

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2017 Manitoba Aboriginal Athlete Awards

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) recognizes Aboriginal athletes for their personal commitment to development and achievement in sport.

Each year, one Aboriginal male and one Aboriginal female athlete are selected to receive the Manitoba Aboriginal Athlete Awards. They are selected from nominations detailing: their positive role in sports and the community; their personal commitment to athletic development; achievements in sport; and their concern for holistic development.

Over the years, athletes from many different sports, including: archery, football, softball, athletics, boxing, basketball, ice hockey, water polo and golf, have been selected to receive this high honour.

This year's winners of the ***2017 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL ATHLETE of the YEAR AWARDS*** are:

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Female Dennita Cameron Thompson (Cross Lake Band)**

Dennita is a multi-sport athlete who participates in basketball, soccer, volleyball and high jump while attending R.D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson. In 2017, Dennita won the Manitoba High School JV Basketball Provincials, competed in Manitoba High School Soccer Provincials, competed in High School Varsity Volleyball Provincials and placed first in several high school and provincial high jump competitions. She was also the top ranked U20 Female for high jump in Manitoba and was ranked 4th in Canada for U18 Indoor High Jump. Dennita played for the U16 Female Volleyball team at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games in Toronto, winning a bronze medal. A week later she participated at the 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg in high jump. In addition to her athletic achievements, Dennita volunteers as a junior assistant dance coach, was part of the True Sport initiative in Thompson and was part of the 2017 NAIG – Team #88 campaign, which was profiled on the NAIG website as well as the Sport Canada social media site during NAIG.

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Male Adam Thompson Roseau River First Nation**

Adam was very busy in school, in his community and on the sports fields. He captained the U19 Manitoba soccer team at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games in Toronto, bringing home the bronze medal. He was the captain of his high school varsity rugby team, helping the team to a 2nd place finish in the province. He was a member of the U-18 Manitoba 7's rugby team that competed at the National Festival in British Columbia. He also competed in basketball, volleyball, soccer and track for his high school and is described by his coach as being a natural athlete that trains hard and is very coachable. Adam was an active participant in the school SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) as well as was selected to participate in the ASSIST program which is a suicide prevention program on Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation. Adam currently is enrolled at the University of Winnipeg and plays hockey for Fisher River Hawks (KJHL).

For more information on the athletes, please email:

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