



For Immediate Release

February 15, 2017

Swim Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that **Jean-Philippe Dufresne** of the **Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club (ROD)** is the recipient of the 2016 **Mike Mintenko Swimmer Scholarship** award.

Mike Mintenko is an Olympic Swimmer from Moose Jaw. He swam with the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Flying Fins and went onto the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on a swimming Scholarship. He was selected to Team Canada for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney Australia and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

In 2004, when Mike Mintenko completed his Olympic Journey, he decided that he wanted to give something back to Saskatchewan's young swimmers. He took the proceeds from the sale of the *Mike Mintenko 2004 Journey to Athens Calendar* and created a swimming scholarship to assist youth age swimmers to pursue excellence. One swimmer is selected annually from applications received from youth aged swimmers that are aspiring to pursue excellence. Female swimmers between the ages of 13 to 16 and male swimmers between the ages of 14 to 17 that have achieved Western Canadian Championship time standards are eligible to apply.

The recipient receives \$1,000 from the fund which is made payable to the swimmer's club, with the money allocated for the individual's training, competition or travel costs.

This year's recipient is Jean Philippe Dufresne, age 17, from the Regina Optimist Dolphins.

Jean-Philippe is part of the Senior High Performance squad with the Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club in Regina. Head Coach Abderrahmane Tissira states that Jean-Philippe "is a good athlete, committed to achieve the Olympic Dream. He trains hard each day and every single session. He listens to the coach's feedback and tries to be better each day. He is preparing for the international stage and our goal this season is to make the Canadian Team for Junior World Championships."

Highlights from his 2015-16 swim season include: Overcoming adversity due to injury and still reach important goals: Qualify for Eastern Canadian Championships (placing 4th in 200m backstroke) and achieving his first Senior National Time Standard and finishing Top 8 in the 200 Back form men ages 17-18 and placing 18th in the Men's Open 200 Back at Canadian Summer Nationals.

Jean Phillippe's long term swimming goals include ranking Top 10 at Canadian Trials, top 3 finishes in Backstroke events and making a Senior National Canadian Team. His dream is to compete in Japan in 2020. His bedroom wall is written in big letters "Tokyo 2020 – Be the Best, make every training count."

As winner of this honorable scholarship, Jean-Philippe feels it would aid him financially for meets (which are often far and costly) and it would be a boost to his pride and affirm his goals for the season.





Mike Mintenko is a two-time Olympian (2000 and 2004) and Silver Medalist at the 2005 World Aquatic Championships.



The presentation was made to Jean-Philippe Dufresne February 14th in Regina by Swim Sask Provincial Coach Aaron Maszko.

Winners of the Mike Mintenko Scholarship are:

2016 Jean-Philippe Dufresne, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2009 Mitchell Benkic, Saskatoon Goldfins
2015 Bree Crookshanks, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2008 Samantha Bancescu, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2014 Brian Palaschuk, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2007 Taylor Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2013 Shelby Stene, Saskatoon Goldfins	2006 Max Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2012 Lexy King, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2005 Brit Robson, Saskatoon Goldfins
2011 Cassie Brassard, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2004 Courtney Kapustianyuk, Saskatoon Goldfins
2010 Quinn Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins	

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