



Keegan Messing

Photo Credit: Danielle Earl Photography

32 athletes representing the Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section set to compete against Canada's best skaters at the 2020 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Mississauga

Edmonton – Today marks the start of the 2020 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Mississauga, Ontario and Alberta will once again have a strong presence among the 250 skaters vying for the National title this week. Along with the National title, athletes at this competition will vie for spots on the Skate Canada National Team who will compete at the 2020 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, the 2020 ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships and the 2020 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

“As Minister responsible for sport I would like to commend the phenomenal athletes headed to represent Alberta at the Canadian Championship for their hard work and dedication that enabled them to earn their place on Team Alberta-NWT/Nunavut. Success in Competitive Sport requires grit, resilience and persistence - qualities that are truly Albertan. On behalf of the Government of Alberta I thank them for being such wonderful ambassadors for our province and look forward to cheering them on as they perform and join the alumni of Figure Skating champions who call Alberta home.” Hon. Leela Sharon Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

“The Section is incredibly proud of our Skaters that are competing at the Canadian Championships this week” states Bobbi Jo Martin, Chair of Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Section “All of their hard

work and determination has culminated in their participation in this National event, and we are excited to watch them as they compete against the best skaters in the country”

In the senior men’s events Keegan Messing (Ice Palace Figure Skating Club) will be the one to keep an eye on as he looks for the top spot after finishing third at last year’s event and recently placed 4th at both the ISU GP Skate America 2019, and the ISU GP Shiseido Cup of China 2019. Eric Liu (Ice Palace Figure Skating Club), a member of the Skate Canada Next Gen Team, will also be looking for a podium finish after placing 2nd at the 2020 Skate Canada Challenge in November.

13-year-old reigning Novice Women Canadian Champion Kaiya Ruitter from the Glencoe Club in Calgary, also a Skate Canada Next Gen Team Member, will be competing in the Junior Women category this year. And all eyes will be on her as she continues to demand attention after placing 6th overall in Junior Ladies at the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Egna-Neumarkt, Italy in October, and winning Gold in Junior Women at the 2020 Skate Canada Challenge in November.

Other Alberta skaters to be watching for this year are Matthew Newnham (Ice Palace Figure Skating Club), who placed third at last years Canadian Championships in Novice Men, and who also finished third in November at the 2020 Skate Canada Challenge his first year competing in Junior Men. In Novice Dance, Mia Saunders (Calalta Figure Skating Club) and William Oddson (Huntington Hills Skating Club) finished first at Sectionals and brought home the Bronze medal from 2020 Skate Canada Challenge.

The event is being livestreamed in addition to being broadcast on TSN and CTV. The event, livestream and broadcast schedule can be found at <https://skatecanada.ca/2020-canadian-tire-national-skating-championships/> Current standings are posted after each event and final total results for each category are updated once all events in that category have been completed. Results can also be found at <https://skatecanada.ca/2019-canadian-tire-national-skating-championships/> as they are posted.

Section Skating Clubs and Schools represented at the Skate Canada Canadian Tire National Championships:

Calalta Figure Skating Club – Calgary	Okotoks Skating Club - Okotoks
Extreme Edge Skating Club – Edmonton	Sherwood Park Skating Club – Sherwood Park
Fliteway Skating Club - Edmonton	Springbank Figure Skating Club – Springbank
Huntington Hills Skating Club – Calgary	The Glencoe Club - Calgary
Ice Palace Figure Skating Club – Edmonton	Wild Rose Figure Skating Club - Calgary

The full list of 2020 Canadians Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut Team members can be found at <http://skateabnwnun.ca/athletes/select-team-members/>

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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.

Related Information

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Photos available upon request

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