

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **2013 'Fuelling Athletes and Coaching Excellence' (FACE) program recipients announced**

**50 athlete and coach pairings receive \$8,000 to help fuel their sport dreams**

**Calgary, Alberta (May 23, 2013)** – Suncor Energy, the proud owner of Petro-Canada, today announced the 2013 Fuelling Athletes and Coaching Excellence (FACE) recipients. The 2013 FACE recipients represent a balance of summer, winter and team sports with selected athletes coming from six provinces across Canada.

Working together with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) and their National Sport partners, the FACE program provides developing, pre-carded Canadian athlete and coach pairings with \$8,000 in grants. The FACE program has provided more than 2,400 Canadian athletes and coaches with over \$8 million in direct financial support. These resources help athletes achieve national carded status and coaches improve their skills over the long term.

"We would like to congratulate each of the 2013 FACE recipients," said Steven Keith, Director, Loyalty and Marketing Partnerships, Suncor Energy. "For the past 25 years, we have been fortunate to support athletes and coaches by providing funding so they can focus on achieving their dreams."

"It's a good day for sport, anytime our partners can dedicate resources that go directly to Canadian athletes and coaches," said Marcel Aubut, president, COC. "The COC is proud of our relationship with Petro-Canada, an organization that has contributed to our budding athletes for 25 years. There is no doubt that the sport movement is transforming and gaining momentum in Canada, and they have been at the forefront of that much needed change."

"These grants will help athletes and coaches who are on the cusp of breaking through nationally and internationally to make that crucial next step," says Gaétan Tardif, the newly-elected President of the CPC. "Building a strong parasport system is essential for the CPC as we work towards the goal of being the world's leading Paralympic nation. As a premier partner of the CPC, Petro-Canada, is playing a significant role in helping advance parasport in this country."

"Receiving this kind of funding is very helpful at this stage in my career," said triathlete Sarah-Anne Brault. "This support allows me to train at a higher level and race in more competitions which will better prepare me to eventually compete against the best in the world."

"I want to be ready for 2014 so I can perform my best and know that I did everything I could to be prepared," added Para-snowboarder John Leslie. "Being an athlete does have a cost, but with the Petro-Canada FACE Program grant I will be able to afford time off work to train and attend World Cups that would otherwise be hard to afford. I feel honoured to have so much support from so many people and hope to make everyone proud."

Coaches who receive grants often use the funding to build their skills or purchase equipment that can be used to benefit multiple athletes within the same sport discipline.

“This is a wonderful initiative and much needed assistance at a time where athletes are juggling so many priorities in their lives,” said Mark Burgess, coach of two of this year’s FACE recipients, one competing in judo and the other in Para-judo. “Our youth have so much potential, and programs like these keep their hopes and drive alive.”

In the past, the FACE program has provided financial grants to Canada’s top athletes including 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games medalists: Alexandre Bilodeau, Hayley Wickenheiser, Kaillie Humphries, John Morris, Kristina Groves, Mike Robertson, Jim Armstrong and Ina Forest. Other notable FACE recipients include Mark Tewksbury, Canada’s Chef de Mission at the 2012 London Games, Marianne Limpert, silver medalist at the 1996 Olympic Games and Annie Pelletier, bronze medalist at the 1996 Olympic Games.

The 2013 FACE program recipients are:

ATHLETE	SPORT	HOMETOWN	COACH
Adam Svensson	Golf	Surrey, BC	Derek Ingram
Alexander Heinzemann	Sailing	Delta, BC	Steve Mitchell
Andrew Yorke	Triathlon	Caledon East, ON	Barrie Shepley
Anne-Marie Comeau	Cross Country Skiing	Amos, QC	Louis Bouchard
Annie Ewart	Cycling	Victoria, BC	Houshang Amiri
Arthur Biyarсланov	Boxing	Toronto, ON	John Kalbhenn
Atsuko Tanaka	Ski Jumping	Calgary, AB	Gregor Linsig
Barrett Martineau	Skeleton	Calgary, AB	Keith Loach
Braxton Stone-Papadopoulos	Wrestling	Toronto, ON	Stan Tzogas
Cameron Wheelan	Beach Volleyball	Barrie, ON	Jason Hubbard
Camille Remillard	Synchronized Swimming	Terrebonne, QC	Meng Chen
Catherine Dauplaise	Table Tennis	Drummondville, QC	David Jacques
Cendrine Browne	Cross Country Skiing	Barrie, ON	Louis Bouchard
Charles Moreau	Para-Cycling	Victoriaville, QC	Sebastien Travers
Christin Tsai	Badminton	Richmond, BC	Darryl Yung
Dave Blais-Langlais	Freestyle Skiing – Aerials	Lac-Beauport, QC	Caroline Franc
Eleanor Harvey	Fencing	Hamilton, ON	Paul ApSimon
Gabrielle Daleman	Figure Skating	Toronto, ON	Andre Berezhintsev
Genevieve Haley	Wrestling	Shawville, QC	Paul Ragusa
Greg Rafter	Skeleton	Calgary, AB	Keith Loach
Jackson Carroll	Taekwondo	Halifax, NS	Kathy Pyke
Jazmyne Denhollander	Canoe/Kayak	Chilliwack, BC	Jonathan Allen
Jessica Ruel	Weightlifting	Rouyn-Noranda, QC	René Bellemarre
John Leslie	Para-Snowboard	Winnipeg, MB	Candice Drouin
Jon Versteeg	Snowboard - Slopestyle	Kelowna, BC	Chris Witwiki

