

*March 12, 2010*

## **Alberta's best heading to the Paralympic Games**

*Edmonton...* Premier Ed Stelmach congratulated the nine Albertans competing at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games taking place in Vancouver/Whistler from March 12-21.

“On behalf of all Albertans, I would like to congratulate our athletes on being selected for Canada’s Paralympic team,” said Premier Stelmach. “Albertans and Canadians will be full of pride as you represent Canada and promote the Paralympic values of courage, determination and equality to the world.”

The nine Alberta athletes and two para-nordic guides are part of the 55-member Canadian Paralympic team. They will be the first Paralympic athletes to represent Canada on home soil. More than 1,350 athletes and officials from 40 countries will take part in 64 events in five different sports at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

“Alberta’s Paralympians inspire us with their athletic excellence, and I’m looking forward to cheering them on,” said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “The Albertans competing, officiating or volunteering at the Games all make us very proud that we are part of Canada’s Games.”

Alberta’s commitment to athletic excellence is supported through investments in programs such as Podium Alberta. Since 2008-09, more than \$1 million has been invested each year to supplement the funding available to eligible nationally-carded high-performance athletes through the federal government that allows them to focus on training and competing nationally and internationally. Alberta is also the home of Dr. Bob Steadward of Edmonton, who recently was awarded the Olympic Order for his leadership and contributions as the founder of the Paralympic movement.

The Government of Alberta also provides nearly \$1 million annually to not-for-profit organizations such as the world-renowned Steadward Centre, to provide opportunities for Albertans with disabilities to be physically active. In addition, more than \$100 million was invested in renewing the province’s Olympic Legacy facilities - establishing Alberta as the centre of Canada’s winter sports training and development programs.

Some of the province’s most talented artists will share in the Paralympic spirit, gaining valuable international exposure. Alberta musicians, visual artists, theatrical productions and more will be featured during the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, taking place until March 21 at various venues throughout the Games.

“I am very proud of Alberta’s artists taking part in the Cultural Olympiad that is continuing

through the Paralympics,” said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. “Just like our Paralympic athletes, Alberta’s artists are committed to achieving excellence. We wish all of them every success.”

For more information about Alberta’s Paralympians and artists performing during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, visit [alberta.ca/vancouver2010](http://alberta.ca/vancouver2010) .

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**Backgrounder:** Alberta Paralympians and artists participating in the Cultural Olympiad

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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## Alberta at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games

Nine Paralympians and two Paralympic-Nordic guides from Alberta will be competing at the Games:

<b>Athlete</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Place of Birth</b>	<b>Current Residence</b>
Brian McKeever	Para-Nordic Skiing	Calgary	Canmore
Bruno Yizek	Wheelchair Curling	Cardston	Calgary
Darryl Neighbour	Wheelchair Curling	Beaverlodge	Richmond, BC
Chris Williamson	Para-Alpine Skiing	Edmonton	Markham, ON
Graham MacLean	Para-Nordic Skiing Guide	Smithers, BC	Canmore
Kirk Shornstein	Para-Alpine Skiing	Edmonton	Spruce Grove
Kimberly Joines	Para-Alpine Skiing	Edmonton	Rossland, BC
Lauren Woolstencroft	Para-Alpine Skiing	Calgary	North Vancouver, BC
Mark Arendz	Para-Nordic Skiing	Charlottetown, PEI	Calgary
Robin McKeever	Para-Nordic Skiing Guide	Calgary	Canmore
Viviane Forest	Para-Alpine Skiing	Greenfield Park, QC	Edmonton

### **Cultural Olympiad**

The Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad encompasses music, dance, theatre, visual arts, film, and literary, digital and new media events in a variety of venues. The following artists will be performing or displaying their work during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Title / Genre</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Performance Date and Location</b>
University of Alberta's BFA Acting Class (2010)	<i>Spine</i> (theatre)	Edmonton	Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre at SFU Woodward's (March 10 to March 20)
Bent Out of Shape Productions	<i>The Drowning Girls</i> (theatre)	Edmonton	Gateway Theatre Studio B (March 4 to 13)
David Hoffos	<i>Yukon Souvenir</i> (visual arts)	Born in Montreal, living in Lethbridge	Five- Sixty (January 28 to March 21)
Cheryl L'Hirondelle	<i>First Nations/ Second Nature</i> (visual arts)	Northern Alberta	Audain Gallery at SFU Woodward's (January 6 to March 20)
Karen Cantine	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Edmonton	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)

Katrina Chaytor	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Calgary	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Dawn Detarando	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Red Deer	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Brian McArthur	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Red Deer	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Linda McBain Cuyler	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Edmonton	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Greg Payce	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Calgary	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Melissa Pedersen	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Calgary	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
&nbsp;Julia Reimer	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Black Diamond	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Kari Woo	<i>The Art of Craft</i> (visual arts)	Calgary	Museum of Vancouver (January 14 to April 11)
Nelson Henricks	<i>CUE: Artists' Videos</i>	Bow Island	Vancouver Art Gallery (January 23 to March 21)
David Hoffos	<i>CUE: Artists' Videos</i>	Born in Montreal, living in Lethbridge	Vancouver Art Gallery (January 23 to March 21)

For more information on Alberta's Paralympians and artists performing during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, visit [alberta.ca/vancouver2010](http://alberta.ca/vancouver2010) . For information on the Cultural Olympiad, including performance times and ticket prices, visit [vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad](http://vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad) .

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