

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***2018 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 ***2018 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL ATHLETE of the YEAR AWARDS*** are:

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Female    Kennesha Miswaggon    Cross Lake Band**

Kennesha has had a long list of achievements under her belt already as a Hockey athlete and 2018 was no surprise as that trend continued. Kennesha has played with Balmoral Hall Blazers for the last three years where she was unanimously voted as team Captain by both her teammates and coaches for her grade 12 year. Kennesha is commended as a natural born leader both on and off the ice, a wonderful role model and as having a compassionate spirit. She has played on Team Manitoba for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships every year for the last 4 years where her team took home the Gold medal for both 2017 and 2018. She aims to have the same outcome this year as the team heads to Whitehorse, Yukon. In 2018 Kennesha was selected as part of the U18 Hockey Team Manitoba for the 2019 Canada Winter Games and was also invited to and attended the Hockey Canada U18 Canadian Women's National Training Camp.

Congratulations Kennesha!

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Male    Trey Friesen    Kleefeld, MB**

Trey has had an outstanding year of achievements in 2018. He competes in both indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, soccer and futsal. Trey received an Athletic Achievement award from his school Steinbach Regional Highschool for competing in multiple sports. Here he is captain of the Steinbach Regional Sabres AAAA varsity boys' soccer team which took home the title of Provincial champions in Swan River this past October. In track and field Trey has long list of achievements this year. Starting off 2018 with winning a gold medal in the 400m and bronze medal in the 800m at the Regina Indoor Track Games in February. In July he won a Silver medal in 4x400 relay for Team Manitoba at the Tri Province Western Canadian Championships in Sherwood Park Alberta. Trey also traveled to Ottawa in July to compete in the Canadian Jr. and SR. Track and Field Championships. In August Trey competed at the Canadian Youth National Track and Field Championships in Brandon where he placed 5<sup>th</sup> in 400m hurdles, for which he was awarded the 2018 Male Hurdler of the year award from the Optimist Track and Field Club.

Congratulations Trey!