

Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha

Marjorie Lajoie began skating when she was only three years old. She entered her first skating competition at age six. She loves figure skating because she must do difficult moves while making them look smooth and easy.

Marjorie is inspired by famous Canadian ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. She admires their hard work and their success on the world stage.

Her skating partner, Zachary Lagha, started skating when he was eight. He began ice dance at age twelve. Before that, he competed as a singles skater until he was fifteen.

At first, Zachary did not want to try ice dance. A coach suggested he skate with Marjorie, but he wasn't sure. His mother convinced him to try it "just for a club show," and he ended up loving it.

Marjorie and Zachary made their international debut in October 2015 at a Junior Grand Prix event. It was their first time competing outside of Canada.

A few months later, they won a silver medal at the 2016 Canadian Championships in junior ice dance. That same year, they represented Canada at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer. They finished fourth in ice dance and won a bronze medal in the mixed team event.

Over the next few years, they became one of Canada's top junior teams. They won three junior national titles in 2017, 2018, and 2019. They also qualified for two Junior Grand Prix Finals.

In 2019, they became world junior ice dance champions. They were only the second Canadian team in history to win this title.

They moved up to senior competition in the 2019–20 season. They earned a silver medal at the national championships and placed fifth at their first Four Continents Championships.

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Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps

Deanna Stellato Dudek started figure skating when she was just six years old. She even has a cute maltipoo dog named Goldy who cheers her up after long days of training. When Deanna was young, she was a very strong singles skater. In 2000, she won a silver medal at the ISU World Junior Championships for the United States.

But later that year, she hurt her hip. It was one of many injuries she had faced, and she decided to retire from skating.

Years passed, and in 2016, Deanna was working as an aesthetician. During a team building activity, someone asked, "What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" Deanna surprised herself when she answered, "Win an Olympic gold medal." That moment changed her life. Two weeks later, she found her old skates in the basement and returned to the ice.

Coaches suggested she try pairs skating, which meant learning many new skills. She teamed up with American skater Nathan Bartholomay. Together, they won bronze medals at the 2018 and 2019 U.S. Championships. After that, their partnership ended, but Deanna wasn't ready to give up.

Maxime Deschamps began skating even earlier than Deanna. He learned to skate at age four and started competing at age five. At first, he wanted to play hockey, but by age eight he chose figure skating instead. Maxime loved the feeling of freedom on the ice and the mix of strength and artistry. He has also spoken openly about having ADHD, showing others that challenges don't have to stop you from reaching your goals.

Maxime skated with eight different partners over the years. From 2014 to 2018, he competed in many senior international events. Even though things were often difficult, he stayed in the sport because he believed he had more to achieve.

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Canadian Figure Skaters

Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps

In 2019, Deanna and Maxime tried skating together. Right away, they felt something special. Deanna moved from the United States to Montreal so they could train full time. This was only three years after she had returned to skating following sixteen years away from the sport.



They competed at their first national championships as a pair in 2020 and made their international debut in 2021. In 2022, they won bronze at the Canadian Championships and placed fourth at the ISU Four Continents Championships.

Their success continued. In the fall of 2022, they joined the ISU Grand Prix series, winning two medals, including a gold at the Grand Prix de France. They earned their first Canadian national title in 2023 and finished fourth at the ISU World Championships.

The 2023–24 season was their best yet. They won both of their Grand Prix events, earned bronze at the Grand Prix Final, and won gold at the 2024 Four Continents Championships. Then, they made history. At age 40, Deanna became the oldest woman ever to win a world title in figure skating when she and Maxime won gold at the 2024 ISU World Championships in Montreal.

Their journey continued into 2024–25. They won more Grand Prix medals, and Deanna became a Canadian citizen in December 2024. They won their third national title in 2025 and earned silver at the Four Continents Championships. In 2026, their strong results at the Canadian Championships earned them the chance to represent Canada at the Winter Olympics in Italy.



Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps
Pairs Figure Skaters

Answer each question in complete sentences.

