



**News Release**  
***For immediate release***

## **The Georges St-Pierre Foundation Extends its Partnership with the Foundation for Athletic Excellence to 2021**

**Montreal, December 6, 2018** — Today, Georges St-Pierre announced that the GSP Foundation would be renewing its partnership with the Quebec Foundation for Athletic Excellence (FAEQ) for an additional three years, from 2019 to 2021, at \$15,000 per year for a total of \$45,000.

Each year, the GSP Foundation, whose partnership with the FAEQ has existed for six years, provides support to student-athletes who practice disciplines that St-Pierre uses in his combat training. Seven recipients—who practice boxing, fencing, artistic gymnastics, judo, karate, Olympic wrestling and taekwondo, respectively—were each handed a \$2,000 bursary cheque by St-Pierre himself.

During the sixth edition of the GSP Foundation's bursary program, four student-athletes whose academic averages were 80% or higher received Academic Excellence bursaries while three others received Academic and Athletic Support bursaries to encourage the conciliation of academics with high-performance sport.

"The renewal of my foundation's partnership with the FAEQ is important to me because I share the FAEQ's values and its mission to provide financial support to athletes who absolutely must pursue their studies to properly prepare for their career transitions. It's always a pleasure for me to meet these promising, talented young people in person, to hand them their bursary cheques, to hear them speak about their academic and athletic careers, and even to try out some moves with them on the tatami," stated St-Pierre.

The president of the Foundation for Athletic Excellence, Claude Chagnon, affirmed that the FAEQ is proud to have been associated with St-Pierre for the past six years. "Sure, Georges St-Pierre is famous all around the world, but what really impresses the student-athletes is his authenticity. His commitment goes way beyond simply handing them \$2,000 cheques; he truly has confidence in these young people. In fact, he doesn't only win over the bursary recipients year after year; he keeps on winning us over too!"

### **Profiles of the Seven Recipients**

#### **Jade Fahey / Karate (Over-54 kg)**

**April 6, 2003 – Gatineau**

**Academic and Athletic Support                      \$2,000**

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- > Silver medallist in the over-54 kg class at the Cadet Pan American Championships
- > Silver medallist in the over-54 kg class at the Cadet Canadian Championships
- > Currently in secondary 4 in the sport-study program at Polyvalente Nicolas-Gatineau
- > Jade manages pressure well and displays excellent technique during her bouts. She is working on increasing her self-confidence in major competitions. Her goals for 2019 are to compete at both the

Pan American Championships and the World Championships. The Olympic hopeful plans to pursue her studies in police technology and become an investigator.

**Jad Khabbaz / Boxing (60 kg)**

**July 27, 2002 – Montreal (Montréal-Nord)**

**Academic and Athletic Support           \$2,000**

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- > Junior Canadian champion in the under-60 kg class
- > Winner of the Fédération québécoise de boxe olympique's *Défi des champions* in the juvenile under-60 kg division
- > Currently in secondary 5 at École Calixa-Lavallée
- > Jad is an astute pugilist who is able to analyze his situation and make adjustments during matches. He is working on increasing his movement in the ring and taking better advantage of his opponents' mistakes. His aspirations include being crowned Senior Canadian Champion and standing at the top of the podium at the Olympic Games. He also hopes to win a gold medal at the World Championships, visit a multitude of countries through his sport and become a businessman.

**Justin Lemire / Judo (Under-66 kg)**

**April 7, 2001 – Rawdon**

**Academic Excellence           \$2,000**

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- > Cadet Pan American champion in the under-66 kg class
- > Silver medallist in the under-66 kg class in the senior division at the Ontario Open
- > Bronze medallist in the under-66 kg class at the Cadet Pan American Cup (Canada Cup)
- > Currently studying social sciences and humanities, justice profile, at Collège de Maisonneuve. Maintained an academic average of 80% in secondary 5 at École Antoine-de-Saint-Exupéry.
- > Creative and unpredictable during his bouts, Justin has good physical strength and adaptability. Currently, he is focusing on his ground transitions during training sessions. He has his sights set on victories at the Canadian Elite Championships and the Canada Games. He also hopes to qualify for the Junior World Championships. Justin plans to study law at university and become a lawyer.

