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For Immediate Release

Press Release

National Bank Encourages Academic Excellence, Sport-Study Balance, and Perseverance with \$120,000 In Bursaries

In Honour of the 23rd Edition of its Bursary Program in Association with the Quebec Foundation for Athletic Excellence

Montreal, March 19, 2015 – Mr. Louis Vachon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank, and Mr. Martin Lavigne, President - National Bank Financial - Wealth Management, revealed the names of 36 student-athletes from all across Quebec who will share in \$120,000 worth of financial support in the context of the 23rd edition of the National Bank Bursary Program.

Recipients ranging from 14 to 24 years of age will receive either: an **Academic Excellence Bursary**, rewarding outstanding academic achievement; **Academic and Athletic Support Bursary**, rewarding the challenging and preoccupying balance of sport and study faced by national and international-level athletes; or a **Perseverance Bursary**, which rewards a single recipient for having faced and overcome specific hardships during the past year.

In 2013, the National Bank proudly announced a sizeable investment of **one million dollars** in the Quebec Foundation for Athletic Excellence, in the form of \$200,000 per year over five years. “The Bank is proud to partner with the Foundation for a 23rd year. Our *One for Youth* program was created primarily to help young people develop to their full potential, and the National Bank Bursary Program is based on the same philosophy. I am pleased to see that, year after year, our financial support helps student athletes pursue their academic and athletic goals,” stated Mr. Vachon.

Foundation President Mr. Claude Chagnon joined in with his own sentiments, “This year, the Quebec Foundation for Athletic Excellence is celebrating 30 years with newly-unveiled theme **United for Success**. When we look upon the FAEQ’s remarkable success, legitimacy, notoriety, and expansion over the past 30 years, it’s easy to see how National Bank has been an important contributor through its generosity, loyalty, and strong bond with the Foundation. Now more than ever, the National Bank has united with the Foundation in celebration and support of the academic, athletic, and personal success stories of young, Quebecois student-athletes.”

Over the years, numerous National Bank Bursary recipients have made names for themselves in their athletic, academic and/or post-sport careers: double Olympic silver medallist in speed skating Marianne St-Gelais; cyclist David Veilleux who became the first Quebecois athlete to complete a *Tour de France*; freestyle skier Marc-André Moreau who became one of the coaches for Olympic medal winning Dufour-Lapointe sisters; multiple-medallists in speed skating and current emergency care doctor Sylvie Daigle; professional baseball player with the Philadelphia Phillies Philippe Aumont; Olympic silver medallist in rowing, who presently practises law, Andréanne Morin; and the paddler Maxime Boilard, 4th in canoeing at the 2000 Olympic Games and now owner of his own business CANU.

36 Recipients of the 2015 National Bank Bursary Program

RELÈVE CATEGORY – \$2,000 BURSARIES

First Name	Last Name	Discipline	Age	Residence	Academic Establishment
Academic and Athletic Support Bursaries					
Francis	Carter	Olympic Wrestling	18	Montréal - St-Léonard	Vanier College
Vincent	Chartier	Diving	14	Terrebonne	École Antoine-de-St-Exupéry
Raphaël	Giguère	Taekwondo -63 kg	19	Saint-Nicolas	CÉGEP de Sainte-Foy
Catherine	Héroux	Handball	20	Laval	Collège Montmorency
Gabriel	Juteau	Judo -60 kg	17	Longueuil	Collège Édouard-Montpetit
Simon	Sauvé	Tennis	14	Repentigny	École Félix-Leclerc
Academic Excellence Bursaries					
Razvan	Baiant	Tennis	14	Montréal - St-Léonard	École Antoine-de-St-Exupéry
Olivia	Chamandy	Diving	14	Montréal - Westmount	Collège de Montréal
Xavier	Gagnon	Boxing 57 kg	17	Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier	CÉGEP Garneau
Maria	Gheta	Synchronized Swimming	16	Montréal - Ahuntsic	École Georges-Vanier
Camille	Jean	Table Tennis	15	Drummondville	École Jeanne-Mance
Camille	Michaud	Karate (Kata)	17	Gatineau	University of Ottawa

