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Podium Alberta funding awarded to Alberta's best athletes

Edmonton... The Government of Alberta has awarded 249 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.

"The Government of Alberta is proud to support the outstanding athletes who live and train in Alberta as they pursue their dreams," said Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism, responsible for sport. "The support provided through Podium Alberta is just one of the many ways we are helping our athletes compete at the highest levels and stand among the best in the world."

This year, 249 athletes in 42 sports, from 34 Alberta communities, received an average of more than \$3,900 for a total of more than \$991,000 through the Podium Alberta program.

"Alberta Sport Connection is proud to support our high-performance athletes and help them train while they continue their education," said Andrew Ference, Chair of Alberta Sport Connection. "ASC is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Albertans through sport and we are honoured to have these Alberta-based athletes represent us as they prepare to compete against the best in the world at the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea and at other international competitions."

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.



Since 2008, more than 2,300 grants totaling nearly \$9.5 million have been given out to 760 high-performance athletes. Since its inception, 227 Alberta athletes have gone on to compete at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including Erica Wiebe (wrestling - gold); Kaillie Humphries (bobsled - gold); Jon Montgomery (skeleton - gold); Chandra Crawford (cross-country skiing - gold); and Brian McKeever (cross-country skiing - 10 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 or follow [@AlbertaSport](#) on Twitter.

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**Erica Wiebe & Alistair McQueen,
Olympic/Paralympic medalists**

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

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