1. Why did Deanna retire from skating when she was younger?

2. What important moment in 2016 inspired Deanna to return to skating?

3. What historic achievement did Deanna make at the 2024 World Championships?

4. Why did Maxime choose figure skating instead of hockey?

5. What personal challenge has Maxime spoken openly about?

6. Why did Maxime continue skating even after facing many obstacles?

7. What made Deanna and Maxime feel their partnership had potential when they first tried skating together?

8. What major opportunity did they earn for 2026 because of their results at the Canadian Championship?

Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Stephen Gogolev

Stephen Gogolev began skating when he was just six years old. Before that, he enjoyed alpine skiing, but he decided to focus on figure skating even though it was harder for him at first.

When Stephen was ten, he won a gold medal at the 2015 Canada Winter Games. He was the youngest skater in his group. That same year, people saw videos of him landing very difficult jumps.

Stephen kept improving. In 2016, he became the novice national champion. In 2017, he won the junior national title.

In 2018, when he was only thirteen, Stephen competed at his first senior national championships. That same season, he won gold at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final.

In 2019, Stephen won a silver medal in the senior men's event at the Canadian Championships. He also finished fifth at the World Junior Championships. He later competed at junior worlds again in 2020 and 2022.

Stephen moved into senior international competitions in 2021. He skated at the Warsaw Cup and then entered his first senior Grand Prix events in 2022.

In 2023, Stephen placed fourth at the Canadian Championships. He then skated at the Four Continents Championships and won his first senior international medal, a bronze, at the Autumn Classic.

Stephen faced a serious back injury starting in 2022. It caused him to miss many events, including the 2024 and 2025 Canadian Championships and a Grand Prix assignment.

Stephen made a strong comeback in the 2025–26 season. He won several medals, including gold at the Nebelhorn Trophy. He earned his first senior national title in 2026 and is now preparing to skate at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games.

Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Stephen Gogolev

Number the events in the order that they took place in Stephen Gogolev's life and skating career.

_____ Stephen won his first senior national title in 2026.

_____ He competed at the Four Continents Championships in 2023.

_____ Stephen won gold at the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

_____ He began skating at age 6.

_____ He won gold at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final in 2018–19.

_____ He made his senior international debut at the Warsaw Cup in 2021.

_____ Stephen became the novice national champion in 2016.

_____ He won bronze at the Autumn Classic.

_____ He dealt with a recurring back injury starting in 2022.

_____ He won the junior national title in 2017.

_____ He won gold at the Nebelhorn Trophy in 2025.

_____ He won silver at the 2019 Canadian Championships.

Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha

In 2021, they competed at their first senior World Championships. Later, at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, they made their Olympic debut.

Their success continued. In 2022, they won their first Grand Prix medals, earning two bronzes. In 2023, they won a bronze medal at

the Four Continents Championships.

In 2024, Marjorie suffered a concussion and missed some events. She returned just in time for the 2024 World Championships, where they placed fifth in both parts of the competition.

In 2024, they also qualified for the Grand Prix Final again and finished fourth. In early 2025, they won another national silver medal and a bronze at the Four Continents Championships.

In January 2026, they placed second at Skate Canada's national competition. This result helped them qualify for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.



Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha

Tell in which year each of the following events took place in Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha's skating career.

1. In which year did Marjorie and Zachary make their international debut?

2. In which year did they win a silver medal at the Canadian Championships in junior ice dance? _____
3. In which year did they win a bronze medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games mixed team event? _____
4. In which year did they become world junior ice dance champions?

5. In which year did they compete at their first senior World Championships?

6. In which year did they make their Olympic debut? _____
7. In which year did they win their first senior ISU Championship medal at Four Continents? _____
8. In which year did they qualify for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games?

Famous Canadian Olympians

Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier



Piper Gilles began skating with Paul Poirier in 2011. At first, they could not skate in international events because Piper was American and Paul was Canadian. In December 2013, Piper became a Canadian citizen. After that, they were allowed to skate in all competitions, including the Winter Olympics.

Gilles and Poirier became a strong ice dance team. In 2012, they won a gold medal at the U.S. Classic. They also placed well at other events, including Skate Canada International, the Four Continents Championships, and the World Championships.

