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For Immediate Release

Chantal Van Landeghem retires from competitive swimming

WINNIPEG- After representing Canada at the Rio Olympic Games and winning multiple international medals, Chantal Van Landeghem has decided to retire from competitive swimming.

Chantal played a critical role in setting up the Canadian women to a bronze-medal celebration in the 4x100-m freestyle relay at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. The national record swim was Canada's first women's relay medal in 40 years.

The 23-year-old from Winnipeg began her swimming career with the Manta Swim Club and was coached by then Head Coach, Tom Hainey "We knew from early on Chantal was going to have an incredible swimming career. What we didn't know was that she would become such an incredible person and leader. It was an absolute honour and pleasure to be part of Chantal's amazing career."

She truly has had an amazing swimming career. She made her first national team in 2011, and jumped onto the gold-medal step of the podium twice at the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games. She set a Pan Am Games and Canadian record to win the 100-m freestyle, and swam the anchor leg of the 4x100-m freestyle relay that won gold and set Pan Am Games and Canadian records. She also swam the freestyle leg of the 4x100-m medley relay that earned silver. Later that summer she added a Canadian record in the 50-m freestyle on the way to a fifth-place finish at the FINA World Championships.

"The time is right for me to move on to the next phase of my life. I feel good about the decision. Yes, I'm a little sad about leaving swimming, it has been such a huge part of my life until now."

Walking away from the pool will allow her to focus on her Master's degree in clinical psychology at the University of Manitoba, which she started in the fall after moving back home. She hopes to be able to contribute to the sport in the future, perhaps as a mental performance consultant.

Chantal is one of Manitoba's most successful swimmers.

Peter Garagan, Swim Manitoba President indicates that this is a day of mixed emotions for swimming in Manitoba. "We are all very proud to have had the opportunity to watch Chantal develop over the last decade. From her local success as a youth, to her international accomplishments, all Manitobans have had the privilege of sharing in Chantal's growth as a person and swimmer. Her relentless pursuit of success in the pool has been inspirational. Inspirational not only for athletes here in Manitoba and across Canada but also for the legions of officials, coaches, and volunteers. Although Chantal will be missed in the pool, we wish her continued success in the future and hope to see her for many years on the decks of Manitoba's pools."

For further information please contact:

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