



**Team Canada Gets Ready for the Winter Deaflympics**

A Canadian team of 34 Deaf and Hard of Hearing athletes will soon be in Italy

**Montreal, December 9, 2019**— The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) is actively planning Team Canada's trip to the Winter Deaflympics in Valtellina-Valchiavenna, Italy, on December 12-21, 2019.

A total of 34 athletes will represent the colours of the maple leaf in one of four sports: alpine skiing, curling, ice hockey and snowboarding. Out of the 34, no less than 20 athletes will be at their first Deaflympics experience. The national team also includes 19 mission staff. Note the remarkable feat of Danielle Rousseau of Quebec City, an alpine skiing athlete who will be participating in her seventh Winter Deaflympics.

"Hats off to all the athletes and coaches, who have held several training camps across Canada since 2018. I wish them the best of luck in Italy!" says Alain Turpin, Executive Director of CDSA.

"I feel awesome and grateful to be selected to Team Canada. It is a very great honour and the goal remains the same: bring back gold," says Christopher Garbacz, one of the ice hockey team players who will be making his seventh appearance at an international Deaf sports competition: 3 Winter Deaflympics and 4 World Championships.

Part of the travel costs are covered through financial assistance provided by the Government of Canada.

"Congratulations to the 34 athletes and 19 mission staff who will represent Canada at the Winter Deaflympics. You are a source of inspiration and motivation for all Canadians," says Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage. "The Government of Canada is proud to support Deaflympics athletes so that they can achieve their full potential at home and on the world stage".

**About the Deaflympics:** The Summer and Winter Deaflympics are held every four years, alternating with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Deaflympics is sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and are recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

**About CDSA:** The CDSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of high-performance Deaf and hard of hearing athletes. Through direct financial support, the CDSA helps athletes participate in international sport events sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf and the Pan American Sports Committee for the Deaf.

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