At the 2014 Canadian Championships, they finished fourth because Paul had an ankle injury. This meant they did not get to go to the Olympics that year.

People began to see them as creative skaters. A special part of their 2015–16 short dance was turned into a new pattern dance called the Maple Leaf March.

During the 2017–18 season, they won a silver medal at the Canadian Championships and qualified for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. They finished eighth at their first Olympics.

In the 2018–19 season, they won two Grand Prix medals and placed seventh at the World Championships. Their free dance to the song “Vincent” was the first of their “programs for the people,” which they continued for the next three years.

The 2020 and 2022 Canadian Championships were cancelled because of the pandemic. In 2021, they won gold at the Skate Canada Challenge.

Gilles and Poirier went to their second Olympics in Beijing in 2022. They helped Canada finish fourth in the team event and placed seventh in ice dance. They later finished in the top five at the World Championships.

In the 2022–23 season, they won both of their ISU Grand Prix events and the Grand Prix Final. They missed some competitions in 2023 while Piper recovered from surgery for stage one ovarian cancer. They returned to win a bronze medal at the 2023 World Championships.

Gilles and Poirier won silver medals at the World Championships in both 2024 and 2025. They also won gold at the Four Continents Championships before each of those world events.

After winning the Canadian Championships again, they qualified for their third Olympics and will compete at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina.

Famous Canadian Olympians

Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier

Record the word 'true' or the word 'false' on the line at the end of each sentence about Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier.

1. Piper and Paul started skating together in 2011. _____
2. Piper became a Canadian citizen in 2015.

3. Gilles and Poirier won a gold medal at the U.S. Classic in 2012.

4. Paul's ankle injury in 2014 caused them to miss the Olympics that year.

5. The Maple Leaf March is a pattern dance based on their 2015–16 short dance.

6. Gilles and Poirier finished first at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

7. Their free dance to "Vincent" was the start of their "programs for the people."

8. The 2020 and 2022 Canadian Championships were cancelled.

9. Piper had surgery for stage one ovarian cancer in 2023. _____
10. Gilles and Poirier will compete in their third Olympics in 2026. _____



Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Lia Pereira and Trennt Michaud

Lia started figure skating when she was 8 years old. She tried it because she always wanted to do the same things as her best friend. She liked being at the rink and enjoyed both the technical skills and the artistic side of skating. People nicknamed her the “curling stone” because she was fearless, skated very fast, and sometimes slid all the way across the ice when she lost her balance.

Trent began skating when he was 9. He had played Timbits hockey, but he wasn’t a strong skater, so he joined CanSkate to improve. That’s where he discovered how much he loved skating.

In August 2022, Lia Pereira was skating in junior women’s singles when Trennt Michaud asked her to try pairs skating with him. His old partner, Evelyn Walsh, had retired. Lia had only tried pairs once before, about five years earlier, when she was a novice skater.

A little more than six months after they became a team, Lia Pereira and Trennt Michaud competed at their first ISU World Figure Skating Championships together. It was Lia’s first year skating pairs at the senior level.

Before skating with Lia, Trennt and his former partner won three national silver medals. They also went to three world championships, including one in 2022, after being alternates for the Olympic team.

In early 2023, Lia and Trennt won a bronze medal at the national championships. This helped them qualify for the ISU Four Continents Championships, where they finished fourth, and the ISU World Championships, where they placed sixth. Lia also skated in the senior women’s event at the 2023 Canadian Championships and finished fifth, even though she had to skate four programs in just two days.

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Canadian Figure Skaters

In fall 2023, Lia and Trennt competed in the ISU Grand Prix Series for the first time. They won one gold medal and one silver medal, which sent them to the ISU Grand Prix Final. They later won silver at the 2024 national championships and placed in the top eight at both the Four Continents Championships and the world championships.



During the 2024–25 season, they earned their first ISU Championship medal by winning bronze at the Four Continents Championships. This came after they worked hard to reset their season, both physically and mentally.

