

January 15, 2019

### **Podium Alberta funding supports our high performance athletes**

Edmonton... The Government of Alberta has provided 240 Alberta-based athletes nearly \$1 million through the Alberta Sport Connection (ASC) Podium Alberta program. Podium Alberta funding helps athletes access high-performance coaching and training opportunities and pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of competition.

“Our Alberta government is proud to support some of Canada’s best athletes who live and train in our province,” said Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism, responsible for sport. “By supporting Podium Alberta, we are helping our athletes achieve their dreams, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the best in the world.”

This year, 240 athletes in 42 sports, from 35 Alberta communities, received an average of more than \$4,000 for a total of more than \$967,000 through the Podium Alberta program.



Alberta-based athletes from the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games visit the Legislature

“Our sport system needs to provide our high performance Alberta-based athletes with the support they need to compete against the world’s best,” said Dr. Stephen Norris, Chair of the Alberta Sport Connection. “Our Podium Alberta program helps our athletes train and access sport science services, while they continue their education,” said Dr. Stephen Norris, Chair of Alberta Sport Connection.

Podium Alberta supports athletes competing at the highest levels of national and international competition who live and train in Alberta or who temporarily train in other locations due to specific training environments. Funding of up to \$6,000 is provided to Alberta-based athletes who are

carded at the national level. In addition to access to coaching, sport science practitioners, and training opportunities, the funding allows athletes to pursue their athletic dreams while fulfilling educational goals.

#### **What our athletes say:**

“Podium Alberta funding has been essential and has allowed me to attend training camps in the winter. Not being able to do this would make it impossible to compete with top athletes throughout the world who train outdoors, year round. Podium Alberta helps athletes in our chase to be world-class and the best in our sport,” *Alister McQueen (Athletics), Silver medalist (Javelin), Paralympic Games, and three-time Canadian record holder, 100m, 200m and javelin.*

“Sport has given me the opportunity to become an ambassador and I would not be the athlete I am today without the help of Podium Alberta. Their financial assistance allows me to represent our province internationally, and hopefully to one day become an Olympian,” *Haley Daniels (Canoe-Kayak), three-time Canadian Champion, and Silver medalist, Pan American Championships.*

Since 2008, more than 2,500 grants totaling over \$10.4 million have been awarded to 800 high-performance athletes. Since its inception, 270 Alberta athletes have gone on to compete at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including: Erica Wiebe (wrestling - gold); Kaillie Humphries (bobsleigh – 2x gold, bronze); John Morris (curling – 2x gold); Kaetlyn Osmond (figure skating – gold, bronze); Justin Kripps (bobsleigh – gold); Jon Montgomery (skeleton - gold); Chandra Crawford (cross-country skiing - gold); Brady Leman (ski cross – gold) and Brian McKeever (cross-country skiing - 13 career Paralympic gold medals).

For more information visit [Podium Alberta](#) to view funded athletes and their sport discipline. Alberta Sport Connection is an agency of the Government of Alberta dedicated to the development of sport in Alberta. For more information visit [www.albertasport.ca](http://www.albertasport.ca) or follow [@AlbertaSport](#) on Twitter.

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**Editor’s Note:** Podium Alberta recipients are listed by sport and community, to help identify local athletes.

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