CWG 5th Place 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, 6th place at the 2019 Skate Canada Challenge. William is also a 1st Alternate in Novice Dance for Team AB. William is also competing in April at the Canadian Open Ballroom Competition.

2019 CWG 6th Place 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.

Special Olympics Singles Level II Female – Tamara Lambert (5th place), Calgary and **Jacqueline Coutts (6th place)**, 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.

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.

-30-

Related Information

www.skateabnwtun.ca

Facebook: skateabnwtun

Twitter: @SkateAB_NWT_NUN

Flickr Team Member Photo's:

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

Contact

Lisa Hardy

Executive Director

Skate Canada Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

780-803-0562

lisahardy@skateabnwtun.ca