



## Media Release

May 11, 2009

### For Immediate Release

Saskatchewan canoe/kayak athletes made their mark at the first set of national team trials held over the weekend in Welland, Ontario.

Saskatchewan women posted excellent results in the Senior Women's K-1 500m events. Kia Byers of Regina had a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the A finals on Saturday, finishing on the heels of three Olympic athletes. Byers also had an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish in the A finals held on Sunday.

The other Saskatchewan woman to make it to the A final on the weekend was Trista Neilly of Loon Lake, who finished 9<sup>th</sup> on Saturday. Neilly also placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the B final raced on Sunday.

Tiera McLeod of Regina placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the B final on Saturday and improved her placement to 3<sup>rd</sup> on Sunday.

Stephanie Robertson of Regina finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the B final on Sunday also had a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish the day before in the C final. Robertson, a former National Junior Team member, has recently returned to competition.

Megan Gibson of Regina placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the C final on Saturday and won the Junior final on Sunday. Gibson also raced in the Junior K-2 500m events, placing 4<sup>th</sup> with partner Li-Yue Grenier of Quebec and 7<sup>th</sup> with Liz Girgulis of Calgary.

A smaller team of Saskatchewan men competed in the event, but also came away with impressive results. Liam Folk of Regina placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Men's C-1 1000m B final.

In the Senior Men's K-1 1000m event, Jarret Kenke of Saskatoon had an outstanding result, placing 8<sup>th</sup> in the B final. Kenke, who just recently turned 15, advanced by posting faster times in heats and semi finals than several national team athletes. Kenke also teamed up in the Junior K-2 finals with Simon Fense of Regina to win the 1000m event and Shylo Wolff of Saskatoon to take 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 500m event.

Wolff also finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the K-1 1000 C final and 4<sup>th</sup> in the K-1 500 C final. Wolff raced up with Thierry Villeneuve of Quebec to place 6<sup>th</sup> in the K-2 1000m Junior final.

In other Junior finals, Fense placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the K-1 1000m and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 500m events. Fense placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the K-2 500m final with partner Matt Sinnott of Saskatoon.

Athletes qualify for the finals each day based on their results in heats and semi finals raced earlier that day. The 27 athletes with the top finishes are seeded into A, B & C Finals. Those of junior age with the 9 next best times are seeded into the Junior Final.

The results from this set of team trials will determine the senior national team which will represent Canada at World Cup competition this summer and will also be considered in the team selection for the Junior World Championships in Moscow this July.

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