ÉLITE CATEGORY – \$4,000 BURSARIES

First Name	Last Name	Discipline	Age	Residence	Academic Establishment
Academic and Athletic Support Bursaries					
Geanne	Blais Dufour	Speed Skating – Long Track	19	Québec	CÉGEP Garneau
Léandre	Bouchard	Cross Country Mountain Biking	22	Alma	UQAM
Charlotte	Hamel	Biathlon	18	Sherbrooke	CÉGEP de Sainte-Foy
Tiffany	Lagarde	Tennis	15	Laval	Académie Les Estacades
Maxime	Leboeuf	Whitewater Canoe-Kayak (Slalom)	17	Sainte-Barbe	CÉGEP de Valleyfield
Gaby	Malenfant	BMX and Cyclocross	17	Drummondville	CÉGEP de Drummondville
Nicaise	Muamba	Tennis	14	Laval	Académie Les Estacades
Maude	Sigouin	Softball	18	Laval	Vanier College
Nicolas	Vachon	Weightlifting 69 kg	18	Saint-Hippolyte	CÉGEP de Saint-Jérôme
Academic Excellence Bursaries					
David	Baillargeon	Squash	19	Montréal - St-Léonard (originally from St-Nicolas)	CÉGEP de Maisonneuve
Noémie	Fiset	Speed Skating – Long Track	19	Québec	CÉGEP de Sainte-Foy
Simon	Rousseau	Archery (Compound Bow)	24	La Prairie	Texas A&M University
Harrison	Watt	Waterpolo	19	Beaconsfield	John-Abbott College

EXCELLENCE CATEGORY – \$4,000 BURSARIES

First Name	Last Name	Discipline	Age	Residence	Academic Establishment
Academic and Athletic Support Bursaries					
Catherine	Beauchemin-Pinard	Judo -57 kg	20	Saint-Hubert	CÉGEP Édouard-Montpetit
Charlie	Bilodeau	Figure Skating	21	Notre-Dame du Portage	UQAM
Audrée	Francis-Méhot	Judo -52 kg	22	Lemoyne (originally from Sept-Îles)	UQAM

Maël	Gilles	Basketball	17	Montréal – St-Michel	Collège Montmorency
Gabriella	Page	Fencing (Saber)	20	Blainville	Collège Montmorency
Aurélie	Rivard	Para-Swimming	18	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	CÉGEP Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
Julianne	Séguin	Figure Skating	18	Longueuil	CÉGEP Édouard-Montpetit

Academic Excellence Bursaries

Éloïse	Bélanger	Diving	21	Montréal – St-Michel	Collège André-Grasset
Jessica	Ruel	Weightlifting -48 kg	24	Macamic	UQAT
Victoria	Woo	Artistic Gymnastics	17	Brossard	École de Mortagne

Perseverance Bursary \$4,000

Matthew	Halickman	Artistic Gymnastics	18	Montréal (Westmount)	Marianopolis College
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About National Bank of Canada

With \$214 billion in assets as at January 31, 2015, National Bank of Canada (www.nbc.ca), together with its subsidiaries, forms one of Canada’s leading integrated financial groups. The Bank has more than 20,000 employees and is widely recognized as a top employer. Its securities are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: NA). Follow the Bank’s activities via social media and learn more about its extensive community involvement at clearfacts.ca and commitment.nationalbank.ca.

About the Quebec Foundation for Athletic Excellence: UNITED for SUCCESS

In 2015, the FAEQ will celebrate 30 years of success, conviction, and commitment. Equipped with a new theme - “**United for Success**” - the Foundation will announce numerous renewals and new partnerships with leading businesses over the course of the year. The Foundation is unique thanks to its personal approach, diligent management, and influential role in the realm of sport and education. The Foundation will distribute 1.2 million dollars in bursaries to more than 425 student-athletes throughout Quebec identified as *Espoir*, *Releve*, *Elite*, or *Excellence* level. The Foundation’s bursaries reward: academic excellence, encourage balancing high performance sport and academics, highlight leadership and recognize perseverance. The FAEQ is moved to action by a genuine desire to **unite** with former bursary recipients and sponsors **for** the **success** of current bursary recipients, thereby making a difference in their academic, athletic, and/or personal development. **Visit** the Foundation’s web site at faeq.com and click “**Like**” on its Facebook page at: **FAEQ – Fondation de l’athlète d’excellence du Québec**.

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