



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## **Quebec special athletes come away with 16 medals from the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games**

**Montreal, February 18, 2009** – The 10 Special Olympics athletes from Team Canada representing Quebec are back from the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games with 16 medals.

From February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, 3,000 special athletes representing 85 countries congregated in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A., for one week of competitions in 7 sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snow boarding, figure skating, indoor hockey, snowshoeing and speed skating.

The Canadian delegation, comprised of 81 athletes, accumulated a total of 103 medals, among which 9 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 5 bronze medals were secured by the Quebec athletes.

**Maxime Boyer**, an alpine skier from **Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts** earned a bronze medal at the Super G, while his colleague from **Saint-Donat**, **Michaël Gilbert**, collected 3 golds in the Giant Slalom, the Advanced Slalom and in the Super G.

In figure skating, Rawdon's Vicky Dupont landed a silver medal. Christina Sophia Koutras from Montreal procured a gold and fellow Montrealer, Zane Salera-Nasra, won a bronze. Simon Dionne from Trois-Rivières finished in fourth place.

In the snowshoeing category, **Jean-François Leclerc** from **Quebec City** delivered spectacular performances. Not only did he capture 3 golds, the sprinter broke a new world record in the 1,600 meter race. **Nancy Leduc** from **Salaberry-de-Valleyfield** made her mark by acquiring 1 gold medal and 2 bronze medals. **Michaël Bisailon-Goudreau** from **Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu** climbed all three different podium steps in as many disciplines. **Blainville's Catia Miele** finished in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place in her two races.

<b>Athlete</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Results</b>
<b>Maxime Boyer</b>	Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts	<b>Alpine skiing</b> Intermediate Giant Slalom Intermediate Slalom Intermediate Super G	6th 6th BRONZE
<b>Michaël Gilbert</b>	Saint-Donat	<b>Alpine skiing</b> Advanced Giant Slalom Advanced Slalom Advanced Super G	GOLD GOLD GOLD
<b>Simon Dionne</b>	Trois-Rivières	<b>Figure skating</b>	4th
<b>Vicky Dupont</b>	Rawdon	<b>Figure skating</b>	SILVER
<b>Christina Sophia Koutras</b>	Montreal	<b>Figure skating</b>	GOLD
<b>Zane Salera-Nasra</b>	Montreal	<b>Figure skating</b>	BRONZE
<b>Jean-François Leclerc</b>	Quebec City	<b>Snowshoeing</b> 800M Race 1600M Race 4 X 100M Relay	GOLD GOLD GOLD
<b>Nancy Leduc</b>	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	<b>Snowshoeing</b> 200M Race 400M Race 4 X 100M Relay	GOLD BRONZE BRONZE
<b>Catia Miele</b>	Blainville	<b>Snowshoeing</b> 100M Race 200M Race	5th 4th
<b>Michaël Bisailon-Goudreau</b>	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	<b>Snowshoeing</b> 400M Race	BRONZE

		800M Race 4 X 100M Relay	SILVER GOLD
--	--	-----------------------------	----------------

Daniel Granger, chairman of Special Olympics Quebec, says that it is a source of great pride for the Québec movement to see the achievement of these 10 athletes at the international competitions. "These 10 athletes have proven their determination, discipline and passion during the World Winter Games in Boise. We're proud of their successes. 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."

C'est une immense fierté pour tout le mouvement québécois de voir ces athlètes revenir couronnés des compétitions internationales. Pour Daniel Granger, président d'Olympiques spéciaux Québec, le succès remporté par ces dix athlètes témoigne de la passion, de la détermination et de la discipline dont ils ont fait preuve. «Je tiens également à féliciter les entraîneurs, les parents, les amis et les bénévoles qui dispensent nos programmes sportifs et organisent nos compétitions. Leur travail inlassable permet à nos athlètes d'atteindre de nouveaux sommets, d'améliorer leur qualité de vie et de favoriser leur inclusion sociale.»

#### **About the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games**

The 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games were held in Boise, Idaho, U.S.A., from February 7 to 13 and included up to 3,000 athletes from 85 countries as well as 6,000 volunteers. Competitions were presented in seven sports — alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating. Team Canada was composed of 81 athletes, including 10 Quebecers. To find out more, go to [www.2009WorldGames.org](http://www.2009WorldGames.org).

#### **About Special Olympics Québec**

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

- 30 -

Information:

Justine G. Marchessault

Special Olympics Québec

Office : (514) 843-8778, extension 227

Cell.: (514) 592-9765

[jmarchessault@olympiquesspeciaux.qc.ca](mailto:jmarchessault@olympiquesspeciaux.qc.ca)