

# Para WORLD RECORD for Shelby Newkirk

October 3, 2017



Shelby Newkirk of Saskatoon set a world record in the S7 100-metre backstroke on the second night of the Para-swimming Canadian Open at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre on October 3, 2017.

Newkirk, a Canadian National Team rookie, broke German Kirsten Bruhn's record by swimming the race in 1 minute, 21.43 seconds.



It's the first world record for Newkirk, who has had an impressive career in the sport of para-swimming, including seven Canadian records since first entering the pool five years ago. The end of this meet caps off 7 weeks on the road for Shelby: she competed at the Canada Games in Winnipeg where she won six medals, four of them gold, and was named Saskatchewan's flagbearer for the closing ceremony. When the games ended she joined the Para-swimming team for training camps in Flagstaff, AZ and Santa Fe, NM.

"Going into it, I knew I was close and I knew what my goal times were," said Newkirk, who is member of the Saskatoon Laser Swim Club with coach Eric Kramer. "I just went in with full focus on getting it and I just stomped my feet into the wall to get a rhythm and I really tried to push it through the first 50. I know after that turn, I looked up and I could see that I was under my goal time, so I pushed and went full out. When I touched the wall, I wasn't quite sure if I got it or not so I had to wait until I was at the side to find out but I was super excited when I did."

"It was no small feat what you accomplished. Setting a world record is, by it's definition, new territory that no other athlete has ever done. But it is in the way you did it that we are most proud. Many athletes would have let their performance suffer when their chance to shine is dashed by circumstances out of their control. What you have shown our Saskatchewan athletes this past week is that, a) High Performance swimming is possible in Saskatchewan, and b) That your best performances can happen without ideal conditions/competition if you", Provincial Coach Aaron Maszko.

Congratulations Shelby on a great set of performances at the Canadian Para-Swimming Open. Everyone at Swim Saskatchewan is very proud of you, your coach, and your club.

Read more about Shelby and her swimming career on her [Swimming Canada Profile page](#)