

Team Ontario Press Release

For immediate release



Prince George, BC Sunday, March 1, 2015

Team Ontario wins the Canada Games Flag at the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George BC.

After two weeks of outstanding performances from all sports, the Canada Games Council announced that Team Ontario won the Canada Games Flag. Team Ontario achieved this feat with a final medal count of 112 medals including 47 gold medals, 40 silver medals and 25 bronze medals. Team Ontario has now won the Canada Games flag 10 out of 13 times at Canada Winter Games, and 21 out of 25 Canada Games overall.

At each Canada Games, the province or territory with the greatest number of points from all events is declared the champion and presented with the Canada Games Flag. Flag points are awarded to every athlete in every sport based on performance and participation and then aggregated for a provincial or territorial total. Ontario accumulated 301 points, followed by Quebec with 291 and host province British Columbia came in third with 270 points.

Upon learning that Team Ontario had won the Canada Games flag, Chef de Mission Blair McIntosh said, "I am extremely proud of our athletes and coaches for Team Ontario. Their performances were outstanding! Each and every one of them made Ontario proud with their achievements both on and off the field of play. They are incredible ambassadors for their sport and for the Province of Ontario."

McIntosh had nothing but praise for the thousands of volunteers who worked extremely hard to host the 2015 Canada Winter Games. "The residents of Prince George and Fort St John did an incredible job in planning and hosting the Canada Winter Games and everyone who was involved must be congratulated."

The Team Ontario contingent, consisting of 352 athletes, coaches and mission staff, was led into the closing ceremony on Saturday night by Brampton's Amy Nichols who won three gold medals and a silver medal in table tennis during the games.

Besides Team Ontario's athletic achievements, they will be remembered by the residents of Prince George for their generous donation of new and gently used sporting equipment and winter clothing. The clothing and equipment, donated by Team Ontario athletes, coaches and mission staff, were presented to the community group Prince George Native Friendship Centre for use by the children and youth who attend programs at the centre.

The 2015 Canada Winter Games have been memorable and productive for Ontario athletes. The great success at these Games confirms Team Ontario's place as the leading province in sport development through progressive athlete development, coaching and support from Sport Alliance Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

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Team Ontario Quick Facts:

- The Government of Ontario provides funding for Team Ontario's participation in the Canada Games through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.
- The Honourable Michael Coteau is the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and Minister responsible for 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.
- Sport Alliance Ontario (SAO) is a not-for-profit sport management organization that receives funding from the province to deliver a variety of games in the province including Team Ontario's participation at Canada Games.
- Team Ontario is made up of 352 athletes, coaches, managers, chaperones, technicians and mission staff at the 2015 Canada Winter Games.
- Coming into the Canada Games, Team Ontario's objective is to win the Canada Games flag, because it represents overall team strength and unity.
- Team Ontario is the most successful team in Canada Games history, winning the Canada Games flag 21 out of 25 times.
- Team Ontario has won the Canada Games flag at 10 out of 13 times at Canada Winter Games.
- Team Ontario website: **www.TeamOntario.ca**
- At the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi 17 former Team Ontario athletes competed. Former Team Ontario athletes include: Perianne Jones and Lenny Valjas (Cross Country Ski), Ivanie Blondin and Christine Nesbitt (Long Track Speed Skating), Alex Pietrangelo (Men's Hockey), Marianne Leeson (Snowboard Women's slalom), and 8 members of the Women's Hockey Team.
- Ten year old Team Ontario figure skater Stephen Gogolev is the youngest athlete at the 2015 Games. Stephen is already an accomplished athlete, winning gold in his event.



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