

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2016

### ***2015 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, Hockey and Golf, have been selected to receive this high honour.

This year's winners of the ***2015 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL ATHLETE of the YEAR AWARDS*** are:

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Female**    **Sierra Halldorson**    **Winnipeg (Pinaymootang First Nation)**

In 2015, Sierra was WSEU Female Player of the Year and participated in the Western Canada Summer Games in Fort McMurray. She had an influential role in the team winning a Silver Medal. Sierra has earned notice from national team soccer coaches and is short listed to attend an upcoming youth national team camp-the only girl from Manitoba at any age to be invited in 2015. She is the Team Captain of the Winnipeg South End United Soccer Club, a member of Manitoba Soccer Association's Regional Excel Centre and part the MB Blizzard university prep soccer program at Glenlawn. She volunteers with young players at the Winnipeg South End Premier Academy and is commended by her coach for her fair play and excellent sportsmanship. Sierra is a strong academic student and has earned recognition from university coaches in the USA and Canada who are interested in recruiting her to come to their schools.

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Male**    **Malachi Leclerc**    **Winnipeg (Metis)**

Malachi has played water polo for 8 years and is in the pool many hours each week between his club team (Bushido) and the Provincial team. This led to a very busy but successful 2015 season. Malachi was selected to Water Polo Canada's 15U Boys National Team, competed at the 2015 Junior Olympics, played for the Oak Park High school team, was selected to the Team Sask 19U Men's team *and* competed in the Water Polo Canada National Championship League. He is a NCCP trained Water Polo coach and one of the founders and volunteer coaches of WinCity Royals Water Polo, a program designed to introduce the sport to youth in Winnipeg's North End and Inner City. Malachi is devoted to his family friends and school, where he volunteers for many events. He is grateful he had an opportunity to connect further with his Metis heritage when he was selected to participate in the 2014 NAIG (in Basketball!).

For more information on the athletes, please email:

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