



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

11 Quebeckers at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games

Montreal, January 30, 2009 — 10 athletes and one coach of Special Olympics Québec will fly on Monday, February 2nd to the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which will be held in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A., from February 7 to 13.

Québec special athletes **Maxime Boyer** from **Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts** (alpine skiing), **Michaël Gilbert** from **Saint-Donat** (alpine skiing), **Simon Dionne** from **Trois-Rivières** (figure skating), **Vicky Dupont** from **Rawdon** (figure skating), **Zane Salera-Nasra** from **Montréal** (figure skating), **Jean-François Leclerc** from **Québec City** (snowshoeing), **Nancy Leduc** from **Salaberry-de-Valleyfield** (snowshoeing), **Catia Miele** from **Blainville** (snowshoeing) and **Michaël Bizaillon-Goudreau** from **Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu** (snowshoeing) as well as ski coach **Michel Guyon** from **Varrennes** will be among the 81 athletes, 21 coaches and 13 mission staff members who will represent our country at these upcoming Games.

The selection of the ten athletes was based on their performance at the last Special Olympics Canada National Winter Games held in Québec City in February 2008. This is Québec's largest representation at the World Winter Games since their inception in 1977.

Daniel Granger, chairman of Special Olympics Québec, says that it is a source of great pride for the Québec movement to have 10 of its athletes and 1 trainer participating for the international competition. "The selection of these 10 athletes is proof of their determination and discipline. I wish to congratulate the coaches, parents, friends and volunteers who give out their time through our sport programs and to organize competitions. They help flourish and enable them to reach new heights and improve their quality of life."

During the seven-day sporting event, as many as 3,000 athletes from 85 countries will compete in seven winter sports. In addition to the snowboarding events, Canadian athletes will take part in the alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing and speed skating competitions.

About the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games

The 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A., from February 7 to 13 and will include up to 3,000 athletes from 85 countries as well as 6,000 volunteers. Competitions will take place in seven sports— alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating. Team Canada counts 81 athletes, including 10 Quebeckers. To find out more, go to www.2009WorldGames.org.

About Special Olympics Québec

The mission of Special Olympics Québec is to enrich the lives of people with an intellectual disability through sport. Thanks to the support of several corporations such as **Hydro-Québec**, **The Forzani Group Ltd.** and **Loto-Québec** and of all the Québec police forces taking part in the **Law Enforcement Torch Run**, Special Olympics Québec is able to offer its training programmes to near than 4,000 special athletes in all regions of Québec. www.olympiquesspeciaux.qc.ca

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