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EIGHT ONTARIO PARALYMPIANS HEAD TO RIO

TORONTO, ON- Athletics Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Paralympic Committee has nominated 24 athletes to represent Team Canada at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games set to take place September 7-18, 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Athletics Ontario is excited to announce that eight of the 24 athletes are from Ontario.

Ottawa Lions Jason Dunkerley and guide Josh Karania will hope to capture gold in the 5000-metre after taking home silver at the London 2012 Paralympics in the T11 visually impaired category. Dunkerley and Karania will attempt to find their way back onto the podium in the 1500-metre after claiming bronze at the London Paralympics four years ago.

Josh Cassidy of the Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club will look to finally put it all together. After a disappointing showing at the London 2012 Paralympics, battling illness Cassidy was unable to produce the podium finish he so desired. That setback would not slow him down as Josh would go on to make history posting the world's fastest marathon with a time of 1:18:25 at the 2012 Boston Marathon. Cassidy holds the Canadian records in the 1,500-metre, 5,000-metre, 10,000-metre and marathon.

Kevin Strybosch of the London Western Track and Field Club and six-time national discus champion will look to capture gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. An impressive 2015 season saw Strybosch take home gold at the Parapan Am Games. Kevin has also represented Canada on the world stage at the 2011 World Championships in seated volleyball.

AO at Rio Paralympics

Ontario athletes representing Canada at the 2016 Rio Paralympics include:

NAME	EVENT	CLASSIFICATION*	HOMETOWN	CLUB
Josh Cassidy	800M, 1500M, 5000M	T54	Port Elgin	Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club
Mitchell Chase	1500M	T38	Pickering	I Be Fast Track Club
Jason Dunkerley	1500M	T11	Ottawa	Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club
Renée Foessel	Discus	F38	Orangeville	Cruisers Sports



Josh Karania	Guide for Josh Dunkerley		Ottawa	Ottawa Lions Track and Field Club
Marissa Papaconstantinou	100M, 200M	T44	Toronto	Phoenix Athletics Assoc. of Ontario
Austin Smeenk	100M, 800M	T34	Oakville	Cruisers Sports
Kevin Strybosch	Discus	F37	London	London Western Track and Field Club
Curtis Thom	400M, 4x400M	T54	Mississauga	Cruisers Sports

*The IPC classification system determines an athletes eligibility and are grouped based on the degree of activity limitation resulting from the impairment.

For a complete listing of athletes named to the Paralympic team, check Athletics Canada.

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