# CANADA’S DIVERSE ATHLETES – PAST AND PRESENT

## 1912 Olympian; 1920 Inter-Allied Games

John “Army” Howard (1888-1937)

John Howard was a Canadian track and fielder and the first black Olympic athlete from Canada. He competed in the 1920 Inter-Allied Games. He also served his country in World War I. He was the grandfather of Canadian Olympians Harry and Valerie Jerome.

## 1928, 1932, 1936 Olympian

Philip “Phil” Edwards (1907-1971)

Phil Edwards was a track and field athlete and also a well-respected doctor. Nicknamed the “Man of Bronze”, he was Canada’s most-decorated Olympian for many years. He was the first ever winner of the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada’s top athlete. He went on to serve as a captain in the Canadian army and as a highly regarded physician and expert on tropical diseases.

## 1932 Olympian; 1934 British Empire Games

Raymond Lewis (1910-2003)

Ray Lewis was a Canadian track and field athlete and the first Canadian born black Olympic medalist. He is a recipient of the Order of Canada.

## 1938 British Empire Games

Barbara Howard (1921-)

Barbara Howard was one of the fastest sprinters in the world and the first black female athlete to represent Canada in international competition. She was the fist racialized teacher hired by the Vancouver School Board and taught in the Vancouver school system for 43 years. She remains active in her community.

## 1960, 1964, 1968 Olympian; 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games; 1967 Pan American Games

Henry “Harry” Jerome (1940-1982)

Harry Jerome was the grandson of John Howard, the first black Canadian Olympic athlete. Harry set seven world records during his career, holding the records for the 100 meters and the 100 yards at the same time. He continued to sprint despite and injury so severe that doctors thought he would never walk again. He helped create Canada’s Ministry of Sport and worked there for many years. In 1970, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2001, he was inducted into Canada’s Walk of Fame.

## 1959 Pan American Games; 1960 Olympian

Valerie Jerome (1944-)

Valerie Jerome at 15 years old, set Canadian records in running events and broke her age group record for long jump at the 1959 Canadian Track and Field National Championships. She won bronze at the 1959 Pan American Games and represented Canada at the 1960 Olympics along with her brother, Harry Jerome.

## 1975 Pan American Games; 1976 Olympian

Marjorie Turner-Bailey (1947-)

Marjorie Turner-Bailey was an Olympian who set four Canadian records in track and field. She won two bronze medals at the 1975 Pan America Games and represented Canada at the 1976 Olympic Games.

## 1976, 1988 Olympian

Sylvia Sweeney (1956-)

Sylvia Sweeney played basketball for Canada at the 1976 and 1988 Olympic Games and was captain of the Canadian Women’s National Basketball team during 1979-84. She is a classical pianist, a broadcaster and journalist, a Canadian executive television producer and the niece of jazz musician Oscar Peterson.

## 1982, 1986 Commonwealth Games; 1983, 1987 Pan American Games; 1984, 1988 Olympian

Marita Payne-Wiggins (1960-)

Marita Payne-Wiggins is a track and field athlete who competed in two consecutive Summer Olympics. She holds Canadian records in the 400 meters and the 200 meters.

## 1988, 1992 Olympian

Sandra Levy (1965-)

Sandra Levy is a former field hockey player who represented Canada at the 1988 and 1992 Summer Olympics. She has a law degree and is now a human resources senior executive. She continues to be involved with the Olympic movement and has received many awards including the African American Achievement Award of Excellence.

## 1984, 1988 Olympian

Lennox Lewis (1965-)

Lennox Lewis is a heavyweight boxer who won gold for Canada at the 1988 Olympic Games. He holds dual British and Canadian citizenship and is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of the British Empire.

## 2015 Pan American Games

Kia Nurse (1996-)

Kia Nurse is a basketball player for the Canadian national team. She was a participant and Most Valuable Player Award winner in the 2014 International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Championship. She was also member of the Canadian gold winning team at the 2015 Pan American Games.

## 2015 World Cup of Soccer

Kadeisha Buchanan (1955-)

Kadeisha Buchanan is a Canadian soccer player. At the age of 15, she became a member of the Canadian national soccer team. She was named Canada’s Under-20 Women’s Player of the Year in 2013. In 2015, she received the Best Young Player Award at the FIFA Women’s World Cup event.

## 2015 Pan American Games

Andre De Grasse (1994-)

Andre De Grasse is a Canadian sprinter. He is the reigning 2015 Pan American champion in the 100 and 200 meters, the NCAA men’s champion in the 100 and 200 meters and the current Canadian record holder in the 200 meters.

## 2012 Olympian; 2014 Commonwealth Games; 2015 Pan American Games

Damian Warner (1989-)

Damian Warner represented Canada in the 2012 Olympic decathlon events placing fifth. In the World Championships, he won bronze in 2013 and silver in 2015. He won gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and at the 2015 Pan American Games. He currently holds the Canadian national record for decathlon.

## 2008, 2012 Olympian; 2010, 2014 Commonwealth Games; 2011, 2015 Pan American Games

Jennifer Abel (1991-)

Jennifer Abel is a Canadian synchronized diver. In the Commonwealth Games, she won one silver and two gold medals in 2010, and a silver medal in 2014. She was an Olympic bronze medalist at the 2012 Olympics. She won silver in the 2011 Pan American Games and gold in 2015.

## 2007, 2011 Pan American Games; 2008, 2012 Olympian

Karina LeBlanc (1980-)

Karina LeBlanc is a soccer player who has represented Canada at five FIFA Women’s World Cups, at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, and at the 2007 and 2011 Pan American Games. With the Canadian women’s soccer team, she won the gold medal at the 2011 Pan American Games and the bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics.

## 2000, 2004 Olympian; 2003, 2007 Pan American Games

Perdita Felicien (1980-)

Perdita Felicien is a former world champion in the 100 meter hurdles. She won two silver medals at the 2003 and 2007 Pan American Games and still holds the record for 100 meter hurdles that she set in 2004. She was the first Canadian woman ever to win a medal at the World Championships and has more international medals than any other female Canadian track and fielder. She is now a broadcaster and public speaker and an ambassador for Right to Play International.

## 1999 Pan American Games; 2000, 2004 Olympian; 2002 Commonwealth Games

Baraladei Daniel Igali (1973-)

Daniel Igali is a Canadian champion wrestler and gold medalist at the 2000 Olympic Games and at the 2002 Commonwealth Games. He was inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2007 and has coached the Nigerian National Wrestling Team. The Daniel Igali Foundation built and funds a school in his home village of Eniwari, Nigeria.

## 1996 Olympian

Donovan Bailey (1967-)

Donovan Bailey held the world record for the 100 meters following his gold medal performance in the 1996 Olympic Games. He is still the world record holder in the indoor 50 meters. He was the first Canadian to break the 10 second barrier in the 100 meters. He was the world champion, Olympic champion, and world record holder in the 100 meters, all at the same time. He won the title of “World’s Fastest Man” in 1997. He has been inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame.

## 1988, 1992, 1996 Olympian; 1990, 1994 Commonwealth Games

Michael Smith (1967-)

Mike Smith is a decathlete who competed for Canada in 10 track and field events in the 1988, 1992 and 1996 Olympics. He held the Canadian record for the decathlon in 1996 and was ranked in the top 10 in the world for 10 years in a row during 1989-1998.