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**For Immediate release**

## **Saskatchewan skaters compete at the Olympic Trials**

(Calgary) **Lucas Makowsky** became the shining star among Saskatchewan skaters competing at the Olympics Trials on Monday, winning the men's 5000m and securing a spot on Canada's 2010 Olympic team.

Makowsky, 22, of Regina, skated a personal best time in the 5000m, narrowly defeating Denny Morrison to claim the title of Canada's 5000m champion. Makowsky has been steadily rising to the challenge this season with his first podium finish in World Cup racing this fall. He placed second in the 1500m in Hamer, Norway.

"The pressure is off now, who knows what I can do in the 1500m," a smiling Makowsky said, following his victory. He could do what he'd love to do – win another distance.

Other Saskatchewan skaters continue to fight for spots on the Olympic team, this year's World Championships teams and next year's National team.

**Mykola Makowsky**, Regina Speed Skating Club, and **William Dutton**, Humboldt Speed Skating club, meet today in the men's 1000m race. Twenty-year-old Dutton finished 9th overall in the combined 500m.

**Justin Warsylewicz**, a veteran from the Olympics in Turin, Italy, finished fourth in the 5000m and still has a chance to be named to the men's pursuit team. He won a silver medal in Turin in the team pursuit.

**Kerry Dankers** of Melville Speed Skating Club finished sixth in the women's 500m. Dankers, an Olympic veteran, will compete in the women's 1000m. She has let it be known that she will be retiring after this season.

**Marsha Hudey**, a Junior skater from the Regina Speed Skating Club, finished 15<sup>th</sup> in the 500m. She will be a contender for the World Junior team this year. Marsha's older brother, **Austin Hudey**, skated in the 500m and will compete in the 1000m today.

**Dustin Johnston** of Moose Jaw also skated the 5000m. He has also let it be known he plans to retire following the end of this season.

Prince Albert's **Elliot Nelson**, a Junior, skated in the 5000m in what was his first National Championship race. He will be a contender in the longer distances at the Canadian Junior Championships in Saskatoon, Jan. 29-31.

For further information contact:

Craig Dutton  
Saskatchewan Speed Skating  
Press Officer  
Ph. (250) 927-2591