**Nolan O'Rourke / Freestyle Wrestling (Under-60 kg)**

**May 21, 2003 – Montreal (Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)**

**Academic and Athletic Support           \$2,000**

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- > Gold medallist at the Sassari City Matteo Pellicone Memorial in the cadet under-65 kg division
- > U-17 Canadian champion (cadet) in the under-60 kg category
- > Currently in grade 10 at LaurenHill Academy
- > Nolan has a strong hunger to learn, which prompted him to move from Prince Edward Island to Montreal to pursue his dreams. His current areas of focus are his technique and his mental preparation. The young wrestler hopes to win several other national titles and eventually fight on the Olympic stage. As for academics, Nolan remains open to various possibilities, although he has a penchant for science and mathematics.

**Élodie Tremblay / Taekwondo (Under-55 kg)**

**February 28, 2001 – Lac-Beauport**

**Academic Excellence           \$2,000**

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- > Junior Canadian champion in the under-55 kg class
- > Placed in the Top 8 in the junior under-55 kg division at the *Tournoi international de Paris*
- > Studying social sciences and humanities - international affairs and languages in the International

Baccalaureate program at Cégep Garneau. Maintained an academic average of 88% in secondary 5 at École Mont-Saint-Sacrament.

> Élodie loves pushing her own limits. She is very quick and she executes excellent body shots. Her small size, which puts her at a disadvantage in terms of range, motivates her to work hard on her flexibility and speed. She hopes to land a spot at the Canadian Championships during her first year in the senior division. Her long-term goal is to be selected for the national team. Élodie plans to study law at university and work in international relations.

### **Igor Velicico / Artistic Gymnastics**

**October 14, 2002 – Montreal (Saint-Laurent)**

**Academic Excellence      \$2,000**

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> Was unable to perform at full capacity last season due to an injury

> Currently in secondary 4 in the sport-study program at École Antoine-de-Saint-Exupéry, where he is maintaining an 82% average

> Igor's physical strength and flexibility allow him to stand out. He is putting extra effort into his pommel horse and vault training while fine-tuning his strength elements on the rings. For Igor, the ideal course of events would be to make it to the podium at the Canada Games in February, compete at the World Junior Championships in the fall and participate in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. As for his future profession, he pictures himself working as a financial analyst or in the medical field.

### **Andrew Wei / Fencing (Sabre)**

**May 8, 2001 – Montreal (Ahuntsic–Cartierville)**

**Academic Excellence      \$2,000**

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> Canadian cadet champion

> Sixth place at the Cadet Pan American Championships

> Silver medallist at the Canada Cup East in the senior division

> Currently studying science and arts and letters at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. Maintained an academic average of 80% in secondary 5 at the same school.

> Andrew remains confident in his ability to win no matter what the score. He enjoys taking risks to create plays. His technique still needs development but he is working hard at it. He hopes to perform well at the Junior World Championships in April and eventually be selected for the Canadian team and compete at the Olympics. He would like to become an entrepreneur with a positive influence both on people's lives and on the planet.

### **About the Georges St-Pierre Foundation**

The Foundation (<http://www.gspofficial.com/gsp-anti-bullying>) is financially supported by Georges St-Pierre and his numerous partners. All funds raised by the Foundation are distributed to organizations and programs that are dedicated to the prevention of bullying and the promotion of sports and education for young people.

### **About the Foundation for Athletic Excellence (FAEQ)**

The FAEQ ([faeq.com](http://faeq.com)) is recognized for its personalized approach, rigorous management style and influence in sport and education circles. In 2018, it awarded \$1,425,000 in bursaries to 500 student-athletes, to whom it also provided academic guidance and sport-study conciliation support services. The FAEQ works with partners and former bursary recipients to foster the academic, athletic and professional success of its bursary recipients. **The third edition of the Bonneville 808 Challenge, a festive cycling and corporate event benefiting the FAEQ, will be held on September 13 and 14, 2019.** Register at <http://defi808bonneville.com/en/>.

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