



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WinSport Academy sending seven athletes to Winter Youth Olympic Games**

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport is excited to announce that seven members of its Academy (Performance) teams will be participating in the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

The Games, which feature nearly 2,000 athletes from 79 countries competing in 81 events, began Thursday in Lausanne, Switzerland, wrap up on Jan. 22.

Representing Canada and WinSport at the Games are snowboarders Kamilla Kozuback (halfpipe); Kianah Hyatt (halfpipe); Seth Strobel (halfpipe); Andie Gendron (slopestyle); Liam Gill (halfpipe); along with freeskiers Emma Morozumi (halfpipe) and Rylee Hackler (halfpipe, big air and slopestyle).

“This is an amazing group of athletes that WinSport is sending. Having such a large representation is a testament to the hard work and time that the athletes and coaches have put in this year and beyond,” says WinSport’s manager of sport development, Andrew Lunt.

While Canada Olympic Park is well known as a medal factory for Olympic level athletes, the developing athletes play a key role in supporting WinSport’s mission, which is to provide opportunities for Canadians to discover, develop and excel at sport through world-class training, facilities and exceptional experiences.

Kozuback and Strobel are in their fourth year in the Academy, while Gendron is in her third year and Hyatt in her rookie season. All four are coached by Robert Hartley-Robinson, the Academy snowboard competitive development head coach.

“We have been training hard the past two months to prepare them so that they can perform at their best,” says Hartley-Robinson. “I’m super proud of all of them and hope they have an amazing time. I think it will really add to their drive to represent Canada at the Olympics in the future.”

Freestyle skiing and snowboarding events start on Jan. 18, with the athletes departing over the next several days.

Morozumi, competing in her fifth year with the Academy, is coached by freeski competitive development team coach Chip Milner, while Hackler, a third-year Academy member, is coached by performance team coach Patrick Walsh.

“Emma is the hardest working athlete in the Academy, boy or girl, and she is driven to succeed,” said Milner, who has been an Academy coach for 10 years. “Rylee has great natural athletic ability and is gifted on her skis. She is expected to be competitive in all three of her events and challenge for the podium.”

Gill, who is coached by snowboard performance slopestyle head coach Quinn Thomas, is in his first year with the Academy. He has qualified in the halfpipe event, with the potential to still compete in the slopestyle and big air competitions.

“He is a very hard-working athlete and I expect he should do well at the Games, finishing well within his disciplines,” says Thomas.

Hackler, Morozumi, Gendron and Gill are among 11 students from the National Sport School who are competing in Lausanne.

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**About WinSport**

*The Calgary Olympic Development Association, which operates as WinSport, is a not-for-profit community-based organization that owns and operates Canada Olympic Park. Our vision is to be a world-leading centre for athletic development. We inspire human potential through the spirit of sport by introducing people to winter and mountain sports, helping them develop their skills and thereby igniting a passion for sport and lifelong learning. WinSport does not receive any direct government funding for our operations and we suppoquirt our purpose by building on the legacy of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and by delivering exceptional value and experiences to our guests. For more information on WinSport please visit [www.winsport.ca](http://www.winsport.ca).*

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