In 2026, they won their first national title and are now heading to the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy.

Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters

Lia Pereira and Trennt Michael

Use words from the reading to complete each sentence.

1. Lia Pereira was skating in junior women's _____ when Trennt asked her to try pairs.
2. Trennt's former partner, Evelyn Walsh, chose to _____.
3. Lia had only tried pairs once before, when she was a _____ skater.
4. In early 2023, Lia and Trennt won _____ at the national championships.
5. Their strong results helped them qualify for the ISU _____ Continents Championships.
6. In fall 2023, they won a gold and a _____ in the ISU Grand Prix Series.
7. During the 2024–25 season, they won _____ at the Four Continents Championships.
8. Lia and Trennt will compete at the 2026 Winter Olympics in _____.



Famous Canadian Olympians

Canadian Figure Skaters



Marie-Jade Lauriault and Romain Le Gac

Marie-Jade Lauriault and Romain Le Gac will skate for Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina. This will be eight years after they first went to the Olympics in 2018, when they were skating for France.

Lauriault and Le Gac have been married since 2015. In 2020, they chose to skate for Canada instead of France. Lauriault was born and raised in Canada, and their training centre is also in Canada.

They have won three medals at the Canadian Championship in Ice Dancing: a bronze in 2023, a silver in 2024, and another bronze in 2026. They have also skated for Canada at the ISU Four Continents Championships three times. Their best result there was fifth place in 2024.

Maria-Jade Lauriault and Romain Le Gac earned a medal in their first ISU Grand Prix event for Canada. They won bronze at Skate America in 2022. In 2025, they won two more medals in the ISU Challenger Series: a gold at the Kinoshita Group Cup and a bronze at the Nebelhorn Trophy.

Before skating for Canada, they competed for France. They went to three ISU World Championships and placed as high as 13th in 2018. They also finished eighth at the ISU World Junior Championships in 2016 and placed 10th at the ISU European Championships in 2019.



Answer each question about Mariaand Romain Le Gac with a good sentence.

1. Who will Lauriault and Le Gac represent at the 2026 Winter Olympics?

2. When did Lauriault and Le Gac first compete at the Olympics?

3. What year did they decide to skate for Canada?

4. How many medals have they won at the Canadian Championships?

5. What was their best result at the ISU Four Continents Championships?

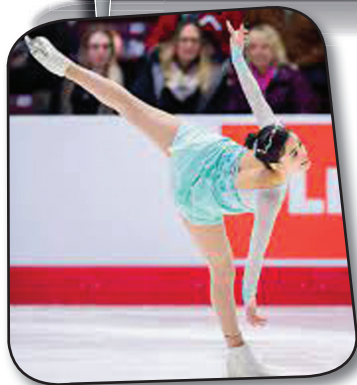
6. Where did they win a bronze medal in their first ISU Grand Prix event for Canada?

7. What medals did they win in the ISU Challenger Series in 2025?

8. What was their best result while skating for France at the ISU World Championships?

Famous Canadian Olympians

Madeline Schizas



Madeline started skating when she was 3 years old. She began competing in small local events when she was 6. Her first time on the ice was during a family vacation in San Francisco. Her dad taught her how to skate during public skating times before she started taking real lessons.

In 2018, Madeline finished sixth in the novice women's event at the Canadian Championships. The next year, she moved up to the junior level and won a silver medal at nationals. Later that fall, she skated in her first international junior competition at the Volvo Open Cup in Latvia. She qualified for the 2020 Canadian Championships by winning the senior women's event at the Skate Canada Challenge.

Madeline made a strong first impression at the 2021 ISU World Championships. She finished 13th, which earned Canada a spot for the 2022 Olympics. This was only her second senior international competition, so she had to learn quickly how to compete at the highest level.

Madeline became one of Canada's top skaters during the COVID 19 pandemic. She won bronze at her first senior national championships in 2020. She also won bronze at the International Challenge Cup, her first senior international event. She hoped to compete in the ISU Grand Prix in 2020, but the pandemic stopped that from happening. She did win gold at the virtual Skate Canada Challenge. When the 2021 Canadian Championships were cancelled, she was chosen to represent Canada at the 2021 World Championships.

