

Media Release

Date: April 30, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sport Manitoba Announces Women to Watch Grant Recipients

Page 1 of 3

Women to Watch Grant Recipients – November 2009 – March 2010

Athletes:

Elise MacDonald – Speed Skating

Elise is 16 and has been speed skating competitively for ten years and has also coached for five of those years. She is on the Manitoba provincial team where she placed first at the provincial championships. She is trying out for the upcoming 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax and also competed at the last Canada Winter Games in the Yukon in 2007. She will be moving out to Calgary and training at the Olympic oval and this grant will go towards her training fees.

Karlee Gendron – Cycling

Karlee is a competitive speed skater that started competing in cycling four years ago and won a silver medal at the Canada Summer Games this past summer. She is still young enough to compete at the next Canada Games in Quebec in 2013. Her list of accomplishments in cycling are long and impressive and Karlee will be using her grant money for her upcoming competitive season travel throughout Canada and the USA.

Connor Deneka – Air Rifle

Connor who is only 16 made the Women's Developmental Air Rifle team and will be travelling to Munich Germany to compete in the Smallbore World Championship. Previously she was a bronze medalist at the Canada Winter Games in 2007 when she was only 13. She is the Manitoba air rifle champion and also came 5th at the Canadian Air Gun Grand Prix where she made the national air rifle team and will be travelling to Brazil to compete this November for the Championships of the America's.

Brittany Wiebe – Basketball

Brittany is a 15-year-old Midget basketball player from Brandon who commutes to Winnipeg all summer to train with Team Manitoba. She is working towards making the provincial team again this summer and continue on her goal to play basketball in University.

Megan Rutherford – Synchronized Swimming

Megan has been a synchronized swimmer since she was seven years old. She is swimming in two events at provincials this year and will be using her grant money to attend both national age group championships.

Coaches awarded Women to Watch Coaching Grants:**Heather Carson – Water Polo**

Heather was a pro water polo athlete in Italy, a player on the national youth team and a Bushido club player for many years before deciding to start coaching. She presently coaches the Bushido Youth men's water polo team and will be coaching a high performance 18U team that is combining athletes from Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There she will be mentored by Cyril Dorgigne who was Women's Junior National team coach for the past two years. She will be using her grant money to travel with the team to Edmonton for a training camp and to Halifax for Nationals.

Kendra Gierys – Alpine Ski

Kendra is working towards being Manitoba's only performance level coach and having a positive impact on female athletes in alpine ski. She will be using her grant to obtain certification status at the Development level and start the performance level of training.

Haylee O'Neill – Softball

Haylee is a volunteer coach for a 15/16 year old Midget fastball softball team that will be travelling to three tournaments this year in the States. She is using her grant money to help pay for her expenses to attend and coach at these tournaments and to continue coaching the sport that she loves.

Sport Manitoba provides the leadership for initiatives that increase and enhance opportunities for participation by women in sport. A major initiative is the Women to Watch Grant Program.

Working in partnership with Provincial Sport Organizations and Coaching Manitoba, Sport Manitoba provides a monthly grant of \$500 to a female athlete, team, official or volunteer to assist them in enhancing their women in sport career.

A \$500 monthly grant is also awarded to a female coach to assist them in further developing the skills necessary to attain a higher level of coaching or increased level of coaching experience.

Sport Manitoba is a not for profit organization and the lead planning, programming and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba. Sport Manitoba partners with over 100 organizations to deliver sport in our province and is responsible for programs including the Power Smart Manitoba Games, Coaching Manitoba, Team Manitoba, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and KidSport.

<http://www.sportmanitoba.ca/programs/womensport.php>

-30-

For more information please contact:

Shawnee Scatliff
Team Manitoba/Women in Sport
Sport Manitoba
885-7400
sscatliff@mts.net