



January 18, 2011

Team Alberta named for Canada Winter Games

337-member team targets top-three finish and a record number of medals

Edmonton... More than 337 participants from 49 communities around the province will represent Alberta at the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia, February 11-27.

“Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches and staff whose years of hard work and dedication have been recognized with their selection to Team Alberta,” said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “Albertans are extremely proud of all of our participants and we know you will represent our province with pride and enthusiasm at these Games.”

With close to 242 athletes competing in 20 sports, this edition of Team Alberta represents one of the largest teams Alberta has sent to a Canada Winter Games. In addition, 74 coaches and managers, along with 18 mission staff, will provide support and leadership for Team Alberta. Three artists are also members of the team and will interpret the experience of the Games through the National Artists Program.

“We are very excited about Team Alberta, whose combination of talent, experience and enthusiasm will push us towards our goal to finish in the top three for medals and points,” said Pat Lechelt, Team Alberta Chef de Mission. “Several of our athletes have achieved success provincially and nationally, but these Games represent the next step in their development and dream to compete in the Olympics and internationally.”

To see the full list of Alberta athletes participating at the Games, track their results, or for more information, visit www.facebook.com/TeamAB or www.teamalberta.org .

Team Alberta’s involvement is coordinated by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit Crown corporation supported by the Alberta Lottery Fund. The Foundation provides support for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity, athletic excellence and the preservation and recreational use of natural environments in Alberta. Through the Foundation, the Alberta government has provided nearly \$1.5 million towards team training, the selection of teams and the operations of Team Alberta.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Chris Dornan, Team Alberta Media Liaison, 281-703-4394 or 902-626-9670 during the Games

Dan Huang, Communications, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, 780-427-1828

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Jennifer Johnson, Team Alberta Media Liaison, 403-797-3248 (cell),

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Team Alberta at the 2011 Canada Winter Games

Team Alberta facts

- 337 participants will represent Alberta in 20 sports at the 2011 Canada Winter Games including 242 athletes, 74 coaches, 18 mission staff and three artists
- Alberta has finished third in the point standings the last two Canada Winter Games, the most recent in 2007 when the event was staged in Whitehorse.
- Canmore's Scott Gow, a member of the Canadian biathlon team, is the official flag bearer for Team Alberta.
- Canada Winter Games alumni from Alberta who went on to compete in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games include Jennifer Heil (Freestyle Skiing), Jessica Gregg (Speed skating), Hailey Wickenheiser (Women's Hockey), Marc Kennedy (Curling), and Chandra Crawford (Cross Country Skiing).
- Team Alberta's largest contingent is in hockey (men's and women's) with 20 athletes and five coaches and managers per team. Team Alberta's smallest contingent is in curling (men's and women's) with four athletes and one coach per team.
- Team Alberta's youngest athlete is 10-year old Edward Guo from Edmonton in table tennis.

2011 Canada Winter Games

The 2011 Canada Winter Games will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from February 11-27, and marks the 23rd anniversary of the event. During its proud history, the Games have acted as a stepping stone for many of Canada's most celebrated national, international and Olympic athletes including Catriona Le May Doan, Steve Nash, Sydney Crosby, Marc Gagnon and Adam Van Koeverden.

To find out more about the Canada Winter Games, visit www.2011canadagames.ca. For more information on Team Alberta athletes at the Games or to track their results, visit www.facebook.com/TeamAB.

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