



For Immediate Release

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## **From BC to Beijing**

### **45 BC Games Alumni to compete for Canada**

The BC Games Society congratulates the 45 BC Games Alumni named to the 2008 Canadian Olympic and Paralympic teams. The Olympic and Paralympic athletes who have previously competed at the BC Games include Brent Hayden (Swimming), Gary Reed (Athletics), Clare Rustad (Soccer) and Riley McCormick (Diving).

“It is unprecedented to have this number of BC Games alumni now representing Canada on the Olympic and Paralympic stage,” said Kelly Mann, President and CEO of the BC Games Society. “We are incredibly proud that these athletes have developed through the BC sport system and that they will take their BC Games experience with them to Beijing.”

While the BC Games are one stop on an athlete's journey to international success, the experience of competing at multisport games is very valuable. Athletes have competed while dealing with distractions like travel fatigue, different foods, and lack of sleep.

The timing of the announcement of the Olympic team (and Paralympic team earlier this month) is particularly fitting as the next generation of athletes is gathering in Kelowna for the 2008 BC Summer Games which open on Thursday. Close to 3000 of BC's top developing athletes, coaches, and officials will be celebrating the start of their BC Games experience and competing against the best in BC for their chance to bring home gold.

Participants and supporters at the BC Summer Games, will be signing a good luck banner for the Olympic and Paralympic team. The banner will be taken to Beijing to share a little piece of BC Games luck with the Canadian team.

For a full list of BC Games alumni going to the Olympic and Paralympic Games please visit [www.bcgames.org](http://www.bcgames.org). The complete list of BC athletes on the Olympic and Paralympic teams is available through Canadian Sport Centre-Pacific [www.cscpacific.ca](http://www.cscpacific.ca).

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