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Canada Games Support Canada's Next Generation Champions

(April 23rd, 2007) Ottawa – The Canada Games Council (CGC) and the Foundation for Athletes and Sport Training (FAST) today announced the list of recipients of the **2007 CANADA GAMES FAST TRACK** athlete grants.

The Canada Games Council and FAST received over 1,200 applications for the grants this year. For 2007, the program is awarding 47 grants, each worth \$2,000, to Canada Games level athletes who are targeted and on the pathway to excellence at the national, international and Olympic team level.

This year's recipients represent 21 sports on the program of either the 2007 or 2009 Canada Games. The grants were administered based on specific criteria whereby recipients were identified using past performances over the last two competitive seasons. National Sport Organizations gave input to the selection committee to help rank athletes in their respective sports. Canada Games Alumni represent 68% of this year's grant winners, continuing a proud tradition of athletic excellence. Overall, 75% of the Canada Games FAST Track winners have already competed at some sort of international junior competition.

The program was designed to fill a void in Canada's sport system and support Canada Games level athletes who are targeted and on the pathway to excellence. "The Canada Games Movement is committed to inspiring dreams and building champions in our nation's youth," says Sue Hylland, President and CEO, Canada Games Council. "The number of quality applications we received this year increased and we are happy to support the next generation of Canada's champions *in between* the Canada Games".

As part of the FAST partnership with the Government of Ontario, an additional 23 grants were awarded to Ontario athletes. The winners have all been identified within the Canada Games FAST Track program criteria as having the most chance to be next generation national team athletes. This represents the third year grants have been awarded in partnership between the Canada Games Council and FAST.

"The Foundation for Athletes and Sport Training is pleased to once again team with the Canada Games Council to award the Canada Games FAST Track grants for 2007. These grants are intended to assist our top developing athletes as they continue their

progression to the podium in major international events like the Olympic Games and World Championships” explains Larry Cain, Chairman, FAST Board of Directors. “FAST wishes to acknowledge the Government of Ontario for their support in funding the grants to Ontario athletes and the Canada Games Council for their contribution to our successful partnership.”

The Canada Games FAST program represents one of the new programs under the CGC’s *between* the Games initiatives titled Dreams and Champions Programs, which has received a generous contribution from Canadian Heritage (Sport Canada). This program also received money from the Government of Ontario and administered through FAST.

A listing of the 47 grant recipients follows. For more information on any of the recipient or to arrange an interview with them, please contact Denisa Horak, at the Canada Games Council office.

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Held once every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Canada Games represent the highest level of national competition for the next generation of national team athletes and future champions. The Games have been hosted in every province at least once since their inception in Quebec City during Canada’s Centennial in 1967. The Games are proud of their contribution to Canada’s sport development system in addition to their lasting legacy of sport facilities, community pride and national unity. The organization of the Canada Games is made possible through the tireless dedication of the local Host Society, the contribution and support of the federal, provincial/territorial and host municipal governments and the Canada Games Council. The 2007 Canada Winter Games were held in Whitehorse, Yukon. The 2009 Canada Summer Games will be hosted by the province of Prince Edward Island.

First Name	Last Name	Town	P/T	Sport
Duston	Cook	Ottawa	ON	Alpine
David	Donaldson	Toronto	ON	Alpine
Marie-Michele	Gagnon	Lac Etchemin	QC	Alpine
Jonathan	Robert	Ottawa	ON	Alpine
Lemlem	Ogbasilasse	Montreal	QC	Athletics
Emmanuel	Parris	Sherbrooke	QC	Athletics
Kelsey	Adrian	Langley	BC	Basketball
Brett	Dickey	Waverley	NS	Canoe/Kayak
Dana	Morgoch	Mississauga	ON	Canoe/Kayak
Genevieve	Orton	Lake Echo	NS	Canoe/Kayak
Rochelle	Van Coller	Richmond Hill	ON	Canoe/Kayak
Erin	Tribe	Barrie	ON	Cross Country Skiing
Stefan	Kuhn	Edmonton	AB	Cross Country Skiing
Phillip	Wood	Thunder Bay	ON	Cross Country Skiing
Lee	Merklinger	Orleans	ON	Curling
Breanne	Merklinger	Orleans	ON	Curling
Lianne	Sobey	Fredericton	NB	Curling
Mark	Hinnen	Oakville	ON	Cycling
Mical	Dyck	Calgary	AB	Cycling

Katherine Shane	Girgulis	Calgary	AB	Diving
Andrew	Miszkiel	Victoria	BC	Diving
Joey	Russell	Barrie	ON	Figure Skating
Chelsea	Henitiuk	Calgary	AB	Freestyle
Tara	McFadden	Thomasburg	ON	Golf
Brent	Holmes-Heron	Peterborough	ON	Rowing
Anthony	Jacob	Vancouver	BC	Rowing
Elizabeth	McCord	Toronto	ON	Rowing
Sarah	Waterfield	Kingston	ON	Rowing
Alex	Boisvert- Lacroix	Sherbrooke	QC	Speed Skating
Joel	Collin-Demers	Cumberland	ON	Speed Skating
Anne Sophie	Davreux	Montreal	QC	Speed Skating
Jill	Gilday	Yellowknife	NWT	Speed Skating
Asmir	Arifovic	Ottawa	ON	Shooting
Alexandra	Duckworth	Kingsburg	NS	Snowboarding
Zachary	Stone	Collingwood	ON	Snowboarding
Mohamed	Sylla	Pierrefonds	QC	Soccer
Cambria	McKay	Brampton	ON	Softball
Zsofia	Balazs	North York	ON	Swimming
Hilary	Bell	Toronto	ON	Swimming
Joel	Greenshields	Airdrie	AB	Swimming
Daniel	Langlois	Pickering	ON	Swimming
Helen	Pitchik	Toronto	ON	Swimming
Curtis	Samuel	Oakville	ON	Swimming
Peter	Marrack	Mississauga	ON	Tennis
Kirsten	Sweetland	Victoria	BC	Triathlon
Steven	Snijders	St. Catharines	ON	Wrestling
Clint	Kingsbury	Braeside	ON	Wrestling