Julia Ransom	Biathlon	Penticton, BC	Richard Boruta
Justin Karn	Paralympic Judo	Guelph, ON	Mark Burgess
Katelyn Lehner	Athletics	Prince Albert, SK	Stirling Lehner
Keegan Zanatta	Swimming	Victoria, BC	Ryan Mallette
Kurt Oatway	Para-Skiing - Alpine	Edmonton, AB	Nick Brush
Mischa Partridge	BMX	Duncan, BC	Ken Cools
Molly Carlson	Diving	Fort Frances, ON	Mike Lang
Monika Burgess	Judo	Kitchener, ON	Mark Burgess
Nicholas-Guy Turbide	Para-Swimming	Quebec City, QC	Valerie Cyr
Patricia Bezzoubenko	Gymnastics Rhythmic	Vancouver, BC	Svetlana Joukova
Peter Brothers	Swimming	Victoria, BC	Ryan Mallette
Pierre-Luc Poulin	Kayak	Quebec City, QC	Luc Grenier
Robert (Bob) Hudson	Para-Archery	Moose Jaw, SK	Ken Chipley
Sabrina Gill	Gymnastics - Artistic	Mississauga, ON	Lisa Cowan
Sarah-Anne Brault	Triathlon	Lévis, QC	Gary Pallett
Tayler Wilton	Snowboardcross	Toronto, ON	Dave Balne
Virginie Chénier	Archery	Montreal, QC	Sylvain Cadieux
Yoan Gauthier	Speed Skating - Short Track	River-du-Loup, QC	Laurent Daignault
Zachary Burt	Judo	Ajax, ON	Dave Burt
Junior Women's National Basketball Team	Basketball	Ontario	Donna Branch
Men's Rugby Team	Rugby	British Columbia	Geraint John
Men's Sledge Hockey Team	Sledge Hockey	Alberta	Todd Sargeant
Jr-FISU Men's Water Polo Team	Water Polo	Quebec	Michel Roy
Jr-FISU Women's Water Polo Team	Water Polo	Quebec	Andrew Robinson
Wheelchair Rugby	Wheelchair Rugby	British Columbia	Kevin Orr

For more information on the FACE program, visit [www.facebook.com/dreambig](http://www.facebook.com/dreambig).

#### *About Suncor Energy*

*Suncor Energy is Canada's leading integrated energy company. Suncor's operations include oil sands development and upgrading, conventional and offshore oil and gas production, petroleum refining, and product marketing under the Petro-Canada brand. While working to responsibly develop petroleum resources, Suncor is also developing a growing renewable energy portfolio. Suncor's common shares (symbol: SU) are listed on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges.*

#### *About the Canadian Olympic Committee*

*The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) leads the achievement of the Canadian Olympic Team's podium success and advances Olympic values in Canada. Independent and predominantly privately funded, the COC delivers resources that Canada's elite athletes need to perform at their best and give their everything every day. The backbone of Canada's Olympic movement, the COC works with National Sport Federations to prepare the Team for the Olympic, Youth Olympic and Pan American Games. By sharing our athletes' stories, we inspire all Canadians through the power of sport: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.*

*About the Canadian Paralympic Committee*

*The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) is a non-profit, private organization with 46 member sports organizations dedicated to strengthening the Paralympic Movement. The CPC is responsible for creating an optimal high-performance environment for Canadian Paralympic athletes to win at Paralympic and Parapan American Games. By supporting Canadian Paralympic athletes and promoting their success, the CPC inspires all Canadians with a physical disability to get involved in sport through programs delivered by its member organizations.*

– 30 –

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