

## ***Media Advisory***

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### **Canada's Top Lifesaving Sport Athletes attend Press Conference at Rainbow Haven Beach**

The Lifesaving Society Nova Scotia Branch is hosting the 2017 Canadian Lifeguard Challenge (CLC), a high-performance, by-invitation-only, surf lifesaving competition sanctioned by the Lifesaving Society Canada on August 6. The Society will be holding a Press Conference for the 2017 CLC on Wednesday, August 2.

Media are invited to attend this Press Conference to interview five of the CLC athletes. The attending CLC athletes will also help coach a Junior Lifeguard practice. Photo ops will be available at the Press Conference.

#### Press Conference for the Canadian Lifeguard Challenge 2017:

When: Wednesday, August 2, 2017

10:30-11:30 a.m. – Press Conference & Q&A with CLC Athletes

11:30-12:30 p.m. – CLC Athletes helping coach a Junior Lifeguard Practice Clinic

Where: Rainbow Haven Beach, Nova Scotia, near the lifeguard chair

#### The Canadian Lifeguard Challenge 2017 Competition:

When: Sunday, August 6

12-2 p.m.

Where: Martinique Beach Provincial Park, Nova Scotia

The CLC is composed of three consecutive Oceanman/Oceanwoman events including surf ski, paddleboard and swimming. The CLC has three rounds, and is scored on the basis of total points accumulated from each round.

Canada's top 20 male and female lifesaving sport athletes will compete in this year's CLC. Each competitor earned their invitation through their placing at the 2016 Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championships at Parlee Beach, New Brunswick. Cash prizes totalling \$20, 000 will be awarded to the top eight placing female and top eight male competitors.

Note: Profiles of the five CLC athletes attending the Press Conference follows this advisory.

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### **CLC Athletes Attending Press Conference**

#### **Ali Ferguson**

Hometown: Pickering, Ontario

Ali was introduced to Lifesaving Sport as a *junior* athlete, and has now been competing for 22 years. Ali worked as a lifeguard for the Toronto Police Lifeguard Service throughout her high school and university years, where she trained and competed with their competitive team. She has competed for Team Canada at two World Championships in France (2014) and The Netherlands (2016); as well as five other international tours to countries such as Japan, New Zealand and Columbia. Currently, Ali works as a teacher in the Greater Toronto Area and competes for the Paradise Beach Lifesaving Association, based out of Ajax, Ontario.

#### **Gabriel Quenneville**

Hometown: St-Anicet, Qc

Gabriel has been competing in Lifesaving Sport for five years. He first started lifeguarding in Petawawa, Ontario, as a pool and waterfront guard. He then continued to lifeguard at his University pool at St. Francis Xavier University, where he obtained a B.Sc. Human Kinetics Degree. Gabriel then returned home to Quebec and worked as a waterfront lifeguard. He joined the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service (NSLS) in 2013 and lifeguarded at Ingonish beach. He is currently subbing at pools and beaches around Halifax in his spare time. Gabriel enjoys triathlons, cross-country skiing and CrossFit.

#### **Jason Cross**

Hometown: Pictou, Nova Scotia

Jason has been competing in Lifesaving Sport for 31 years. He has lifeguarded at pools and beaches around Nova Scotia, and has worked as a waterfront lifeguard for two seasons in Australia. Jason was a founding member of the Canadian National Lifesaving team, representing Canada internationally between 2000 and 2008. He has won most of the National board, surf ski and oceanman events during the past 25 years. He now works as a software developer with a passion for travelling and coaching.

#### **Kathleen Belliveau**

Hometown: Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Kathleen has competed in Lifesaving Sport for three years. She started lifeguarding at a pool at the age of 16, and has worked for the NSLS as an ocean beach lifeguard every summer since she turned 16. Kathleen is studying Nursing at the University of Ottawa. Kathleen enjoys travelling and hiking.

#### **Colm Somers**

Hometown: Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Colm has worked as a beach lifeguard for the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service for three seasons at Martinique Beach. Colm has been Nova Scotia's top age group distance swimmer for the past few years. This is Colm's third year of competing in lifesaving sport. He swims competitively and studies sciences at McGill University.