



## Canadian Deaf Sports Association

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Team Canada is ready for the Summer Deaflympics**

*Twenty-seven Deaf and hard of hearing athletes make the Canadian Team that will be in Turkey next month*

Montreal, June 21st, 2017 - The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) is currently wrapping up Team Canada's preparations ahead of the **Summer Deaflympics** that are hosted in Samsun, Turkey from July 18th to 30th.

A total of 27 athletes will represent the Maple Leaf in seven sports : Badminton, Bowling, Judo, Mountain Biking, Swimming, Tennis and Women's Volleyball. Fifteen of these athletes will be at their first Deaflympic experience. The mission team is composed of 19 members, which brings the National Team to a total of 46 people.

"I raise my hat for all athletes and coaches that attended several training camps across Canada this year. I wish them best of luck in Turkey!" said Alain Turpin, CDSA Executive Director.

The Swimming team with its six swimmers whose average age is 17 represents a promising future for Canada. Made up of veterans and new players the Women's Volleyball team hopes to do well after winning the Bronze at the Pan American qualifications last year in Washington, U.S.

"I love every opportunity I have to represent Canada, but to do so on Canada's 150th birthday is something I'm excited, proud and ready to do! We will bring our best to the volleyball court, and no matter the outcome make Canada proud!" said Mari Klassen one of the Women's Volleyball players.

Team Canada will fly to Turkey on July 13th. To celebrate the occasion CDSA is hosting a Welcome Celebration at Lester B. Pearson airport in Toronto, Ont. from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Dignitaries have been invited to the celebration to meet with the Canadian team.

Thanks to financial support from the Government of Canada a part of the trip costs are covered.

"The Deaflympics are an extraordinary opportunity for these young Canadians to enjoy a competitive experience, travel and meet other athletes who share the same goals. Offering young athletes the chance to perform, no matter their physical ability, is essential to the development of Canada's future," said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. "The Government of Canada is proud to promote inclusive sport and ensure that everyone can grow to their full potential."

**About the Deaflympics:** The Summer and Winter Deaflympics occur every four years alternating just like the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Deaflympics are sanctioned by the **International Committee of Sports for the Deaf** and are recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The 2017 Deaflympics are hosted in Samsun, which is the biggest city and economic capital of the Black Sea region.

**About CDSA:** CDSA is a non-profit organization aiming to support the development of practice of sports within the Deaf community and Deaf youth, in order to ensure a quality Canadian representation in international competitions.

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#### **Contact**

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### Team Canada at 2017 Summer Deaflympics

#### Badminton

Brandon Huynh, Alberta  
Lance Gordon, British Columbia

#### Swimming

Jacob Blackburn, Ontario  
Selena Zou, Ontario  
Brandon Van Wyk, Ontario  
Damiano Panetta, Ontario  
Vedavati Ghanekar, Ontario  
Joshua Baerg, British Columbia

#### Mountain Biking

Jess Tremblay, Quebec

#### Judo

Danny Berthiaume, Quebec  
Stéphane Gignac, Quebec

#### Bowling

Lily Chin Halas, Ontario  
George Halas, Ontario  
Paul Halas, Manitoba  
P. Gail Zimmer, British Columbia

#### Tennis

Martin Hong, Ontario  
Shayla Sabbagh, British Columbia

#### Women's Volleyball

Mari Klassen, British Columbia  
Annie Lau, Ontario  
Kimberly Summers, Ontario  
Erin Ramsay, Alberta  
Kristen Wood, Alberta  
Madeline Brinkmann, Alberta  
Rachel Eastwood, Alberta  
Serena Klapstein, Alberta  
Jessica Szacilowski, Manitoba  
Emily Cairncross, Turkey

#### Mission Staff

Mark Kusiak, Delegate and President, CDSA and Team Manager, Badminton  
Alain Turpin, Delegate and Executive Director, CDSA  
Danny Daniels, Chef de mission  
Gigi Fiset, Assistant Chef de mission and Administrative Assistant, CDSA  
Liz Scully, Head Interpreter  
Vicky Collette, Head Medical  
Karen Hidalgo, Physiotherapist  
Susanne Gordon, chaperonne  
Barb Baerg, Team Manager, Swimming  
Judy Baker, Coach, Swimming  
Lydio Trasporto, Coach, Bowling  
Janice McLaren, ASL Interpreter, Bowling or Swimming  
Lois McIntyre, Coach, Tennis  
Roger Beauchesne, Coach Judo  
Martin Asselin, LSQ Interpreter, Judo  
Mary Dyck, Team Manager, Women's Volleyball  
Derek Usman, Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Steve Ivan, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Vicki Yee, ASL Interpreter, Women's Volleyball