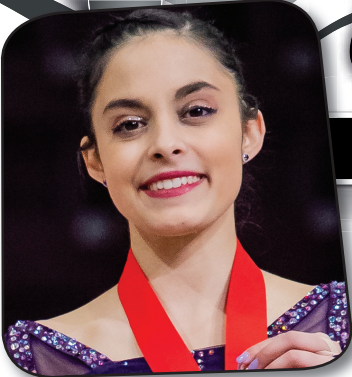
In the fall of 2021, she competed in her first ISU Challenger Series event and placed ninth. She then made her Grand Prix debut at Skate Canada International, finishing eighth and becoming the top Canadian woman. At her second Grand Prix, she skated a clean short program and finished sixth overall. She won her first national title in 2022.

Madeline skated at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. She helped Canada finish fourth in the team event by placing second in both of her programs. She later finished 18th in the women's singles event. At the 2022 World Championships, she placed 12th.

In 2023, she earned her best Grand Prix result by finishing fourth at Skate Canada International. She also finished sixth at the ISU Four Continents Championships. In 2025, she placed sixth in the short program at the World Championships and finished just outside the top 10. Her result earned Canada one Olympic spot for the 2026 Winter Games in Milano Cortina.



Famous Canadian Olympians



Madeline Schizas

Figure Skating Athletes

Read each sentence carefully.

Part A: Record 'true' or 'false' at the end of each one.

- 1. Madeline started skating when she was 3 years old. _____
- 2. Her first time on the ice was during a trip to New York City. _____
- 3. Madeline won a silver medal at the 2019 junior nationals. _____
- 4. She finished 13th at the 2021 World Championships. _____
- 5. Madeline won her first national title in 2022. _____
- 6. She helped Canada finish fourth in the team event at the 2022 Olympics.

- 7. Madeline earned Canada one Olympic spot for 2026. _____

Part B: Record the number of syllables heard in each word.

- 1. Canadian _____
- 2. Ontario _____
- 3. International _____
- 4. Debut _____
- 5. Combination _____
- 6. Pandemic _____
- 7. Competitions _____
- 8. Champion _____

Canadian Figure Skaters

Marjorie Lajoie and Zachary Lagha

1. 2015 2. 2016 3. 2016 4. 2019 5. 2021 6. 2022
7. 2023 8. 2026

Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier

1. True 2. False (2013) 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. False
(8th) 7. True 8. True 9. True 10. True

Lia Pereira/Trennt Michaud

1. singles 2. retire 3. novice 4. bronze 5. Four 6. silver
7. bronze 8. Italy

Marie-Jade Lauriault and Romain Le Gac

1. Lauriault and Le Gac will represent Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics.
2. They first competed at the Olympics in 2018.
3. They decided to skate for Canada in 2020.
4. They have won three medals at the Canadian Championships.
5. Their best result at the ISU Four Continents Championships was fifth place in 2024.
6. They won a bronze medal at Skate America in 2022.
7. They won a gold at the Kinoshita Group Cup and a bronze at the Nebelhorn Trophy in 2025.
8. Their best result at the ISU World Championships for France was 13th place in 2018.

Madeline Schizas

Part A:

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. True 7. True

Part B:

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (5) 4. (2) 5. (4) 6. (3) 7. (4) 8. (3)

Stephen Goglev

Sequential Order

12, 9, 2, 1, 5, 7, 3, 10, 8, 4, 11, 6

Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps

1. She retired because she had many injuries, including a strained hip.
2. A team building question made her realize she wanted to try for an Olympic gold medal.
3. She became the oldest woman ever to win a world figure skating title.
4. He chose figure skating because he loved the freedom on the ice and the mix of athleticism and artistry.
5. He has spoken openly about having ADHD.
6. He continued because he felt he hadn't reached his full potential and loved the sport.
7. They both immediately felt that their skating styles worked well together and that the partnership had strong potential.
8. They earned the chance to represent Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.