

PRESS RELEASE

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Patrick Chan wins Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete

Ninth time figure skaters recognized with award

OTTAWA, ON. A panel of distinguished sport journalists today named [Patrick Chan](#), 20, Toronto, Ont., Canada's top athlete for 2011. The Lou Marsh Trophy, named in honour of the former Toronto Star sports editor, has been presented annually since 1936 to Canada's top male or female athlete, professional or amateur.

"I am deeply honoured to win this very special and very historic award." said Patrick Chan when informed of the announcement. "To be considered in the same category as so many amazing Canadian athletes when it is still this early in my career is very humbling. I'd really like to thank the members of the media on the selection committee. To be recognized with this award for something I love to do, which is figure skate, means so much."

Chan went undefeated throughout the calendar year 2011. In January, he won his fourth straight Canadian title with a scintillating performance where he unveiled two quadruple jumps in the free program. In April, the International Skating Union's (ISU) World Figure Skating Championships, were delayed by five weeks as a result of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and moved to Moscow, Russia. Despite having to adjust his training to peak later than usual, he outscored the rest of the field by a stunning 22.57 points. His scores established [three new world records](#) for Men's Short Program, 93.02, Free Program, 187.96 and overall score of 280.98 which smashed the previous record set in 2008 of 264.41. As the 2011-2012 season began this fall Chan won both of his ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events, Skate Canada International and Trophée Eric Bompard in France. This past weekend, he defended his ISU Grand Prix Final title in Quebec City, where only the top six in the world qualify to participate.

“He has truly established himself as the dominant male skater in the world, and we are pleased that the selection committee for this award acknowledged that for the remarkable athletic accomplishment that it truly is. We’ve had many amazing world and Olympic champions from Canada, but he is certainly one of the finest, hardest working athletes I’ve ever seen in the sport,” said Skate Canada CEO William Thompson who was pleased to see Chan’s achievements recognized by the award. “His ability to put aside all of the distractions, and to focus on skating his heart out at every competition, was certainly evident this past weekend in Quebec City, as he defended his Grand Prix title.”

Thompson is even prouder of the way Chan handles distractions that might throw him off his athletic preparations. “Patrick’s athletic prowess has proven that he is a deserving world champion on the ice, but the way he handles himself off the ice demonstrates that he is a champion there as well.”

“While preparing for this competition in Quebec City, which is second in importance only to the world championships, Patrick had to deal with a huge distraction caused by an irresponsible media report. And despite spending nearly three hours on the first practice day addressing the media’s questions, answering truthfully and honestly, he was able to set that distraction aside, and go on to win the competition by over 11 points. That truly reflects the measure of this young man who is a very deserving recipient of the Lou Marsh Trophy.”

The Lou Marsh Trophy has been won eight times by other figure skating icons in Canada:

- 1945 – Barbara Ann Scott
- 1947 – Barbara Ann Scott
- 1948 – Barbara Ann Scott
- 1959 – Barbara Wagner/Bob Paul (pair)
- 1962 – Donald Jackson
- 1965 – Petra Burka
- 1990 – Kurt Browning
- 2001 – Jamie Salé/David Pelletier (pair)

Skate Canada, the national governing body responsible for the development and administration of skating in Canada, is the largest figure skating association in the world. With over 4,800 registered coaches, skating programs for athletes of all ages are offered at nearly 1,300 skating clubs and schools across the country. Skate Canada is an association dedicated to providing every Canadian the opportunity to learn life skills while experiencing the power, strength and creativity of one of Canada's premier sports.

In 2011, Skate Canada produced two world champions, Patrick Chan in senior men's and Andrei Rogozine in junior men's. 2010 Olympic Champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir won the world ice dance silver medal.

"Skate Canada...teaching Canadians to skate since 1887"

